



TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 26th May 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 2) reports the Federal Government has declared a diphtheria outbreak of 247 cases a Communicable Disease Incident of National Significance, leading a crisis response that includes rolling out a surge workforce to deliver mass adult vaccination boosters across remote Australia. Health Minister Mark Butler expressed extreme concern that case numbers are continuing to grow and stated that the Federal Government is supporting Aboriginal medical services on the frontline to help with containment.
- **[The Medical Republic](#)** (online) reports Department of Health, Disability and Ageing director Bianca McCulloch confirmed that registrations for the Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Payment program have reached over 3800 general practice clinics, with forty per cent of these clinics having previously operated as mixed billers, and forty-eight per cent of general practice clinics registered for MyMedicare have also joined the incentive program.
- **[The Toowoomba Chronicle](#)** (page 1) reports people with disabilities across Australia are considering suicide or voluntary assisted dying due to the Federal Government announcing a thirty-seven billion dollar budget cut to the NDIS, with disability advocates warning that stricter eligibility criteria and service reductions will lead to catastrophic impacts on participants. Health Minister Mark Butler has been contacted for comment.
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports Western Australia faces a substantial and time-critical shortfall of over two thousand residential aged care beds by 2030, with existing facilities currently up to ninety-eight

per cent full. The state government is urging the Federal Government to financially support a low-interest loan scheme to stimulate sector investment, while Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae's office has been contacted for comment.

- **[The Canberra Times](#)** (online) reports an analysis into menopause and perimenopause revealed that women frequently navigate this life transition without adequate information, prompting Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Rebecca White to emphasize the importance of a new national media campaign to deliver trustworthy, evidence-based resources and break down existing stigmas.
- **[The Australian](#)** (online) reports the men's mental health charity Movember has revealed that three out of five Australian fathers are never asked about their mental health during their partner's pregnancy or their child's first year of life, prompting Dan Repacholi, the special envoy for men's health, to table the study in an upcoming Parliamentary session.

MINISTER BUTLER

Diphtheria outbreak defies health push

The Australian, General News, 26/05/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 2

The number of diphtheria cases in Australia's biggest modern outbreak is rising even as a mass public health response rolls out, as questions are asked about how the bacterial disease was able to spread so widely over more than six months. T[...] Health Minister Mark Butler said he is extremely concerned cases are continuing to rise.

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From worse to VAD

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 26/05/2026, Tom Gillespie, Page 1

People with disabilities are considering taking their own lives via voluntary assisted dying or suicide at the prospect of being kicked off the National Disability Insurance Scheme by the federal government, disability community advocates warn. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler's office was sent questions regarding the surge in posts, but did not respond in time for publication.

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Plans to hand over historic West End police station to community services scrapped

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 25/05/2026, Courtney Kruk

The Queensland government has abandoned plans to turn West End's old police station into a health and community services hub, claiming the Labor-appointed deal did not have adequate funding and the building was not fit for purpose. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the funding would go towards the capital costs of establishing the new health and housing clinic, and would leverage Micah Projects' existing \$6.1 million investment towards the project.

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

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'Absolute hell': emotional return for flotilla group

Canberra Times, Other, 25/05/2026, Maeve Bannister, Tess Ikonomou & Kat Wong

Australians detained while attempting to deliver aid to Gaza have described brutal treatment, allegedly at the hands of Israeli forces, as the group returned to home soil. [...] Federal minister Mark Butler said the government had "in the strongest possible terms" raised its concerns both in Australia and Israel.

Also reported by: [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Weekly \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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Department delayed the release of an FOI (into FOI) ahead of Senate estimates

When it comes to taking the trash out, journalists and parliamentarians are clued into the Friday afternoon report drop. [...] "We're frankly being inundated by anonymous requests as a government, for Freedom of Information, and we don't know where those requests come from," Health Minister Mark Butler said last year.

[Read More](#)

NT Health confirms only one possible diphtheria-related death amid outbreak

ABC Online, Other, 25/05/2026

The Northern Territory health department is refuting an earlier report that a second person has died with diphtheria in the NT, as the country continues to grapple with an ongoing outbreak of the disease. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the source of the outbreak should be investigated.

[Read More](#)

Diphtheria jab payment needed now: Guild

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 25/05/2026, Megan Haggan

The Guild is calling on the Federal government to act quickly to fund critical, lifesaving vaccines as diphtheria cases continue to increase Federal health minister Mark Butler said he would consider introducing a payment for pharmacists who administer diphtheria vaccines, the Guild says.

Also reported by: [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#), [The Daily Aus \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Are we being lied to about what our nation can actually afford?

The Australia Institute, Other, 25/05/2026

Did you notice what was different, really different, about the budget this year? [...] The massive cuts to the NDIS announced by Health Minister Mark Butler are expected to impact the most on people who are visually impaired, those with long-term mental health conditions like bipolar and schizophrenia, and people with Down syndrome – because, God knows, they've had it too good for too long.

[Read More](#)

The Zap: latest health and aged care news, plus consultations of note

Croakey, Other, 25/05/2026, Melissa Sweet

Concerns about an Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda are among the global health issues highlighted in this week's edition of The Zap. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler announced details of increased spending on medical research included in the Budget, and released the National Health and Medical Research Strategy.

[Read More](#)

Price gouging or policy failure? Aged care CEO fires back at Butler's combative language

HelloCare, Other, 25/05/2026, Jakob Neeland

When Health Minister Mark Butler told ABC Radio National listeners last week that the government would "crack down on any price gouging by providers," he may have intended it as reassurance. For Frank Price, Chief Executive of RFBI, one of Australia's largest not-for-profit aged care providers, it landed as something else entirely: a public verdict delivered before a single case had been proven.

[Read More](#)

Private health rebate fears may be overblown

Insurance Business Australia, Other, 26/05/2026, Mav Rodriguez

Warnings that changes to private health insurance rebates could overwhelm public hospitals are too simplistic, according to Luke Slawomirski, who argues the bigger pressure point is not insurance coverage but aged care bottlenecks. [...] His view was issued after Health Minister Mark Butler told the ABC last week that the government would move ahead with a plan to remove the extra age-based rebate for Australians aged 65 and over.

New medicare urgent care clinic opens in Darwin

National Indigenous Times, Other, 25/05/2026

A new Medicare urgent care clinic has opened in Darwin, with patients able to walk in and all services bulk billed. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the clinic was part of the government's "commitment to strengthen Medicare and make health care more accessible and affordable".

[Read More](#)

Precision health research boost

Pulse+IT, Other, 25/05/2026, Heather Fletcher

Genomics Australia has welcomed the Government's announcement to allocate funding for a Precision Health Research Program as part of a half a billion-dollar investment in medical research through the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF). [...] Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler said in a statement on Friday that a spend of \$508.5 million over the next four years was "groundbreaking" for the sector, allowing MRFF grant funding to reach \$1 billion a year by 2030-2031.

[Read More](#)

National research strategy offers 10-year vision for healthier Australia

The Mandarin, Other, 25/05/2026, Melissa Coade

The federal government has released a health and medical research strategy, described by Health Minister Mark Butler as a landmark plan to improve the health of the nation. [...] The 2026-27 budget included \$508.5 million over the next four years to increase investment in medical research through the Medical Research Future Fund and bring grant funding to a record \$1 billion a year by 2030-31.

[Read More](#)

Government turns up the heat on menopause awareness

The Medical Republic, Other, 25/05/2026, Caitlin Wright

One of the key recommendations from the Senate Inquiry into Menopause and Perimenopause was to create an awareness campaign about menopause. [...] Federal health minister Mark Butler said this morning that the campaign was part of a range of things the government was doing for women's health.

[Read More](#)

Crossbench reveal how they'll vote, as over-65s face health premium hikes

The Senior, Other, 25/05/2026, Carla Mascarenhas

Independent senators and minor parties are divided over the federal government's controversial plan to cut private health insurance rebates for older Australians, with several key crossbenchers yet to decide how they will vote. [...] But Health Minister Mark Butler has defended the policy as "intergenerational equity".

[Read More](#)

Critics argue government's response to aged care price caps 'a total joke'

Your Life Choices, Other, 25/05/2026, Evelyn Manfield

Critics have described the federal government's decision to delay price caps and instead "empower" the aged care regulator to order refunds for people being overcharged for supports at home as a "total joke" and a "burden". [...] Health Minister Mark Butler also used the National Disability Insurance Scheme as an example of where, when price caps are set too high, providers all increase their fees to charge the maximum, rather than using it as a ceiling.

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ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 25/05/2026, Manny Tsigas

As the diphtheria outbreak continues, residents and service providers in the remote Central Australian

community of Yuendumu say they feel forgotten by the Northern Territory Government, and they claim they are frustrated by a lack of messaging, particularly in language, and that more could have been done to raise awareness of the disease. Meanwhile, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is calling for an investigation into the outbreak, which has spread through four states and territories.

Also reported by: [ABC \(Darwin\)](#).

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 25/05/2026, Emma Reballato & James Glenday

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, about the Federal Government's latest campaign to assist women going through menopause and perimenopause. Butler says he's hoping that the campaign will break the taboo in discussing menopause. He states that he can't count the number of women who've said to him that they've had no idea what was going on in their body and in their head during menopause.

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Channel 9, Today , 25/05/2026, Karl Stefanovic & Sarah Abo

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, about the government's upcoming new menopause and perimenopause campaign. Butler says the campaign aims to "break the lid" of discussions surrounding menopause, and they are aiming to train more doctors on the matter, as well as provide education to women. He admits that he was rather shocked that he'd learned that only a few hours were provided regarding menopause at medical schools.

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Triple M Perth 92.9, Breakfast, 25/05/2026, Xavier Ellis & Katie Lamb

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has confirmed that the six passengers who have been quarantined after being exposed to Hantavirus are still in good health. He notes that the five Australians and one New Zealand national have not shown any symptoms of the virus since arriving in Bullsbrook.

Similar coverage reported by: [MIX 94.5 \(Perth\)](#).

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2GB, Mornings, 25/05/2026, Mark Levy

Levy says Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has launched the Federal Government's menopause and perimenopause campaign. He plays an audio clip of Butler, where he states that the campaign is about starting conversations around menopause and raising awareness.

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ABC NewsRadio, Drive, 25/05/2026, Dijana Damjanovic

Report by ABC reporter Katherine Gregory. The Federal Government is leading an education and advertising campaign about menopause to help women navigate symptoms and avoid misinformation, following a Senate inquiry which found a need for better awareness, support and research, and experts say training GPs in understanding menopause symptoms is essential. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says they now have more clinical guidelines, new Medicare menopause health assessments, and new menopause hormone treatments on the PBS.

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

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ABC Radio Brisbane, 10:00 News, 25/05/2026

The Federal Government has announced a national campaign to help women recognise and understand symptoms of perimenopause and menopause. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the plan will boost support.

Similar coverage reported by: [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#), [GOLD 1323 \(Adelaide\)](#), [WAVE FM \(Wollongong\)](#).

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 25/05/2026, Steve Austin

The Federal Government has officially launched Australia's first-ever National Menopause and Perimenopause Awareness Campaign in a widespread multimedia blitz to dismantle historical stigmas and bridge critical gaps in women's healthcare. Health Minister Mark Butler, alongside Minister for Women Katy Gallagher, confirmed that the extensive initiative will deploy across television, cinema, print, and social media platforms through the end of the year, anchored by a new dedicated federal health portal.

Also reported by: [ABC North Queensland \(Townsville\)](#)

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ABC Radio Canberra, 15:00 News, 25/05/2026

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says he is confident that the laws aimed at curbing the growth of the NDIS will pass through Parliament with Coalition support. He claims the Coalition has already declared its support for reining in the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#), [ABC NewsRadio \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#)

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ABC Radio Melbourne, 14:00 News, 25/05/2026

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says an investigation into the Northern Territory's diphtheria outbreak will be needed down the track after reports that a man in his early 60s with pre-existing heart issues has become the second person to die from the disease. The Australian Centre for Disease Control has recorded at least 242 cases this year, an outbreak 30 times larger than the next biggest on record.

Similar coverage reported by: [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#), [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#), [2MCE \(Orange\)](#), [Curtin FM \(Perth\)](#)

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Triple M Goldfields, 10:00 Local News, 25/05/2026

WA health authorities say more than 2000 people have now been vaccinated against diphtheria since the outbreak emerged in May. Despite the rollout, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler warned on the ABC that thousands remain at risk, especially those in remote Indigenous areas.

Also reported by: [Triple M Albany \(Albany\)](#), [Triple M Geraldton \(Geraldton\)](#), [Triple M Goldfields \(Kalgoorlie\)](#)

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

No relevant coverage

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MINISTER RAE

Simone McGurk takes aim over lack of aged care help in Federal budget as looming bed crisis laid bare

West Australian, Other, 25/05/2026, Oliver Lane

Construction on aged care facilities has stalled in WA despite the State heading towards a critical capacity shortage by 2030. [...] Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae defended the Federal Government's commitments, but did not comment on the low-interest loans proposal.

[Read More](#)

Perth and WA facing 'time-critical' aged care bed shortfall by 2030, report finds

ABC Online, Other, 25/05/2026, Keane Bourke

Western Australia is racing towards a "substantial and time-critical shortfall" in residential aged care beds which it can do little to avoid. [...] Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae's office has been contacted for comment.

[Read More](#)

First Nations Aged Care Commissioner Andrea Kelly steps down

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 25/05/2026, Natasha Egan

The government has announced that Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner Andrea Kelly has resigned from the role and will complete her tenure on 30 June 2026. [...] In a statement on Monday 25 May, Minister for Aged Care Sam Rae thanked Ms Andrea Kelly for her service, and "acknowledged her decision to step down from the role at the end of her period of secondment."

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The Zap: latest health and aged care news, plus consultations of note

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Critics argue government's response to aged care price caps 'a total joke'

Your Life Choices, Other, 25/05/2026, Evelyn Manfield

Critics have described the federal government's decision to delay price caps and instead "empower" the aged care regulator to order refunds for people being overcharged for supports at home as a "total joke" and a "burden". [...] Health Minister Mark Butler also used the National Disability Insurance Scheme as an example of where, when price caps are set too high, providers all increase their fees to charge the maximum, rather than using it as a ceiling.

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ABC, ABC News, 25/05/2026, Briana Shepherd

The WA Government has criticised the Federal Government for not contributing to a state scheme to help build much-needed new aged care facilities in Western Australia, and it follows an internal WA Government report, which warned that WA is facing an acute shortage of almost 3000 aged care beds by 2030. Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae did not respond directly to the criticism, but said the Federal Government had provided funding for 5000 new aged care beds each year across the country.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Breaking taboos: push to help women navigate menopause

Canberra Times, Other, 25/05/2026, Maeve Bannister

Australian women will have greater access to information about perimenopause and menopause to break down the stigma many have faced as they approach this major life transition. [...] Too many women had felt dismissed, confused or had to navigate this significant life stage on their own without clear information, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Rebecca White said.

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

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Mobile GP service and after-hours care to end because of Tasmanian health cuts

ABC Online, Other, 25/05/2026, Josh Duggan

Primary care providers being forced to cut services after losing Tasmanian government funding say the result will be added strain on "pressure cooker" emergency departments that could see them "explode". [...] Federal Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White questioned the timing of the state government's cuts.

[Read More](#)

Cygnet after-hours service to close after \$250,000 state funding axed

WEB Pulse Tasmania, Other, 25/05/2026

A nurse practitioner-led urgent care service in the Huon Valley will cease to exist from June 30 after the Tasmanian government cut its \$250,000 annual funding. [...] Archer called on federal Labor MPs Rebecca White and Julie Collins to secure funding for GP services in Tasmania.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 25/05/2026, Peter Overton

The Federal Government has launched Australia's first national perimenopause and menopause awareness campaign, aiming to help women access support. Assistant Minister for Women Rebecca White says the campaign is also aimed at breaking down the stigma.

Similar coverage reported by: [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Seven Rockhampton \(Rockhampton\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Sydney\)](#), [Seven Tasmania \(Hobart\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Brisbane\)](#), [NBN Tamworth \(Tamworth\)](#), [NBN Coffs Harbour \(Coffs Harbour\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Perth\)](#).

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ABC Radio Hobart, 16:00 News, 25/05/2026

Federal Assistant Minister Rebecca White says an increase in Tasmania's health funding in the latest state budget will be swallowed by inflation. Released last week, the budget shows funding for the Health Department will rise by 7.8% over the next four years, but Tasmanian Treasurer Eric Abetz has confirmed the department will be part of an operational efficiencies program, meaning it will also need to find \$700m in savings.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 25/05/2026, Leon Compton

Interview with Assistant Federal Minister for Health Rebecca White, about whether Tasmanians should be worried that money that has been contributed to fund hospitals for five years has been effectively cut out of the state budget. White admits that this is rather concerning, as they have provided record funding to the Tas Liberal Government, and they have seen big increases of 15% this year for health and 20% for next year.

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

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War on Orange's silent health crisis

Central Western Daily, General News, 26/05/2026, Nick McGrath, Page 3

Faced with a regional community struggling to find crucial and timely access to mental health support, Orange MP Phil Donato is launching an entirely unconventional fightback. [...] The arm-wrestling tournament - overseen by president of arm-wrestling Australia Phil Rasmussen - will see figures from across the political divide lock hands, including NSW Minister for Sport Steve Kamper MP and Federal Government Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi MP.

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'You are not alone': Prince Harry issues powerful fatherhood message while backing Movember mental health report

The Australian, Other, 25/05/2026, David Hannant

The Duke of Sussex has spoken candidly about his "rollercoaster" experience of parenting, backing a new report into fatherhood to be debated in parliament. [...] The report is set to be tabled in parliament by a cross-party group of MPs, including Dan Repacholi, the special envoy for men's health.

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

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ABC North West Qld, Breakfast, 25/05/2026, Zara Margolis

Pre-recorded interview with Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi, about regional men continuing to face high suicide rates, isolation, and mental health challenges. Repacholi points out that they are currently at Mt Isa, talking to men and dads, about their concerns, particularly regarding mental health. He states that they have also dropped by the local hospitals in the area to talk about the "Dads Group" programme.

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ABC North Queensland, Mornings (Late), 25/05/2026, Susan Graham-Ryan

Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi says stigma around mental well-being continues to hit regional and remote men harder than those in the cities. Last week, Repacholi visited Northwest Queensland, where he met with men's groups and local support services.

Also reported by: [ABC Southern Queensland \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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DEPARTMENT

There's a hole in the assignment of benefit changes

The Medical Republic, Other, 25/05/2026, Holly Payne

From July 1, new laws will require practices to collect and hold onto proof that their patients have consented to be bulk billed – but there are still unanswered questions about what happens when a patient is too ill to consent. [...] While the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has promised to create an "enduring" assignment of benefit, it's not known when this will go live and what type of consult it will cover.

[Read More](#)

GP bulk billing rate cracks 80%

The Medical Republic, Other, 25/05/2026, Holly Payne

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing says the number of Bulk Billing PIP signups has now tipped 3800. Close to 40% of the clinics signed up to the Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Payment (BB PIP) program were formerly mixed billers, a Department of Health, Disability and Ageing spokesperson told delegates at the RACGP Practice Owners Conference on Saturday.

National osteoporosis health literacy program

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 25/05/2026

National osteoporosis health literacy program to support medicines knowledge, adherence and fracture prevention for 30,000 Australians. [...] Supported by a \$1.1 million Quality Use of Medicines, Consumer Health Literacy grant from the Australian Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, the initiative is now live across participating pharmacies nationwide, delivering evidence-based osteoporosis education directly to patients at the point of dispensing.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Dementia in the blood

Herald Sun, General News, 26/05/2026, Page 9

Frequent changes in blood pressure could affect cognitive health and contribute to brain changes associated with dementia risk, new research has uncovered. A Monash University study found that greater variability in blood pressure over a 24 hour period was associated with poorer cognition, including planning, problem solving and memory.

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Nurturing aged carer

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 25/05/2026, Chloe Hava

Tiernan McDonough MPS, PSA's 2026 AMH Aged Care Pharmacist of the Year, is helping to develop onsite pharmacists from the ground up. [...] UniSA, in collaboration with the University of Western Australia, is developing a dedicated, flexible workplace-based training program for Aged Care On-site Pharmacists – aiming to enhance their practical skills and provide opportunities to learn from and with others.

[Read More](#)

Choking in aged care is preventable. So why is it still happening?

HelloCare, Other, 25/05/2026, Chris Deed

Recent coronial findings into choking deaths in aged care have brought renewed attention to a risk that has long been understood within the sector. [...] Choking is the second most common cause of preventable death in residential aged care in Australia.

[Read More](#)

Hotelling fees: sneaky new aged care fees can cost hundreds every month

The Senior, Other, 25/05/2026, Phoebe Loomes

If you or your loved one have made the decision to move into residential aged care, you may find the multiple fees popping up on your statement confusing, including a newly introduced "hotelling contribution". [...] Hotelling fees are a new feature of the Aged Care Act 2024, which came into effect on November 1, 2025, to help residential aged care homes cover their daily costs.

[Read More](#)

Retirement village residents nationwide invited to take part in new survey

The Weekly Source, Other, 25/05/2026, Ian Horswill

Retirement village residents anxious over Support at Home rollout Retirement village resident associations across Australia are surveying their members about the Support at Home program, which came into effect on 1 November last year. [...] The average wait time , from application through My

Aged Care to receiving services, for residential aged care was 396 days for ongoing care – 13 months – and 434 days for short-term residential care – 14 months.

[Read More](#)

50 new homes for over-55s in WA's Shire of Capel

The Weekly Source, Other, 25/05/2026, Ian Horswill

A traditional smoking ceremony has marked the start of construction on 50 new social and affordable homes within an operator's established community. Not For Profit Bethanie said the social and affordable housing development will sit alongside 104 existing community housing homes and the 120-bed Bethanie Dalyellup residential aged care facility on the site.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 25/05/2026, Michael Thomson

Additional 59 aged care beds are now available for WA seniors, bringing the total to 146 for those who need a space after being discharged from hospital. The extra beds will be located at Amana Living in Dunkraig, Bull Creek, Camillo, and Mosman Park.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

No relevant coverage

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PRIMARY CARE

Options for treatment with urgent care clinic

Northern Territory News, General News, 26/05/2026, Fia Walsh, Page 4

The Darwin Medicare Urgent Care Clinic has officially opened its doors, offering more healthcare options to ease pressure on the hospital. [...] The Darwin Medicare Urgent Care Clinic will help to ease pressure on the busy Royal Darwin Hospital, where around 42 per cent of presentations in 2024-25 were for semiurgent or non-urgent conditions.

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

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New accreditation standards for pharmacy programs published

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 25/05/2026, Megan Haggan

After comprehensive consultation, the Australian Pharmacy Council has published the final Accreditation Standards for Pharmacy Programs 2027. These standards will be used to accredit degree and intern training programs into the future, it said.

[Read More](#)

The proposal to build a six-storey cancer centre near Wollongong Hospital

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 25/05/2026, Natalie Croxon

Wollongong's health precinct could become home to a six-storey cancer treatment centre, if new plans get the green light from the state government. [...] "The proposed development seeks to address the shortage of oncology services in Wollongong by improving local access to critical cancer treatment, reducing the need for patients to travel to Sydney for treatment, and supporting equitable, timely, and comprehensive care for the Illawarra and South Coast communities," a letter provided to the department on behalf of the developer, Loftus Property Trust, said.

POPULATION HEALTH

ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 25/05/2026, Lara Stimpson

Interview with health advocate and journalist Shelly Horton, on the Federal Government's first national campaign for perimenopause and menopause. Horton says the campaign is three years in the making, and she was part of the first-ever parliamentary roundtable on menopause. She states that the campaign will help men and women understand perimenopause and menopause.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 25/05/2026, Saskia Mabin

Interview with Jean Hailes for Women's Health CEO Dr Sarah White, on the Federal Government's first national campaign for perimenopause and menopause. White says the Federal Government's campaign will help women get the right information and identify where to get support and treatment. She notes that the campaign will encourage more women to have discussions around perimenopause and menopause.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

National hero finally succumbs to 'the beast'

The Australian, General News, 26/05/2026, Alan Howe, Page 12

On September 1, 1990, the four Daniher brothers Neale, Terry, Anthony and Chris ran out for Essendon against St Kilda, the first and only time a quartet of brothers has played in the same AFL game. [...] Diagnosed with motor neurone disease in 2013, six years after a long coaching career at Melbourne, he set about fighting the disease, not just for himself, indeed especially not for himself.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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Survey tackles cancer

Herald Sun, General News, 26/05/2026, Page 11

Australians are being urged to take part in a nationwide survey on early detection of the country's most commonly diagnosed cancer. The Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia is concerned about one million Australian men may have significantly increased risk of prostate cancer due to their family history.

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

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Tradie's blunt cancer warning

Newcastle Herald, General News, 26/05/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 7

Ian Cant has a blunt message for those who choose not to practise sun protection. "You do not want to experience what I experienced." [...] She said the training program aimed to give outdoor workers "a better understanding of UV radiation, its dangers and how to prevent melanoma and other skin cancers".

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BHP and ear science expand ear health support in the Pilbara

Improvements in ear health are at the centre of a new funding commitment for specialist medical support in the Pilbara. A Pilbara-based ear health co-ordinator will be hired by Ear Science Institute Australia through the funding commitment from BHP, with the addition aimed at improving access to culturally safe and community-led ear and hearing services in remote communities.

[Read More](#)

Osteoporosis literacy targeted through community pharmacy

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 25/05/2026

Stakeholders get together to tackle the issue of osteoporosis health literacy. Healthily, Fred IT Group, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and Healthy Bones Australia are working together to launch an Australia-wide osteoporosis health literacy initiative through community pharmacy.

[Read More](#)

Better guidance on obesity and cardiovascular disease is here

Medical Forum, Other, 25/05/2026

The Heart Foundation has released the nation's first Clinical Consensus Statement on obesity and cardiovascular disease (CVD). Intended for healthcare professionals whose patients have heart disease or a high risk of developing it, it includes recommendations for new obesity medicines to reduce heart disease risk.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 25/05/2026, Lucy Breden

Interview with Motor Neurone Disease Association of Tasmania President Chris Symonds. Breden says FightMND founder and former AFL player Neale Daniher has died at the age of 65 after battling MND for 13 years. Symond says he has nothing but respect for Daniher for fighting MND and raising funds to support other people suffering from the condition.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 25/05/2026, Thomas Oriti

Interview with Macquarie University MND Research Centre Professor Dominic Rowe, on MND and the death of Neale Daniher. Rowe says Daniher founded FightMND, an organisation that aims to raise funds for MND research, after his diagnosis of the condition more than 10 years ago. He also states that there are now therapies that dramatically slow Sporadic Motor Neurone Disease, but they are still no closer to finding the cause and understanding its mechanism in order to stop it.

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

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

'Innovative idea' wins national award

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 26/05/2026, Natalie Croxon, Page 3

The founders of an innovative mental health initiative plan to use the prize money from a national award to make the program more accessible to those facing financial barriers. Recovery Camp, which was developed by the University of Wollongong's Professor Lorna Moxham, Associate Professor Chris Patterson and a team of researchers, was named Outstanding Organisation at the 2026 Australian Nursing and Midwifery Awards.

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Is it ADHD or anxiety? Why these complex conditions often get confused

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 25/05/2026, Paula Goodyer

Living with ADHD can be challenging enough, but what if you have anxiety too? An estimated 20 to 30 per cent of those with ADHD also live with anxiety, while other studies suggest as many as 50 per cent.

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IMMUNISATION

Top 4 vaccine queries to the P2P Advice Line

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 25/05/2026, Jorgia Burke

With the expansion of pharmacy vaccination services across Australia, pharmacists are navigating an increasingly layered set of challenges. Bill Wallace, PSA Pharmacist – Professional Support Adviser, outlines the most common vaccine-related questions that have come through this year.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 25/05/2026, Lara Stimpson

Interview with Pharmacy Guild of Australia NT President Peter Hatswell. Stimpson says Territorians have been urged to check their vaccination record as Australia grapples with the largest outbreak of diphtheria. Hatswell states that people can get their diphtheria vaccine for free if they can get the NT Government to fund the administration fee.

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

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2CC, Canberra Live, 25/05/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with Adelaide University Professor of Biostatistics Adrian Esterman, on diphtheria vaccinations. Esterman says diphtheria vaccinations for kids have dropped below 90% for the first time, and adults, particularly those who will go into their 50s and 60s, need to understand that they need to get a booster, because the vaccinations they received as kids do not last forever. He also notes that 94% of the diphtheria cases are occurring in remote Aboriginal communities, where there is poor and overcrowded housing.

Also reported by: [2CC \(Canberra\)](#), [2CC \(Canberra\)](#).

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Private health rebate: ALP takes a calculated risk by angering seniors

The Australian, Other, 25/05/2026, David Tanner & Marcus de Blonk Smith

The electoral impact of Labor's decision to anger seniors by axing their higher private health insurance rebate is likely to be minimal because the federal government's seats are overwhelmingly skewed away from the nation's expanding "grey zones". [...] But the Albanese government's decision to return to a flat private health insurance rebate regardless of age is a calculated risk that the blowback will be strongest in electorates held by the Nationals, the Liberals and crossbenchers that have large numbers of retirees.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Map of early lung damage

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 26/05/2026, Page 8

Melbourne researchers have mapped how lung damage begins early in life for children with cystic fibrosis, providing new insights that will help reshape future care. The research team, led by Murdoch Children's Research Institute and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, has created the largest-ever lung atlas of the lower airways in young cystic fibrosis patients, offering new clues into preventing long-term disease.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Push for early stroke tests

Cairns Post, General News, 26/05/2026, Page 4

Indigenous Australians develop atrial fibrillation (AF) nearly 16 years earlier than non-Indigenous Australians, driving higher stroke rates at younger ages. AF, a common heart rhythm disorder with an irregular heartbeat, can form clots in the heart that travel to the brain, often without symptoms until a stroke occurs.

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

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

New hospital in the west opened three months ago but already faces cuts

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 25/05/2026, Henrietta Cook

It opened to patients just three months ago, but doctors at the new Footscray Hospital fear they will soon have to wind back cancer services for some of the sickest Victorians. [...] Australian Medical Association Victorian president Dr Simon Judkins said the proposal was part of a broader Health Department push to centralise medical experts into hubs, though he said Footscray Hospital was already delivering high-quality care to patients.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Births under the knife

Daily Telegraph, General News, 26/05/2026, Samantha Landy, Page 14

Two in five Australian women are giving birth via caesarean section, with the rate of surgical deliveries soaring almost 5 per cent since 2020. [...] Factors contributing to the rising number of C-sections include older women having babies, higher levels of chronic diseases and obesity, higher rates of assisted reproduction and the prevalence of private health insurance, Queensland's chief midwife officer Liz Wilkes said.

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

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

No relevant coverage

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Breaking taboos: push to help women navigate menopause

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 25/05/2026

Australian women will have greater access to information about perimenopause and menopause to break down the stigma many have faced as they approach this major life transition. [...] It also launched a landmark women's health package that included new listings for menopausal hormone therapies on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, which subsidises prescription medicines and makes them cheaper.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Rare illness kills man

Northern Territory News, General News, 26/05/2026, Page 13

A second diphtheria-related death in the Northern Territory has underscored the spread of the rare bacterial infection across jurisdictions as health authorities continue tracking an outbreak not seen in decades.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#)

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Second diphtheria death confirmed in Northern Territory as outbreak spreads across Australia

The Australian, Other, 25/05/2026, Andrew Hedgman

A second diphtheria-related death has been confirmed as the disease continues to spread across northern Australia. [...] National surveillance data from the Australian Centre for Disease Control shows at least 242 cases have been recorded across the country this year.

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

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Reported diphtheria death denied by health authority

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 25/05/2026

The Northern Territory is at the centre of Australia's worst diphtheria outbreak in decades, with cases of the potentially deadly disease also reported in Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland. [...] The Australian Centre for Disease Control has recorded at least 242 diphtheria cases across the nation so far in 2026.

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Yuendumu residents frustrated with lack of NT government diphtheria messaging

ABC Online, Other, 25/05/2026, Elsie Lange

Service providers and residents in Yuendumu say despite growing diphtheria case numbers in the remote community in recent weeks, it has felt like the Northern Territory government "doesn't care". Diphtheria, a disease that is vaccine-preventable, has been spreading through remote Indigenous communities for weeks, with at least 242 cases reported so far this year across the NT, SA, Queensland and WA, according to Australian Centre for Disease Control data.

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SBS, World News Australia, 25/05/2026, Richelle Harrison Plesse

There are now more than 900 suspected Ebola cases and 119 suspected deaths in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, while five cases and one death have been confirmed in Uganda. The World Health Organization stated that the rare strain of the disease may be spreading faster than originally thought.

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4BC, Afternoons, 25/05/2026, Carla Bignasca

A second death in the NT has been recorded as a result of this month's diphtheria outbreak. Currently, Australia deals with the largest outbreak of diphtheria on record, with nearly 250 cases recorded this year.

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ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 25/05/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos

The World Health Organization says there are now nearly 1,000 suspected Ebola cases in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The agency says more than 200 people are suspected to have died from the virus, and earlier this month, it declared the outbreak a public health emergency of international concern.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Enhanced Games slow out of blocks

Daily Telegraph, Sport, 26/05/2026, Robert Craddock, Page 44

Just as well as they were on the super juice ... imagine how modest they would have been on standard fuel. [...] Dive deeper and Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) warns the use of unapproved EPO risks serious cardiovascular problems.

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

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Ozempic and Wegovy can lead to devastating muscle and bone loss... now experts reveal exactly how to fight it

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 25/05/2026, Cassidy Morrison

Weight-loss drugs like Ozempic, Wegovy and Zepbound have benefitted millions of consumers by helping them shed pounds and become more metabolically healthy. [...] 'Typically, when the goal is losing weight, long-term side effects such as loss of bone mass or increasing risk of fractures are not considered,' Dr Daniel Ivankovich told the Daily Mail.

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'Character assassination': Pete Evans shares wild new claim in chat with Karl Stefanovic

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 25/05/2026, Mary Madigan

Pete Evans has claimed unnamed pharmaceutical companies and "rival networks" were behind a "character assassination" that led him to leaving mainstream media. [...] He was fined \$25,000 by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for promoting an unproven device as a treatment for COVID-19.

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

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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