



TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 1st October 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
| [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Disability and Carers](#) | [Primary Care](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 5) reports that NDIS participants have called for more detail on changes to the program as Thriving Kids reforms commence today. NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said in a statement that Thriving Kids was developed after listening to experts and families who have navigated the system. *Also reported by:* [The Australian](#), [SMH](#), [ABC Online](#), [Canberra Times](#), [ABC Radio Brisbane](#).
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports that new measures have been announced to crack down on the use of inducements by NDIS providers across the NT, and will include funding for community access workers to help residents understand the scheme. NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said the new initiatives aimed to protect First Nations people with disability from those who seek to do the wrong thing. *Also reported by:* [NITV](#), [SBS](#), [ABC Radio Darwin](#), [ABC Radio Alice Springs](#)
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports that the Federal Government has partnered with Health Direct to launch the Contraception Options Finder, an initiative aimed at combatting misinformation in online healthcare. Assistant Minister for Health and Women Rebecca White welcomed the initiative's launch and said "It's designed to provide evidence-based information for men and women and gender diverse people to make decisions about their contraceptive choices." *Also reported by:* [Triple J](#)
- **[Cranbourne Star News](#)** (page 4) reports that a Victorian Coroner has urged the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to develop national medication safety standards for residential

aged care settings following an investigation into a resident's preventable death.

- **National Indigenous Times** (page 7) reports that a spokesperson for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said the Federal Government was providing funding and was committed to improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as regional communities raise concerns about the prevalence of rare diseases.
- **The Senior** (online) reports that the Department of Health and Aged Care said only 834,000 of 1.35 million Australians holding a current, active hearing voucher actually engaged with services or received care in the 2025-26 financial year.

MINISTER BUTLER

Cancer nurse fears raised

Murray Valley Standard, General News, 01/10/2026, Kaitlyn Gibbons, Page 9

Member for Barker Tony Pasin has raised concerns that a change to federal prostate cancer nursing funding could affect specialist care for men in regional communities. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the government was strengthening nursing support by working with the McGrath Foundation to help more men affected by cancer.

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

'A cruel mess': Families left in limbo as national autism scheme launches without Queensland

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 30/09/2026, Courtney Kruk

The Queensland government says its refusal to sign up to a new program for autistic children is in support of families, despite calls from across the sector to provide certainty for vulnerable kids removed from the NDIS. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced Thriving Kids, a new system for children under nine with developmental delays and autism, in August last year.

[Read More](#)

ACT government distances itself from NDIS cuts as Thriving Kids launches

ABC Online, General News, 30/09/2026, Niki Burnside

The ACT government says children under the age of nine will not yet be removed from the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) as it begins to roll out the Thriving Kids program. [...] Federal NDIS Minister Mark Butler released the model for Thriving Kids in February as part of a major overhaul of the way disability support is accessed and received in Australia.

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

[Read More](#)

Advocates search for answers as autism support begins

Canberra Times, General News, 01/10/2026, Will Nicholas

A once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve disability support by removing tens of thousands of children from the NDIS might be bungled, advocates warn. The plan for autistic and developmentally delayed kids to roll off the NDIS - called Thriving Kids - will enter its first phase on Thursday. [...] Thriving Kids was announced by NDIS Minister Mark Butler in August 2025 as a way to rein in costs of the disability scheme.

Also reported by: [Deniliquin Pastoral Times \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [The North West Star \(Online\)](#), [Katherine Times \(Online\)](#), [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#), [The Armidale Express \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [The Advocate \(Burnie\) \(Online\)](#), [St George & Sutherland Shire Leader \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Countryman \(Online\)](#), [Broome Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Southern Cross \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail UK \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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By the TGA's own test, the Health Minister's press releases are

advertising

BioPharmaDispatch, General News, 01/10/2026

The guidance cites "game-changer", alongside "life-changing" and "breakthrough", as phrases that can make media unlawful by exaggerating a medicine's efficacy. Mark Butler has used two of them.

[Read More](#)

A hidden health risk

HVAC&R News, General News, 30/09/2026

A new report by Australian medical experts reveals why transitioning away from gas needs to be a public health priority. [...] The DEA has also written an open letter to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and the Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler, urging them to protect human health by: Making the gas industry bear the costs of the health and environmental harms of their product Providing targeted support to the community to replace gas appliances and disconnect from the gas network Establishing a clear timeline for phasing out fossil gas and rule out approving new gas projects.

[Read More](#)

Support determinations begin today: What you need to know

Team Dsc, General News, 01/10/2026

The 50% reduction for social, economic and community participation and the 10% for improved daily living skills were made official today. [...] But on September 29th, NDIS Minister Mark Butler made it official by introducing what's called a 'legislative instrument' to Parliament.

[Read More](#)

Could Andrew Cohen teach the RACGP a thing or two about advocacy?

The Medical Republic, General News, 30/09/2026, Jeremy Knibbs

Imagine if the Department of Health regularly called the president of the RACGP for advice on primary healthcare policy and how to best sell it to the public? [...] The documents reveal a sustained flow of data, policy proposals, and media material between Cohen and the health minister Mark Butler's office on urgent care clinics and bulk billing.

[Read More](#)

Local Council reverses home care exit plan

The Weekly Source, General News, 30/09/2026, Caroline Egan

A Victorian Council planning to exit home care next year has voted to retain the service – but says more Government funding will be needed. [...] However, in August, Aged Care Ministers Mark Butler and Sam Rae backflipped on the plan, announcing the CHSP will be retained as a standalone program.

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98.9FM, 08:00 News, 30/09/2026

Disability advocates argue that the Federal Government's \$36b budget target for the NDIS presents an opportunity to overhaul housing options for people with disabilities. Representatives from the Summer Foundation emphasise the need to phase out default group home settings in favour of alternative models that offer true living choices, following systemic concerns regarding abuse. While NDIS Minister Mark Butler plans to introduce a panel of approved providers to address poor-quality operators, advocates criticise the government for failing to include specific group home alternatives in its public feedback requests.

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Noongar Radio, 07:00 News, 30/09/2026, Unspecified

An alternative disability accommodation model utilising late-night drop-in care is costing the NDIS approximately one-third of the price of traditional overnight support workers. Advocates from the Summer Foundation, such as Jess Walker, highlight that such community-based alternatives offer higher independence for residents while delivering significant savings as the Federal Government seeks \$36b in scheme efficiencies. In response to concerns over system quality, NDIS Minister Mark

Butler stated that the government remains focused on filtering out substandard operators to ensure only high-quality providers remain.

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ABC Far North, Breakfast, 30/09/2026, Charlie McKillop

Interview with Federal Labor Member for Leichhardt Matt Smith. Smith addresses ambulance ramping and hospital bed-blocking in Far North Queensland. He acknowledges concerns regarding Health Minister Mark Butler and referenced statements from Rex O'Rourke, acting boss of the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service, who noted that over 130 patients daily face delayed discharges due to aged care bed shortages. Highlighting long-term planning deficits for an aging population, Smith pointed to \$3.9b in federal budget investments, alongside recent initiatives by Minister Sam Rae.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 30/09/2026, Steve Austin

Austin provides commentary on the standoff between the Federal Government and Queensland regarding the launch of the new Thriving Kids program aimed at trimming NDIS expenditure for children under nine with low to moderate support needs. He highlights Federal Health Minister Mark Butler's frustration that Queensland is the only jurisdiction refusing to sign on, alongside Premier David Crisafulli's firm refusal to let Canberra shift costs and throw vulnerable families to the wolves.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

Appeal for clarity as disability changes come in threes

The Australian, General News, 01/10/2026, Elizabeth Pike and Amy Jackson, Page 5

Families and experts are appealing to the federal and state governments to provide clarity about some of the most significant changes to the NDIS since its launch more than a decade ago, as a former bureaucrat warns the reforms could cost the budget more if they are bungled. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister in a statement released on Thursday said in "designing Thriving Kids, we listened to experts and families who have navigated the system and know what needed to change".

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

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States scramble to finalise Thriving Kids programs as Queensland sits it out

The Australian, General News, 30/09/2026, Elizabeth Pike

States are rushing to finalise Thriving Kids programs on the eve of the federal government's deadline to begin transfers from the NDIS, but Queensland is holding firm on its refusal. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister spoke out for the government against Queensland, putting any fallout from Thriving Kids at the feet of the state government.

[Read More](#)

Federal government announces new measures to tackle unscrupulous NDIS practices in remote communities

ABC Online, General News, 30/09/2026, James Elton

The federal government has announced new measures to crack down on unscrupulous National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) providers in the Northern Territory, with a focus on the use of inducements to recruit and retain vulnerable participants in remote Aboriginal communities. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said there was still "more work to do within the Territory".

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

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NITV, NITV News, 30/09/2026, Cameron Gooley

The Federal Government has unveiled new NDIS safeguards to protect First Nations clients in remote Northern Territory communities from exploitative and dishonest operators. NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister announced the expansion of the Remote Community Connector program to an additional 30 communities, utilising local, culturally knowledgeable members to assist families.

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SBS, World News Australia (Late), 30/09/2026

News. The federal government is promising a stronger and safer NDIS system to protect First Nations clients in remote Northern Territory communities.

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2MCE, 15:00 National Radio News, 30/09/2026

The Federal Government has launched a targeted initiative to prevent NDIS providers from exploiting vulnerable First Nations people in remote areas through inducements like cash, alcohol, food, and cigarettes. NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister announced that new community access workers will be deployed to help residents navigate the scheme, including 17 in the Northern Territory, eight in Queensland, and four in New South Wales.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 30/09/2026, Lara Stimpson

Stimpson is joined by ABC Katherine reporter James Elton to discuss new federal measures cracking down on predatory NDIS providers targeting remote Northern Territory communities with cash, alcohol, and tobacco inducements. In response to the investigation, NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister acknowledged the distinct challenges in the NT and announced the funding of 17 new community connector positions managed through local Aboriginal Health Services. The government is also contracting independent disability advocates to conduct fact-finding missions to identify dodgy operators, prevent plan exploitation, and restore participant control.

Similar coverage reported by: [ABC Radio Darwin \(Darwin\)](#), [ABC Radio Darwin \(Darwin\)](#).

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ABC Alice Springs, Drive Show, 30/09/2026, Nat Tencic

Interview with NDIS Minister Senator Jenny McAllister. McAllister details new federal safeguards to protect the NDIS and restore integrity to the scheme across the Northern Territory. Addressing widespread concerns about scheme sustainability and maligned provider practices, McAllister confirms that newly passed NDIS legislation explicitly outlaws illegal inducements, making it a specific offense for providers to offer cash, alcohol, tobacco, or devices.

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MINISTER RAE

Local Council reverses home care exit plan

The Weekly Source, General News, 30/09/2026, Caroline Egan

A Victorian Council planning to exit home care next year has voted to retain the service – but says more Government funding will be needed. [...] However, in August, Aged Care Ministers Mark Butler and Sam Rae backflipped on the plan, announcing the CHSP will be retained as a standalone program.

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ABC Far North, Breakfast, 30/09/2026, Charlie McKillop

Interview with Federal Labor Member for Leichhardt Matt Smith. Smith addresses ambulance ramping

and hospital bed-blocking in Far North Queensland. He acknowledges concerns regarding Health Minister Mark Butler and referenced statements from Rex O'Rourke, acting boss of the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service, who noted that over 130 patients daily face delayed discharges due to aged care bed shortages. Highlighting long-term planning deficits for an aging population, Smith pointed to \$3.9b in federal budget investments, alongside recent initiatives by Minister Sam Rae.

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Outback Radio 2WEB, 14:05 Local News, 30/09/2026

Federal Member for Parkes Jamie Chaffey has declared an aged care crisis across his regional electorate due to severe service shortages and prolonged waiting lists. To address the system breakdown, Chaffey is participating in a tri-state forum led by Shadow Minister for Regional Health Dr Anne Webster. Chaffey noted he has raised these out-of-control local situations directly in discussions with Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

How TikTok content is spreading contraception misinformation

ABC Online, General News, 30/09/2026, Lucy MacDonald

If you are a woman on TikTok, you've almost certainly scrolled to a video of someone commenting about women's contraception and its negative side effects. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Women Rebecca White is concerned about the rise of misinformation when it comes to healthcare.

[Read More](#)

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

Croakey, General News, 30/09/2026, Melissa Sweet

Diagnosis and care for people with dementia needs to be improved, according to new findings that also show carers often experience difficulties accessing support. [...] The PCA website includes an article on Chapman's views and a recording of his lecture Ministers and government Assistant Minister for Health Rebecca White announced "the Albanese Government is committed to addressing the human health impacts of climate change".

[Read More](#)

Triple J, Hack, 30/09/2026, Dave Marchese

The Federal Government has launched a new contraception options finder tool created with Health Direct. Federal Assistant Minister for Health and Women Rebecca White has said it will help people have an informed discussion with their health professional.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

DEPARTMENT

Drug mix-up tragedy

Cranbourne Star News, General News, 01/10/2026, Afraa Kori, Page 4

A 69-year-old woman's death after she was given another resident's medication at an aged care home was preventable, a coroner has found. The elderly resident was mistakenly given 300mg of the antipsychotic drug clozapine at Monash Health's Mooraleigh Hostel in Bentleigh East on 4 August 2024. [...] Coroner Giles called for the Federal Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to urgently develop national medication safety standards specific to residential aged care, including clear rules for emergency responses and reporting after an error.

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Insidious disease 'must be tackled'

National Indigenous Times, General News, 01/09/2026, Giovanni Torre, Page 7

A serious health condition is quietly causing a major impact in Indigenous communities. [...] A Federal Health Department spokesperson said the Government was "committed to improving health equity and addressing disparities experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples".

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'Significant risks': AEC pushes for mandatory AI deepfake labelling in election ads

The Australian, General News, 30/09/2026, Natasha Bitá

Social media posts cashing in on deepfakes of Australian politicians are in danger of influencing elections and undermining democracy, the Australian Electoral Commission has warned in an official attack on artificial intelligence. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing paid more than \$1m to Accenture to implement Microsoft's Copilot chatbot.

[Read More](#)

David Barry Kelly in Taree court charged with possessing child abuse material

Mid North Coast News, General News, 30/09/2026, Janine Watson

A former northern NSW health network staffer accused of possessing child abuse material with "previous matters relating to children" on his record, has appeared in court. Here's the latest. [...] Healthy North Coast is the Primary Health Network for the North Coast NSW region, funded by the Australian Government's Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and has so far declined to answer how Kelly was hired and maintained ongoing employment while having "previous matters relating to children" on his record.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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Evidence gaps in SaH delivery

Australian Ageing Agenda, General News, 30/09/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

A rolling review of the first two months of Support at Home has found issues with service delivery evidence and monthly statements. There are substantial and recurring gaps in the evidence submitted by the providers reviewed for the Support at Home Payment Integrity Rolling Review Summary Report. Published this month by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, the review covered claim data from cycle one (November–December 2025) and noted particular gaps in the evidence of agreed prices, delivery of goods and services, and compliance with monthly statement requirements.

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They're Here! Meet The 2026 B&T Awards Campaigns Of The Year

Finalists!

B & T Online, General News, 30/09/2026, Tom Fogden

The finalists for the Campaigns of the Year awards at the 2026 B&T Awards, presented by Rokt, have been revealed! They are all here and they are all utterly glorious. [...] 'Turning private confusion into public recognition', Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

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DoHDA explores reducing admin burden from assignment of benefit changes

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, General News, 30/09/2026, Karen Burge

Three months into a 12-month transition, the RACGP welcomed the assurance that arrangements are still being explored as practices adapt to new Medicare processes. [...] In new information to providers, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DoHDA) confirmed it is 'continuing its investigation of legal options for simpler bulk billing', with advice to be provided to the Federal Government later this calendar year.

[Read More](#)

What GPs will earn in 2033 is more complicated than you'd think

The Medical Republic, General News, 30/09/2026, Jeremy Knibbs

Outcomes funding, income fragmentation, payroll tax, salaried models and a government that wants value for money are driving the remuneration landscape for general practice into the future. [...] Duncan McIntyre, the head of Medicare Benefits at the Department of Health, Disability and Aged Care, might have come to Burning GP to listen more than anything.

[Read More](#)

More than 500,000 Aussies aren't using this free government hearing perk

The Senior, General News, 30/09/2026, Carla Mascarenhas

Hundreds of thousands of older Australians are missing out on vital hearing assessments and aids, with experts warning that untreated hearing loss can trigger dementia, severe social isolation, and depression. The federal government's Hearing Services Program (HSP) voucher scheme provides high-quality digital hearing aids and clinical care to older Australians. [...] According to the latest Department of Health and Aged Care figures, more than 1.35 million Australians hold a current, active hearing voucher, but only about 834,000 actually engaged with services or received care in the last financial year (2025-2026).

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Radio National, Life Matters, 30/09/2026, Hilary Harper and Beverley Wang

Advocates are frustrated more work has not been done to implement the hundreds of recommendations made by the \$600m Disability Royal Commission. In a statement, the Federal Health Department says governments have agreed to continue reporting publicly on progress on the inquiry's recommendations, as well as continuing to engage with people with disability and representative organisations as reforms are developed and implemented.

Similar coverage reported by: [ABC Radio Melbourne \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC Radio Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [ABC Radio Darwin \(Darwin\)](#).

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Jess Wilson vows to confront 'weak' Albanese over private health rebate cut

The Australian, General News, 30/09/2026, Anthony Galloway

The Victorian Opposition Leader's intervention, with a state election in November, comes after Anthony Albanese was already facing a revolt from states over private health rebate cuts for older people. Victorian Opposition Leader Jess Wilson has warned Anthony Albanese she will confront him at national cabinet over his cuts to the private health insurance rebate, accusing the Prime Minister of being "weak" by shifting the cost on to already stretched public hospitals.

[Read More](#)

Intergenerational Report: Three implications for the public sector

The Mandarin, General News, 30/09/2026, Stephen Bartos

Unfortunately, the government has not published a 40-year outlook for the public sector. Nevertheless, there are plenty of implications to be drawn.

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Could this research change how older Australians receive care?

The Weekly Source, General News, 30/09/2026, Caroline Egan

A \$45 million research project is testing a different approach to hospital care for older Australians. The Federal Government is funding the Back@Home project, which will test a hybrid virtual and in-person model for people aged 65-plus admitted to hospital with back pain.

[Read More](#)

Does who owns your aged care home change your hospital risk?

The Weekly Source, General News, 30/09/2026, Caroline Egan

A study of more than 200,000 aged care residents has uncovered significant differences in hospital admissions between ownership types. A Flinders University-led study published in BMJ Open examined the impact of aged care home ownership and location on resident outcomes.

[Read More](#)

FIVEAA, Mornings, 30/09/2026, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Monash University School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine Research Fellow Dr Peter Fransquet. Fransquet discusses new findings linking low-dose aspirin to a 70 percent reduction in dementia risk among a specific subset of older adults. He explains that using genetic data from the ASPREE trial, researchers identified that individuals within the highest 20 percent of a genetic profile associated with high platelet counts experienced significantly lower relative risk of developing dementia when taking daily low-dose aspirin.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Major NDIS change for kids on spectrum

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 01/10/2026, Page 9

A major NDIS shake-up starts today, as Foundational Supports-branded Thriving Kids launches nationally. Children aged eight and under with developmental delay or autism and low-to-moderate support needs will access help through the new program, rolling out ahead of full NDIS reform by 2028.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [News24 Australia \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#).

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Have say on plan for kids

Northern Territory News, General News, 01/10/2026, Page 6

Territorians have been invited to share their feedback before the rollout of a national program to support children with developmental delay or autism. Thriving Kids, a national initiative supporting children aged eight and under who have low to moderate needs, rollout progressively from October 1, reaching full implementation by January 2028.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Thriving Kids launches today. Here's what will and won't change

The Conversation, General News, 01/10/2026, Helen Dickinson

On October 1, the first stage of Thriving Kids begins to roll out. This new program, announced just over a year ago, is part of the federal government's sweeping changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

[Read More](#)

Billions slashed from NDIS packages as reassessments lead to more cuts and less increases

ABC Online, General News, 30/09/2026, Evan Young

The agency running the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) slashed more than \$2.8 billion from participant plans over a 21-month period, documents show, with "ruthless" cuts for whole categories of supports also set to begin from tomorrow. The figures, from the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and recently released under Freedom of Information laws, cover participant plans reviewed by the NDIA between July 1, 2024, and March 31, 2026.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 30/09/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Shadow NDIS Minister Melissa McIntosh. McIntosh refutes claims that the Coalition delayed NDIS reform legislation, accusing Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Treasurer Jim Chalmers of misleading the public over the scheme's trajectory and broader economic pressures. Addressing the rollout of the Thriving Kids foundational support framework, McIntosh warned of widespread uncertainty among families, noting that Queensland has refused to sign on and Victoria remains unable to define its state-level program offerings. While reaffirming the opposition's support for target NDIS spending reductions, McIntosh argued that federal efforts must prioritise program performance, elimination of fraud, and direct outcomes rather than blanket service cuts.

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PRIMARY CARE

Geelong surgery delays as almost 150 doctors strike

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 01/10/2026, Zoe De Koning, Page 5

Geelong hospital patients will face surgery delays as almost 150 Barwon Health doctors walk off the job amid statewide industrial action on Thursday. Members of the Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation Victoria will participate in a four-hour strike between 1.30pm and 5.30pm.

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Left in silence

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 01/10/2026, Ann Wason Moore, Page 1

A woman says she was forced to fight for five days to get her husband psychiatric help after a callback from Gold Coast Health's mental health crisis line never came and he was told to wait three weeks for treatment.

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'More at ease': new service saves patients from travelling to cities for care

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, General News, 30/09/2026, Maryam Sulaiman

Roslyn Williams was forced to travel thousands of kilometres for life-saving treatment. Login or signup to continue reading The Ardlethan resident went into hospital in August 2025 after an intestinal blockage destroyed 60 per cent of her small intestine, which required five surgeries to remove most of it.

[Read More](#)

4BC, Breakfast , 30/09/2026, Jason Matthews

Interview with Former AMA Queensland President Dr Maria Boulton. Boulton warns that frontline health services in Queensland are experiencing critical breakdown, with patients facing emergency department wait times of up to 70 hours. She attributes the severe bottlenecks to systemic bed-blocking, where over 1,400 Queensland hospital beds remain occupied by patients awaiting aged care packages or NDIS support.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 30/09/2026, Sonya Feldhoff and Jules Schiller

Interview with South Australian Health Minister Blair Boyer. Boyer defends emergency department performance following intense pressure at Lyell McEwen Hospital, where walk-in presentations doubled those of other metropolitan hospitals during a three-hour surge. Boyer rejected claims of a staffing crisis, placing responsibility on population growth in northern Adelaide, a seasonal rise in flu cases, and acute bed-blocking, noting nearly 100 beds across Lyell McEwen and Modbury hospitals are occupied by patients awaiting aged care placements. Shadow Health Minister Jack Batty calls in to criticise Labor's healthcare management, pointing to a 740 percent increase in ramping at the hospital and citing doctor distress highlighted by SASMOA.

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POPULATION HEALTH

'Be prepared': Thunderstorm asthma alert

Age, General News, 01/10/2026, Henrietta Cook, Page 2

McElnay said people with asthma and hay fever were particularly vulnerable to thunderstorm asthma and should follow the forecasts, continue taking prescribed medication, and comply with their asthma action plans. They should also close windows and avoid being outside during storms and when it's windy. [...] About 11 per cent of Australians have asthma, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare says.

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

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Illicit tobacco scrambles for workarounds as crackdown bites

Age, General News, 01/10/2026, Chris Vedelago, Page 4

Black-market tobacco shops are scrambling to come to grips with a new crackdown by state licensing authorities, which can now shut down operators for up to 90 days, with the crime syndicates forced in some areas to sell illicit cigarettes only outside business hours when inspectors are rostered off. Victoria's illicit tobacco marketlong regarded as the largest, most lucrative and most violent in the country-is now experiencing its first significant shocks after the state government implemented long-delayed "shut-down" powers that came into effect on September 9.

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Bacteria's gut punch

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 01/10/2026, Page 6

Antibiotic resistance is supercharging dangerous gut bacteria to withstand even hospital-grade disinfectants intended to kill them. Monash University research reveals the *Clostridioides difficile* bacteria has picked up a key gene that gives dormant spores a free pass against antibiotics and cleaning products.

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

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Flu cases spring to worst for year

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 01/10/2026, Matilda McDermott, Page 12

South Australia has seen flu cases surge to the highest recorded numbers this year, with hundreds of cases reported in the latest weekly period.

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Artificial apology is AI BS

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 01/10/2026, Ross Mueller, Page 31

Last week we discovered that Medicare had been hacked. This week OpenAI has manned up to apologise for their agents. [...] But the interventions on Services Australia, the NSW Bureau of Crimes and Statistics, the Victorian Department of Health and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare are real and OpenAI details these incidents in their apology blog.

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Many didn't go through the Grim ad era ... and it shows

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 01/10/2026, Dr Sarah Kleinman, Page 29

I'm definitely dating myself here... but when I was a very little girl, there was an advert on television that absolutely scared the bejaysus out of me.

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

The Victorian government has managed to close just two stores a day on average since new laws came into effect on September 9

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 30/09/2026, Carly Douglas

Victoria is "languishing well behind other states" when it comes to shutting down illegal tobacco shops. See the latest figures.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

This Mental Health Month, check in with yourself

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 30/09/2026

Asking patients and colleagues how they're really doing is part of the job, every single day. This Mental Health Month, it's worth asking yourself the same question. [...] References: Australia's mental health system: An overview, 2024 , Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Mental illness and well-being: The foundations of the dual continua model , by G.J Westerhof, 2009, Journal of Health and Social Behaviour

[Read More](#)

Qld kids flooding hospital EDs with preventable tooth decay after hours

The Courier Mail, General News, 01/10/2026, Jackie Sinnerton

New research has found Queensland children under nine are flooding emergency departments with agonising, preventable dental disease – mostly outside clinic hours. are the go-to for desperate parents with children who can't sleep at night due to agonising tooth abscesses and decay.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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Five suicide warning signs to look for, and what to say when you see one

Canberra Times, General News, 30/09/2026

This is branded content What are five common suicide warning signs? It's tough out there in the best of times, and if you or your friend are struggling, please do reach out to a relevant resource . [...]

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare figures put the suicide rate in inner regional areas at 16.2 deaths per 100,000 people and outer regional areas at 16.0, against 10.5 in major cities and a national rate of 12.3.

[Read More](#)

ACT paramedics called to thousands of substance-related incidents per year: report

Canberra Times, General News, 30/09/2026, Bageshri Savvasachi

Latest ambulance surveillance data has revealed escalating alcohol and drug harm with ACT paramedics responding to nearly 4000 substance-related callouts in a single year. According to , published by the Pennington Institute, the ACT recorded 28 unintentional drug-induced deaths in 2024.

[Read More](#)

Victoria's shadow health minister Georgie Crozier pledges Coalition will have 'tougher stance' on tobacco black market

News24 Australia, General News, 30/09/2026, Laurence Karacsony

The scourge of illicit tobacco has become an election issue in Victoria as the Coalition pledges to take a "tougher stance" on the black market operators causing firebombings and corruption across the state. Laurence Karacsony Digital Reporter 2 min read [...] more less While the proportion of Australians using nicotine products has fallen , the amount of nicotine consumed has increased, according to separate AIHW and ABS measures.

[Read More](#)

3AW, Drive, 30/09/2026, Shane McInness

Interview with Matilda Centre Program Lead of Smoking, Vaping and Mental Health Associate Professor Emily Stockings. Stockings discusses the trend of individuals returning to traditional cigarette smoking to break vaping dependencies. She explains that modern e-cigarettes utilise nicotine salts, which eliminate throat burn and allow continuous, high-dose consumption without natural stopping points.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 30/09/2026, Lucy Breaden/Kylie Baxter

Interview with Royal Australian College of General Practitioners general practitioner representing Sarah Whitburn. Whitburn discusses the risks associated with young adults using social media platforms like TikTok for reproductive health advice. She highlights research showing that only 10 percent of TikTok health content is created by medical professionals, leading to the rapid spread of non-evidence-based claims and misinformation regarding natural contraception methods, fertility fears, and hormonal risks.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Raising voluntary assisted dying with friend is daunting

Age, General News, 01/10/2026, Peter Quarry, Page 18

I have three close friends living with progressive illnesses. Despite my 45-plus-year career as a

psychologist, I'm grappling with how best to navigate the likely conversations about voluntary assisted dying (VAD).

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

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

New research using the human breath could revolutionise lung cancer diagnosis

NEWS.com.au, General News, 30/09/2026

In Australia, lung cancer fourth most commonly diagnosed cancer and the leading cause of cancer mortality. In 2025, an estimated 8,994 Australians lost their lives to lung cancer, while a total of 15,108 Australians were diagnosed, according to data from Cancer Australia.

[Read More](#)

Radiation-related cancer deaths more common in aircrew than other occupations, study

ABC Online, General News, 30/09/2026, Jacinta Bowler

A large US study has found that of 500 occupations, flight attendants and pilots had the highest proportion of radiation-related cancer deaths. The study, published in JAMA Internal Medicine looked at almost 13 million US death records from 2020–2024.

[Read More](#)

NAC issues thunderstorm asthma warning

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 30/09/2026, Chris Brooker

Pharmacists are being urged to proactively counsel patients about the need to maintain good day-to-day control of their asthma ahead of the grass pollen season A decade on from the world's largest thunderstorm asthma event, the National Asthma Council Australia (NAC) is rolling out an updated allergic rhinitis treatment chart to help pharmacists to support

[Read More](#)

Living with chronic pain? Why new goals can make a difference

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 30/09/2026, Anmj Staff

People living with chronic pain can protect their mental wellbeing by focusing on new, meaningful goals, rather than simply trying to let go of old ones, recent research from Edith Cowan University (ECU) found. Chronic pain affects around one in five adults worldwide and can disrupt work, relationships and daily life.

[Read More](#)

Brooke was told her pain was in her head, she spent seven years fighting for answers

Bathurst Western Advocate, General News, 30/09/2026, Orlander Ruming

As a teenager, when Brooke Watts would drag herself to the emergency department because she was in immense pain and didn't know why, time and time again she would be ignored. Login or signup to continue reading "I was just completely dismissed.

[Read More](#)

Dr Philip Nitschke warns assisted dying laws fail Australians after Brisbane mercy killing sentence

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 30/09/2026, Sophie Elsworth

Euthanasia campaigner Dr Philip Nitschke says Australians don't actually have a right to die – just the right to ask a doctor, who can refuse. Right-to-die campaigner Dr Philip Nitschke has warned that medical laws hinder Australians' ability to end their lives when they choose to do so and doctors have "total control".

[Read More](#)

Cancer Council encourages Albany men to know their symptoms as prostate cancer awareness month comes to an end

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 30/09/2026

September was prostate cancer awareness month, and Cancer Council WA is urging Great Southern men to use it as a reminder to know the symptoms and see their doctor early. Prostate cancer occurs when cells in the prostate gland become abnormal and grow in an uncontrolled way.

[Read More](#)

Kylie cared for her husband as MND rapidly took hold. Then she was charged with his murder.

Mamamia, General News, 30/09/2026, Gabrielle Oehlmann

Queensland man David Ronald Mobbs was once a firefighter. He was strong, fit and lived an independent life.

[Read More](#)

Menzies Institute launches hands-on holiday workshops to boost Tasmanian teen heart health

Northern Territory News, General News, 30/09/2026, Duncan Abey

Tasmanian teens as young as 12 can now use real clinical equipment to measure their own cardiovascular health – and researchers say 30 per cent of adult heart risk starts in childhood. Tasmanian teens can get a first-hand look at cutting-edge medical research these school holidays, when the Menzies Institute hosts workshops designed to promote lifelong heart health and spark interest in STEM careers.

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Wife's powerful warning after roofer husband's CTE diagnosis

Northern Territory News, General News, 30/09/2026, Lillian Saleh

Sarah Willey's husband was diagnosed with a brain disease that doctors said only elite footballers get. She's now fighting to change that dangerous myth.

[Read More](#)

Thunderstorm asthma warning

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 30/09/2026

As grass pollen season starts to peak, bringing with it a seasonal increase in asthma and allergic rhinitis, the National Asthma Council Australia (NAC) is encouraging pharmacists to remind their patients with these conditions about the risk of thunderstorm asthma. NAC spokesperson and respiratory physician Professor Peter Wark explained that.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Anorexic asked for tips on dieting

The Australian, General News, 01/10/2026, David Hannant, Page 7

An Adelaide woman who died battling anorexia was asked by nurses for dieting tips, sparking a call for greater understanding of the condition. Jennifer Matters took her life when she was 24, having spent two years living with the illness.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#).

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Mental health build closer

Hobart Mercury, General News, 01/10/2026, Nick Clark, Page 9

The Tasmanian government has awarded a contract for the construction of a purpose-built facility at the North West Regional Hospital that will be part of a new \$40m North West Mental Health Precinct. Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing Minister Bridget Archer said the new facility would replace the existing Spencer Clinic, which was recently affected by fire.

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Disconnection in mental health fight

Hobart Mercury, General News, 01/10/2026, Page 10

Nearly two-thirds of Australians (64 per cent) believe we are becoming more disconnected from each other despite recognising the positive impact connection and belonging have on their mental health. Coinciding with Mental Health Month, the Essential survey for Mental Health Australia found only 21 per cent of people feel very connected to friends, family, neighbours or their community.

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Nurses mocked her as she died from anorexia

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 01/10/2026, Lucy Rutherford, Page 14

The heartbroken father of a young woman who died after battling an eating disorder said he hopes a coroner's recommendations to improve services and spare other families the same grief is "Jenni's legacy". Nursing graduate and advanced biomedical science student Jennifer Michelle Matters, known as Jenni, was a high achieving, "bright, thoughtful" woman.

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Adelaide father calls for change after daughter dies with anorexia

ABC Online, General News, 30/09/2026

The father of a young woman with anorexia nervosa has implored the South Australian government to adopt a coroner's recommendations for improved eating disorder services — to spare other families the same grief of losing a loved one. Jennifer Matters, known as Jenni to her family, took her own life when she was aged 24 in 2021, two years after the "intelligent young woman" was diagnosed with the disorder.

[Read More](#)

Coroner acts on anorexic woman's plea for change

Daily Mail UK, General News, 30/09/2026, By Australian Associated Press

A young woman whose dying wish was to improve eating disorder treatments must have her legacy delivered through a coroner's recommendations, her father says. Jennifer Michelle Matters, known as Jenni, weighed 29.5kg when she died aged 24 in Adelaide in June 2021 after a two-year battle with anorexia nervosa.

[Read More](#)

Pacific Pines man died hours after Robina Hospital mental health unit refused admission

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 30/09/2026, Ann Wason Moore

A 21-year-old Gold Coast man died by suicide hours after Robina Hospital's mental health unit refused him admission, despite him presenting with serious self-harm injuries that same day. A 21-year-old Pacific Pines man died just hours after being refused admission at Robina Hospital's mental health unit, despite having 12 stitches from where he tried to take his own life earlier that same day.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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Coroner acts on anorexic woman's plea for change

Shepparton News Online, General News, 30/09/2026, Abe Maddison

A young woman whose dying wish was to improve eating disorder treatments must have her legacy delivered through a coroner's recommendations, her father says. Jennifer Michelle Matters, known as Jenni, weighed 29.5kg when she died aged 24 in Adelaide in June 2021 after a two-year battle with anorexia nervosa.

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‘Existing in technicolour’: Inside a doctor's journey through psychosis, wreckage and recovery

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 30/09/2026, Melissa Cunningham

Dr Dov Degen thought he was saving the world. Decades later, the OAM recipient opens up about mental illness, stigma and rebuilding his life.

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IMMUNISATION

Can I still get a COVID vaccine? What you need to know about the latest updates

Yahoo! News Australia, General News, 30/09/2026

From October 1, COVID vaccines will only be free and recommended for those most at risk of serious illness. Some people at lower risk – including healthy adults aged 18–64 – are asked to consider the vaccine, but will have to pay for it privately.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Libs flag fight on health rebate

The Australian, General News, 01/10/2026, Anthony Galloway, Page 5

Victorian Opposition Leader Jess Wilson has warned Anthony Albanese she will confront him at national cabinet over his cuts to the private health insurance rebate, accusing the Prime Minister of being "weak" by shifting the cost on to already stretched public hospitals. In a letter sent to Mr Albanese on Wednesday, Ms Wilson said she would put the decision to reduce the rebate for Australians aged 65 and over on the agenda of the first national cabinet meeting she attended if the Coalition won the November 28 state election.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Focus extends beyond papers to practical results

Australian Financial Review, Features, 30/09/2026, Sian Powel, Page 6

The artificial intelligence upheaval and the challenges of climate change loom large in university business school research projects, and Monash University has taken on both.

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

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Research funding is vital for productivity

Australian Financial Review, Features, 30/09/2026, Vicki Thomson, Page 6

Australia has a well documented productivity problem. For more than a decade, productivity growth has

been weak.

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Forrest, Wylie back Melbourne cancer start-up in \$12m seed round

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 01/10/2026, Sam Irvine, Page 17

A Melbourne biotech developing a nuclear-science-backed therapy for a range of hard-to-treat cancers has attracted investment from three venture capital firms led by some of Australia's most prominent business figures and the son of Apple founder Steve Jobs.

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Patients on GLP-1 receptor agonists at significantly higher aspiration risk under anaesthesia, UK study finds

Australian Doctor, General News, 30/09/2026, Louise Goodwin

More than 40% of patients had procured the GLP-1 RAs via a non-GP or specialist prescription source. Patients taking GLP-1 receptor agonists are 11 times more likely to regurgitate or aspirate gastric contents under general anaesthesia than patients not taking these medications, a UK study has found.

[Read More](#)

'Godzilla' of weight-loss drugs could provide other important health benefits

The Guardian, General News, 30/09/2026, Andrew Gregory Health editor

The 'Godzilla' of weight-loss drugs could help improve blood sugar levels, reduce inflammation and cut a person's body weight by a quarter, according to the largest study of its kind. Retatrutide mimics three key gut hormones that help control appetite, blood sugar and metabolism: GLP-1, GIP and glucagon.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

On the inside, looking out, as caseworkers take the kids away

The Australian, General News, 01/10/2026, Ros Thomas, Page 1

At the end of a cul-de-sac overlooking the vast scrubby plains of Port Hedland is a ramshackle corrugated-iron shack squatting on a slab of Pilbara red dirt. The matriarch of this large household is a mother and grandmother called Nola*, a strong, nofrills Indigenous woman who looks life right in its shifty, bloodshot eye.

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Six babies die in Queensland in three years after contracting syphilis in the womb

ABC Online, General News, 30/09/2026, By Janelle Miles and Emma Pollard

Six Queensland babies have died in less than three years after contracting syphilis in the womb. New Queensland Health data shows 55 pregnant women have been diagnosed with the sexually transmitted disease so far this year and six babies have developed congenital syphilis — where the bacterial infection was passed from mother to baby.

[Read More](#)

First Nations students graduate West Moreton Health's Deadly Start program

National Indigenous Times, General News, 30/09/2026

Nineteen First Nations students in Queensland have developed the skills and experience for a career in healthcare after graduating from West Moreton Health's (WMH) Deadly Start program. The graduates were joined by family, friends, Elders, WMH staff and community representatives at the program's 2025-26 graduation ceremony at Ipswich City Council headquarters on Friday night.

Closing the treatment gap for First Nations athletes ahead of Brisbane 2032

SBS, General News, 30/09/2026, Bertrand Tungandame

Injuries can interrupt the sporting and cultural careers of First Nations athletes and dancers, particularly when access to specialist treatment is limited. A Queensland-based initiative is working with health and community organisations to help address some of those barriers.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Lindsay in chair at SA Health

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 01/10/2026, Talara McHugh, Page 11

The woman behind the state's 24/7 pharmacy rollout and ADHD reforms has been appointed as the new head of SA Health, taking over from retiring boss Dr Robyn Lawrence. Robyn Lindsay will step into the role on Saturday, after Dr Lawrence ends her four-year tenure on Thursday.

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Mark Allen in shock over 'third-world' West Melbourne hospital crisis

3AW, General News, 30/09/2026, Mark Allen

Patients at a new \$1.5 billion hospital in Melbourne's west were left waiting days for treatment due to a lack of funding and staffing shortages. 3AW Breakfast host Mark Allen said that he could not believe something like this could happen to a brand-new facility that was so desperately needed to service Melbourne's western suburbs.

[Read More](#)

Lyell McEwin Hospital pressure leading to demand 'flashpoint', union warns

ABC Online, General News, 30/09/2026, Matthew-Ward-Agius

A non-verbal man with pneumonia waited for more than nine hours in an ambulance outside an Adelaide hospital on a day that the doctors' union has described as "flashpoint" demand for the emergency department. Alison Marsh was caring for her brother Michael McLean, who has a traumatic brain injury and is unable to communicate, in Adelaide's northern suburbs when a change in his demeanour prompted her to call an ambulance on Tuesday.

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Robyn Lindsay appointed new SA Health chief executive replacing retiring boss Robyn Lawrence

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 30/09/2026, talkUrl coralComments

The woman who delivered SA's 24/7 pharmacy rollout and ADHD reforms now faces her toughest challenge yet, leading a health department mired in crisis. The woman behind the state's 24/7 pharmacy rollout and ADHD reforms has been appointed as the new head of SA Health, taking over from

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Pervert dentist faces a victim

Daily Telegraph, General News, 01/10/2026, Steve Zemek, Page 11

A dentist who sexually abused three young women, after he touched them under the ruse of a "skin check" or massage, has been bravely confronted by one of his victims inside a Sydney court as she tearfully detailed the fear, anxiety and pain that she carried every day. Maged Fouad Farag, 62, sat in the dock in Sydney's Downing Centre District Court on Tuesday as he prepares to learn his fate, having admitting to molesting three young women.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Workplace violence and aggression: What can we actually change?

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 30/09/2026, Rosemary Bryant Ao

Health and maternity care systems across Australia are facing challenges in ensuring the health, safety, and wellbeing of the nursing and midwifery workforce. Workforce shortages, an ageing workforce, and challenging working conditions are affecting staff health, safety, and retention.

[Read More](#)

ADA NSW announces new leadership team

Bite Magazine, General News, 30/09/2026

The Australian Dental Association NSW (ADA NSW) has announced its new leadership team, with Newcastle dentist Dr Mark Morrin re-elected president and Dubbo dentist Dr Sophie Halpin appointed vice-president. The appointments were confirmed by ADA NSW Council following the organisation's recent 2026 AGM.

[Read More](#)

Hobart hospital clinic nurses to stop work for an hour over claims of critical staffing shortages

Cairns Post, General News, 30/09/2026, Amber Wilson

Nurses at the Wellington Clinics on Argyle Street will stop work for an hour on Tuesday as industrial disputes ramp up amid claims of critical understaffing. Emily Shepherd, the Tasmanian branch secretary of the Australian Nurses and Midwifery Federation (ANMF), said "overburdened" nursing staff had expressed ongoing frustrations around staffing levels, workloads, and the growing amount of administrative work required.

[Read More](#)

Hobart hospital clinic nurses to stop work for an hour over claims of critical staffing shortages

Northern Territory News, General News, 30/09/2026, Amber Wilson

Nurses at Hobart's Wellington Clinics will walk off the job for an hour on Tuesday as the nursing union warns critical understaffing is threatening patient safety. Nurses at the Wellington Clinics on Argyle Street will stop work for an hour on Tuesday as industrial disputes ramp up amid claims of critical understaffing.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

2CC, Canberra Live, 30/09/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with Dr Michael Wright, President, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. Wright details the expanding integration of the ACT's single territory-wide Digital Health Record, noting that over 70 percent of local general practitioners have registered for access with patient consent. He explains that while the ACT system connects public hospital discharge summaries and clinical data directly to GPs, it operates alongside the federal My Health Record, which aggregates national pathology, immunisation, and Medicare data.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 30/09/2026, Ross Solly

Interview with Digital Health Executive Group Manager Holger Kaufmann. Kaufmann discusses the rollout of the ACT's DHR Link program. He clarifies that the territory-wide Digital Health Record operates separately from the federal My Health Record and emphasises that patient data is not uploaded directly to GP IT systems. Instead, GPs gain read-only access to hospital discharge and treatment details solely with explicit, written patient consent.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Bacterial superbug packs a gut punch

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 01/10/2026, Page 14

Antibiotic resistance is supercharging gut bacteria to withstand even hospital-grade disinfectants intended to kill them. Monash University research reveals the bacteria *Clostridioides difficile* has picked up a gene that gives its spores a free pass against antibiotics and cleaning products.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Inside the telehealth weight-loss boom: being bombarded with texts

The Australian, General News, 30/09/2026, Natasha Robinson

A massive industry has sprung up around GLP-1 drugs, but there is much inequity in who actually gets them. Ozempic was never mentioned.

[Read More](#)

The implant that helped Carol go from barely walking to hiking Mount Fuji

7News.com.au, General News, 30/09/2026, Kimberley Pratt

'It's given me my life back.' An Adelaide grandmother who once struggled to walk has now hiked

around Japan's Mount Fuji after a breakthrough Australian-developed implant dramatically improved her chronic back pain. [...] The technology was approved by Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration earlier this year and was developed in Australia.

[Read More](#)

What's changing on 1 October 2026?

Australian Pharmacist, General News, 30/09/2026, Chloe Hava

Ap breaks down what pharmacists need to know. 1. [...] According to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) , 'this is an opportunity to update and improve labelling requirements to support the safe use of medicines'.

[Read More](#)

No advantage in separate MenB vax

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 30/09/2026

New Australian research published in the MJA has found that having more vaccines at one visit does not mean more side effects – and may even have the opposite effect. Using data collected through Australia's active vaccine safety surveillance system, the team compared adverse events in more than 10,000 infants.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 30/09/2026, Saskia Mabin

Interview with Royal Australian College of General Practitioners NSW and ACT Chair Dr Rebekah Hoffman. Hoffman voices caution regarding proposed legislative exemptions for medicinal cannabis users behind the wheel. Aligning with concerns raised by ACT Chief Police Officer Scott Lee, she argued that relaxing driving restrictions for medical cannabis patients is premature because current roadside testing cannot distinguish between mere presence of THC and active cognitive impairment.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

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