



TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 4th September 2026

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Australian** (page 1) reports the number of elderly Australians stuck in public hospitals despite being medically cleared has risen from 2700 to 3900 in just over a year amid aged-care shortages. States and territories are calling for more Support at Home packages, while the aged-care sector has criticised a 2.55 per cent increase in residential care funding as insufficient. *Also reported by:* [Courier Mail](#), [West Australian](#)
- The **Herald Sun** (page 1) reports that Catholic Health Australia has warned the Federal Government's proposed private health insurance rebate cuts for over-65s could force some private hospitals to close and increase pressure on the public health and aged-care systems. Health Minister Mark Butler's office said only 0.4 per cent of people would drop private cover, with \$3 billion redirected to aged care. *Also reported by:* [Adelaide Advertiser](#)
- The **Courier Mail** (page 1) reports that patients were left waiting for ambulances after a Queensland Ambulance Service system upgrade failed, forcing triple-0 calls to be manually dispatched.
- The **Adelaide Advertiser** (page 3) reports that ambulance ramping in South Australia reached a record 5891 hours in August, with the State Government blaming record emergency department demand and a shortage of federally funded aged-care beds. *Also reported by:* [ABC Online](#)

- [The Australian](#) (page 7) reports a three-year-old girl has died from a rare E. coli infection after visiting a Victorian petting zoo, as state authorities investigate her death. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph](#)
- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 9) reports salmonellosis cases are rising across most states, with 1555 infections recorded in Victoria this year and 31 deaths nationally over four years, according to new figures from the Australian Centre for Disease Control.
- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 10) reports a personalised mRNA cancer vaccine has shown promising results in a major phase 3 melanoma trial, with researchers describing it as a potential turning point in cancer treatment.

MINISTER BUTLER

System can't handle this 'fix'

Daily Telegraph, General News, 04/09/2026, Harrison Finlay, Page 10

Proposed changes to private health insurance will further stretch the state's overburdened health system, the Minns government warned. [...] State and territory health officials will plead their case to federal Health Minister Mark Butler at today's national health ministers' meeting, with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park warning this will only make the bed block crisis worse.

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

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Health cut crisis

Herald Sun, General News, 04/09/2026, John Rolfe, Page 1

Anthony Albanese's proposed health insurance rebate cuts for over-65s will likely bankrupt some private hospitals and push up the cost of pregnancy cover. [...] Asked about CHA's analysis, Health Minister Mark Butler's office said only 0.4 per cent of people would quit private cover altogether, while \$3bn would go into aged care.

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

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Pig-headed tobacco tax has failed but Labor can't quit

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/09/2026, Caleb Bond, Page 13

The tobacco excise went up again on Tuesday - not that anyone would have noticed. Health Minister Mark Butler would like us to believe that's because everyone has given up.

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Many stuck in hospital limbo

Goondiwindi Argus, General News, 04/09/2026, Jeremy Cook, Page 3

New Queensland Health data has revealed there are at least 100 patients stuck in public hospitals across the Darling Downs and south west with nowhere else to go despite being clinically fit for discharge. [...] State Health Minister Tim Nicholls mounted further pressure on the Commonwealth ahead of a meeting with federal Health Minister Mark Butler and other state health ministers on Friday, 4 September.

Also reported by: [Maranoa Today \(Maranoa\)](#).

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Nurse funding redirected

Border Watch, General News, 04/09/2026, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 23

The Australian Government has come under fire for redistributing prostate cancer nurse funds the day before Prostate Cancer Awareness month. [...] Federal Minister for Health and Aging Mark Butler said the change had come following the Australian Cancer Plan and was in the works for a number of years.

Also reported by: [Border Watch \(Online\)](#), [Border Watch \(Online\)](#), [South Eastern Times \(Millicent\)](#), [Border Chronicle \(Bordertown\)](#).

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Work on new \$167m Surgicentre under way

Canning Examiner, General News, 03/09/2026, Page 2

Work on a new \$167 million surgical facility at Bentley Health Service is set to move ahead after a contract was awarded for early works at the site. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the investment would expand access to healthcare services at Bentley Health Service.

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Cut-price smokes light up debate

The Nightly, General News, 03/09/2026, Aaron Patrick, Page 12

Many Australians might consider Angus Taylor uninspiring, but it would be unfair to accuse the Liberal leader of lacking courage today over his promise to reduce the cost of legal cigarette packets from around \$50 to \$26. [...] The opposition to the Coalition's plan is being driven by government-funded organisations that appear to be coordinating with Health Minister Mark Butler's office, according to Nick Coatsworth, a doctor who supports the policy and achieved fame during the COVID pandemic as the deputy chief medical officer.

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

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Liberals vow to slash tobacco taxes by 80 per cent if elected

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 03/09/2026, Samantha Maiden

Angus Taylor has unveiled his plan to slash the price of cigarettes to just \$16 a packet if elected Prime Minister, cutting tobacco taxes by up to 80 per cent. [...] Warning that successive tax hikes have opened the door to criminals flogging vapes and illegal cigarettes to school children, she challenged Health Minister Mark Butler to act.

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

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Brain cancer project gets \$18m federal funding to help carry out groundbreaking research

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 03/09/2026, Sarah Booth

A "groundbreaking" national project targeting one of the biggest barriers to brain cancer treatment is set to ramp up its efforts, paving the way for "next generation" drugs. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the project "has the potential to open an entirely new frontier in brain cancer treatment that could change the story for thousands of Australians."

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

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NT Health Minister fights federal plan to slug older Territorians with private health insurance changes

Northern Territory News, Other, 03/09/2026, Gary Shipway

NT Health Minister Steve Edgington has travelled to Sydney to fight federal Labor's private health insurance changes, which threaten to slug 13,800 older Territorians up to \$255 more annually. [...] "I have written to the Federal Minister Mark Butler, informing him of this."

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

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This is an absolute howler from Tanya Plibersek. We shouldn't be surprised: Minister shrieks that plan to cut ciggie tax 'will kill people'.

Has she seen the news?

Daily Mail UK, Other, 03/09/2026, Peter Van Onselen

Pauline Hanson announced last month that One Nation would cut tobacco excise by 75 per cent. Now Angus Taylor's Coalition wants to cut it by 80 per cent. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler argues that even abolishing the excise entirely wouldn't make legal cigarettes cheaper than illegal ones.

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Key talks to free patients stranded in public hospitals

The Queanbeyan Age, Other, 04/09/2026, Catherine Bouris, Callum Godde and Lucinda Garbutt-Young

Plotting a path out of a mounting hospital crisis headlined by aged care bed block will be the focus of the nation's health leaders. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler had tried to work "in good faith" with states and territories to solve the issue, but an agreement was yet to be reached, a federal government spokesperson told AAP.

Also reported by: [Harden Express \(Online\)](#), [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Blue Mountains Gazette \(Online\)](#).

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Pembrolizumab multi-cancer listing gives access to thousands

The Limbic, Other, 03/09/2026, Emma Koehn

Patients with advanced bile duct cancer, ovarian cancer and Merkel cell carcinoma will be among those to benefit from expanded PBS access to pembrolizumab from September. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said in a statement the expansions for ovarian, bile duct and Merkel cell would give 700 additional patients access to subsidised therapy, who would otherwise pay \$14,800 per script.

[Read More](#)

MRAC recommends higher rebates for long consults

The Medical Republic, Other, 03/09/2026, Holly Payne

It appears the RACGP's wish for increased long consult rebates will be granted. A long-awaited MBS Review Advisory Committee draft report has validated GP concerns about the inherent unfairness of the time-tiered MBS rebate structure for general practice. The draft report, which health minister Mark Butler foreshadowed last week, concluded that "the current per-minute differences between short and longer consultations is too great".

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When a \$7.55 increase is really a cut

The Weekly Source, Other, 03/09/2026, Lauren Broomham

Australia needs another 10,000 aged care beds a year. But the Government's latest AN-ACC increase leaves providers trying to absorb rising wages, inflation and mandatory care minutes with another \$7.55 per resident per day. [...] The Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA) and Federal Health, Disability and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler have both confirmed that the cost of care used to determine AN-ACC funding does not include a margin.

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FIVEAA, Afternoons, 03/09/2026, Leith Forrest

Interview with Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia CEO Anne Savage on the Federal Government's announcement regarding prostate cancer nurses. Savage says they were notified on Monday, without any prior warning, that the funding that's currently coming to PCFA for a national network of prostate cancer specialist nurses will be discontinued from 1 July 2027. She notes that the funding will now go to cancer nurses under a different organisation. She believes that PCFA is the only organisation in Australia that can manage and deliver this program. She says they're calling on Health Minister Mark Butler to reverse the government's decision.

Continues on: [FIVEAA \(Adelaide\)](#).

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

'Next Robodebt': MND patient slams NDIS delays as laws pass

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 04/09/2026, William Stanley, Page 2

Every morning, two carers position pillows behind her head so she can sit up in bed. If she wants to roll to the side, those carers help. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said there were limited areas within the scheme that use automated systems.

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MINISTER RAE

Cairns hospital pleads for action as aged care patients fill up to 160 beds daily

Cairns Post, Other, 03/09/2026, Greg McLean

Up to 160 beds in Far North Queensland hospitals are taken up every day by aged care and NDIS patients who do not require hospital care. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Sam Rae said the government was focused on providing safe aged care.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Aged care providers cry foul over 'unacceptable' 2.55% funding rise

Health Services Daily, Other, 03/09/2026, Cate Swannell

Aged care providers have accused the federal government of delivering a real-terms funding cut after increasing the main residential aged care price by just 2. [...] Federal aged care minister Sam Rae said average per resident, per day care funding was now about 65% higher than in September 2022 and pointed to the government's \$1.7 billion budget investment aimed at supporting construction of 5000 additional aged care beds a year.

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New AN-ACC price 'a cut in everything but name'

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 03/09/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The government has increased the Australian National Aged Care Classification price to \$303.19 per resident per day from 1 October – around 65 per cent higher than it was in September 2022 but only 2.55 per cent higher than the current rate of \$295.64. [...] However, the announcement from Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae about the new AN-ACC price said making sure the aged care system was properly funded was a priority of the Albanese Government.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Limitless possibilities at MM2026

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/09/2026, Page 12

With Medicines Management 2026 just around the corner, Advanced Pharmacy Australia has unveiled the full program for its 50th annual flagship conference with plenty on the agenda for pharmacists across all areas of practice. [...] The conference will open on Friday 23 October with a day one plenary featuring federal Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride FANZCAP, while the keynote speakers performance psychologist Dr Gemma Munro.

PSA2026: how pharmacists flourish

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/09/2026, Hailey Settineri, Page 16

The power of advocacy and collaboration were key themes at PSA26, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's annual national conference held recently at Sydney's International Convention & Exhibition Centre. [...] The "enormous potential" of the National Medicines Record (NMR) was highlighted in the address of Emma McBride, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health, who discussed the importance of ensuring healthcare professionals have access to the information they need, when they need it.

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New mental health care doors open in the north

The Bunyip, Other, 03/09/2026, Mahala Gainer

Two new mental health centres in Adelaide's north are officially up and running amidst a 12 per cent spike in patients presenting to local emergency rooms with mental health concerns. [...] Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride said the new age facilities were opening "new doors to mental health support" and reducing "traditional" barriers.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

First national living menopause guideline to be developed

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 03/09/2026, Jolyon Attwooll

Plans are underway for Australia's first national living clinical guideline aimed at caring for women experiencing perimenopause and menopause, the Federal Government has announced. Development of the guideline will be led by the Australian Living Evidence Collaboration (ALEC) at Monash University, Assistant Health and Ageing Minister Rebecca White announced on Thursday.

[Read More](#)

Canberra Conference Unit, Press Conference, 03/09/2026

Press Conference with Assistant Minister for Women Rebecca White on women's health.

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SEA FM , Breakfast, 03/09/2026, Ben Lawrence

The Federal Government will be investing \$15.7 million for women and children who are fleeing domestic and family violence. Assistant Minister for Women, Rebecca White, says women and children have nowhere else to go and these facilities can serve as a barrier for them.

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

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

Repacholi hits back at Canavan male teacher remark

2HD, Other, 03/09/2026

Federal Hunter MP Dan Repacholi has hit back at recent comments from Nationals Leader Matt Canavan about a lack of male teachers leading boys to misogynistic online content. The senator recently blamed the "feminisation" of the Australian school curriculum for students being drawn to

hateful content on social media, while also calling on more male teachers to be hired to give boys more positive role models in the classroom.

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NEW FM, 08:30 News, 03/09/2026

Federal Hunter MP and Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi has ridiculed comments made by Nationals leader Matt Canavan on young boys having no suitable role models. It follows that Canavan mentioned that schools are turning boys to misogyny because they're being lectured about how bad men are.

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ABC Newcastle, Drive, 03/09/2026, Jenny Marchant

Interview with Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi on the Federal Government's \$3m commitment to establish WellMen, a new centre designed to tackle mental health among men and boys. Repacholi says WellMen will examine the latest issues, including problems with the menosphere, and develop new mental health strategies in schools, sports clubs, online and in the workplace. He notes that the new research program is led by Professor James Smith of Flinders University.

Continues on: [ABC Newcastle \(Newcastle\)](#), [ABC Newcastle \(Newcastle\)](#), [ABC Newcastle \(Newcastle\)](#), [ABC Newcastle \(Newcastle\)](#).

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DEPARTMENT

Push for path to key jobs

Canberra Times, General News, 04/09/2026, Peter Jean, Page 1

After more than a decade in the fitness industry, Becky Pillidge is studying at the University of Canberra to become a nurse. [...] Former federal health department secretary, Adjunct Professor Stephen Duckett, said Australia's health and social care sectors are facing a workforce gap of more than 200,000 full-time equivalent staff by 2049-50.

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'Diminishing integrity at the top of the public service'

Canberra Times, General News, 04/09/2026, Dana Daniel, Page 13

Departmental secretaries should get a pay cut in exchange for job security to safeguard the provision of frank and fearless advice, according to former top bureaucrat Andrew Podger. [...] "I moved from the small Housing and Regional Development Department to the huge Health and Family Services Department in 1996, continuing in the slightly smaller Department of Health and Aged Care in 1998," he said.

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

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Australians will lose free access to this vaccine. Here's what it could cost

SBS, Other, 03/09/2026, Mikele Syron

Australians who have previously received COVID-19 vaccines for free could soon face an out-of-pocket cost, with experts warning price could become a barrier for some people who still stand to benefit from vaccination. [...] The Department of Health told SBS News in a statement that private vaccine supply and pricing were commercial matters for manufacturers and providers, and that the government did not control private-market prices.

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The Snoop: Ex-Woolworths CEO wanted everyone to know he's a

feminist, Turnbull takes to The Atlantic, and more

Crikey, Other, 03/09/2026, Crystal Andrews and Daanyal Saeed

This week, The Snoop attended Mumbrella's Publish conference. [...] Asked for "details on all conflicts of interests declared in the NSAP meetings from 1 July, 2023 until current that relate to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, the Department of Health and Ageing and the Department of Social Services", the NACC has redacted just about everything under "conflicts of interest", citing it as "irrelevant material".

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Union calls for immediate pause on complex automated decision-making in public service agencies

WEB Region Canberra, Other, 03/09/2026, Chris Johnson

Commonwealth-employed public servants want their agencies to stop making automated decisions until the Federal Government sorts out clear regulations and safeguards. [...] Members attending the meeting and voting on the motion were from agencies across the APS, including Services Australia; the National Disability Insurance Agency; Department of Health, Disability and Ageing; Department of Veterans' Affairs; and the Australian Taxation Office.

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

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Advocates call for 'urgent' review of respite services

Community Care Review, Other, 03/09/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Dementia Australia and Carers Australia are calling for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to commission an independent national review of respite care services. In a joint position statement, the two organisations flagged several challenges with availability, quality, appropriateness and affordability of Commonwealth-funded respite services, particularly for people living with dementia and their carers.

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Ministers to discuss mental health deal despite claims of December delay

Health Services Daily, Other, 03/09/2026, Cate Swannell

The DoHDA says ministers will discuss progress on the next mental health agreement at tomorrow's National Health Ministers Meeting, after NSW peaks claimed negotiations had been pushed to December amid a stand-off over psychosocial support funding.

[Read More](#)

Breaking news: RN prescribing expected to be put on hold amid IT issues

Australian Doctor, Other, 03/09/2026, Ciara Seccombe

The planned 1 October rollout of PBS prescribing by endorsed RNs is expected to be temporarily shelved amid concerns that clinical software and health services could not be ready in time given the Federal Government's deadline. It follows warnings from software vendors that they have not been given sufficient information by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to safely update and test prescribing, dispensing and PBS-claiming systems.

[Read More](#)

Are UCCs worth it? The audit office is on the case

The Medical Republic, Other, 03/09/2026, Holly Payne

Are UCCs cheaper to run than emergency departments? What about general practices? [...] The audit, which is not due to table until March next year, will only be examining three specific facets of the UCC program: whether the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing appropriately established it, whether DoHDA effectively developed and managed grant funding and whether DoHDA effectively developed and managed federation funding agreements with states and territories.

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Women bear the brunt of alcohol-related fear

University of Queensland, Other, 03/09/2026

Women are nearly three quarters more likely than men to experience fear because of other people's alcohol consumption, University of Queensland research has found. [...] The study was funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care's Drug and Alcohol Program.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

States sound alarm over hospital bed-block crisis

The Australian, General News, 04/09/2026, Sarah Ison and Mackenzie Scott, Page 1

The number of elderly people languishing in public hospitals despite being medically cleared has soared from 2700 to 3900 in just over 12 months, as the aged care industry warns Labor's latest pricing decision has delivered a devastating blow to a sector already unable to meet demand. Ahead of a meeting of federal and state health ministers on Friday, fresh data revealed massive increases across the country in elderly Australians unable to leave hospital due to shortages in aged care services, with NSW confirming it now had more than 1000 people stuck in hospital.

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

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Economy needs to cut migrants

Australian Financial Review, General News, 04/09/2026, Cathal Leslie, Page 32

Elected members imagine themselves trapped between an economy needing immigrants and a public wanting fewer. It's time they questioned their assumptions.

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States press for aged-care fix

Courier Mail, General News, 04/09/2026, Taylah Fellows, Page 7

Health ministers will today press the Albanese government for funding in Sydney as thousands of patients remain stuck in public hospitals waiting for aged-care placements. Across Australia, more than 3600 patients are now stranded in state-run hospitals because Commonwealth-funded aged-care beds are not available up from 2700 in mid-2025.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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Care nurse faked records, stole vital drugs

Courier Mail, General News, 04/09/2026, Vanda Carson, Page 9

A Queensland aged care nurse put residents "at risk of pain and suffering" when she pocketed 243 vital medications prescribed to vulnerable dementia patients, a tribunal has declared. In a decision handed down by Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal deputy president Dearne Firth on August 25, nurse Heidi Anne Bettson was reprimanded for professional misconduct and disqualified from applying for registration for a year.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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MPs unite to free up bed block

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04/09/2026, David Killick, Page 1

Fed-up health ministers from around the nation will on Friday condemn the Commonwealth's role in ongoing bed block. A Health Ministers Meeting in Sydney heard there are now more than 3600 patients

stranded in state hospitals across Australia waiting for Commonwealth government aged care placements.

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An aged-care ultimatum

West Australian, General News, 04/09/2026, Oliver Lane, Page 46

State health ministers will today ramp up the push for more Federal dollars to help unlock a backlog of patients stuck in hospitals waiting for aged-care beds. The eight ministers, including WA's Meredith Hammat, will use a meeting with their Federal counterpart Mark Butler to push for more Support at Home packages.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Broome Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Geraldton Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Manjimup-Bridgetown Times \(Online\)](#).

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Nasty nurse pleads guilty

Newcastle Herald, General News, 04/09/2026, Anna Falkenmire and Sam Rigney, Page 1

An aged care nurse working in a dementia wing at a Hunter facility subjected six elderly residents to a series of disgusting and brutal assaults, punching them in the stomach, twisting their genitals and nipples and farting in their faces. Phoebe Schwager was working as an assistant in nursing at Uniting Garden Suburb when she repeatedly assaulted and abused a number of elderly patients and two staff members between October 2024 and February 2025.

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Slash your dementia risk

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/09/2026, Carla Mascarenhas, Page 18

Nearly half of all dementia cases are preventable, says the World Health Organisation (WHO), while wearing hearing aids and reducing exposure to pollution can help lower your risk. [...] Sophie Hennessy, Dementia Australia spokeswoman, told The Senior air pollution was one of the most significant additions because it is the first time environmental risk factors have been included in the guidelines.

Also reported by: [The Senior - VIC \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Senior - QLD \(Brisbane\)](#), [The Senior - WA \(Perth\)](#), [The Senior - SA \(Adelaide\)](#).

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SA Health Minister demands action as hundreds of elderly patients remain stranded in hospital amid aged care crisis

Adelaide Now, Other, 04/09/2026, Talara McHugh

A growing bed block crisis has left almost 4,000 elderly patients stranded in hospitals nationwide awaiting aged care placements, including more than 470 South Australians with states and territories calling on the Federal Government to act. There are currently over 3,600 patients waiting for Commonwealth Government aged care placements across Australia, up from more than 2,700 in mid 2025.

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

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Stay On Your Feet calls on seniors to ID fall risks

Community Care Review, Other, 03/09/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Western Australian falls prevention program Stay On Your Feet – delivered by not-for-profit falls prevention organisation Injury Matters – has launched the Remove Hazards campaign. The healthy-ageing campaign provides information and practical strategies to help older people prevent falls.

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"Beds will not get built": aged care sector responds to Govt's AN-ACC funding decision

“Disappointing”, “concerning”, “inadequate” and “underwhelming” are some of the words sector leaders are using. The sector has responded strongly to yesterday’s shock announcement the AN-ACC price will increase only 2.6% to \$303.19 on 1 October 2026.

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State Health Ministers set to challenge Fed Govt on aged care

The Weekly Source, Other, 03/09/2026, Caroline Egan

At a meeting in Canberra on Friday (4 September), State Health Ministers are expected to raise the number of stranded patients in hospital waiting for aged care. Patients waiting for aged care services in State-funded hospitals have risen more than 20% in the 10 months since the Federal Government’s new Aged Care Act took effect.

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Govt’s \$40M, 20-bed aged care home gets green light

The Weekly Source, Other, 03/09/2026, Caroline Egan

The site has been approved as a NSW Government State Significant Development despite the \$2 million per bed cost to taxpayers. The expansion of the Bombala Multipurpose Service (MPS), located 500km southwest of Sydney, was approved on 6 August 2026.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 03/09/2026, Peter Mitchell

Seniors have criticised the Federal Government’s plan to scrap private health insurance rebates. They’ve told a Senate inquiry they’ll give up fresh food and daily medicines just to afford access to private hospitals. Medibank’s modelling shows premium increases of up to 6% for those over 65 and potentially double that for those over 70. The largest private health insurer in Australia estimates up to 90,000 members may drop cover.

[Play Now](#)

2GB, Drive, 03/09/2026, Clinton Maynard

Interview with Shadow Health Minister Anne Ruston on the Federal Government’s changes to the private health insurance of Australians over 65. Ruston says the bill has passed the Lower House and is currently in the Senate committee stage. She recalls the testimonies of several older Australians who fronted the committee hearing, noting that they feel betrayed and disregarded by the government. She notes that the government’s new policy is fundamentally flawed, discriminatory and cruel to older Australians.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 03/09/2026, Rory McClaren

Interview with Tom Symondson, CEO, Ageing Australia, about a funding increase provided by the Federal Government’s decision to raise the price of residential aged care by 2.55%. Symondson admits that the funding does not go far enough, as it’s an overall deterrent to them instead of a gain. He admits that providers have been appalled by this move by the government.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 03/09/2026, Rory McClaren

Interview with Alex Lynch, Director of Aged and Community Care, Catholic Health Australia. Compere says the Federal Government’s decision to lift the base price for residential aged care by 2.55% has not been well-received by many of the country’s aged care providers, who are arguing that the increase falls short of the rise in wages and inflation. Lynch points out that Fair Work has decided that aged care staff deserve a 4.75% wage increase, but against the 2.55% increase in prices, it eventually results in the increase as a cut instead of a gain for the staff.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Banned NDIS fraudster used fake name

Newcastle Herald, General News, 04/09/2026, Dylan Nicholson, Page 9

A Lake Macquarie woman convicted of defrauding the NDIS has found herself before the Federal Court for defying an order banning her from the disability sector. Swansea woman Lynette Peters, also known as Lynette Morgan, was ordered to pay \$180,000 after the Federal Court found she kept providing services to participants under a fake name in defiance of the ban.

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

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

Family remembers 'bright star' as inquest hears of child's final hours

The Courier Mail, Other, 03/09/2026, Brendan O'Malley

The family of an 11-year-old girl who died at a Brisbane respite service five years ago have paid tribute to their bright star, who had the power to light up an entire room with her personality. [...] Under NDIS rules at the time respite services for children with complex needs did not need to have a registered nurse or doctor present at all times.

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

[Read More](#)

Man facing four attempted murder charges over house fire waves, gives thumbs up

The Border Mail, Other, 03/09/2026

A man facing four counts of attempted murder after allegedly setting fire to a disability support home in Wangaratta remains in custody. Geoffrey Gregory, 68, is accused of making threats towards his former partner before attending the supported accommodation on Dixon Street on Tuesday night.

[Read More](#)

Disability support worker accused of sexually assaulting women in his care

ABC Online, Other, 03/09/2026, Marina Trajkovich

A disability support worker has appeared before court accused of sexually touching two women in his care in northern New South Wales. Scott Bone was charged with three counts of aggravated sexual touching over the alleged incidents at a supported independent living home in the Macleay Valley, where he was employed as a support worker.

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PRIMARY CARE

Doctors raise alarm after Kyle Sandilands promotes weight loss drug telehealth service

The Courier Mail, Other, 03/09/2026, Taylor Penny

Top obesity doctors have raised concerns about shock jock Kyle Sandilands fronting a campaign for a national telehealth service that prescribes weight loss drugs, saying celebrities being paid to endorse online clinics offering GLP-1 medications is "crossing a line". [...] Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Obesity WA lead, Mark Mellor, said telehealth posed problems for weight-loss drugs.

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

[Read More](#)

Hundreds of regional doctors stop work amid burnout, poor conditions and low morale

ABC Online, Other, 03/09/2026, Eden Hynninen, Charlotte Wilkes, Tyrone Dalton and Mackenzie Mitchell

For the first time in 20 years, hundreds of Victorian doctors have walked off the job. [...] The Australian Medical Association Victoria (AMAV) said that after a year of negotiations, public hospital doctors still did not have an offer over industrial relations or an enterprise bargaining agreement from the Victorian government.

[Read More](#)

Coalition plan to cut tobacco excise by 80% 'will kill people' Labor says amid public health alarm

The Guardian, Other, 03/09/2026, Tom McIlroy and Henry Belot

Leading public health experts, the Australian Medical Association and Labor have rejected Angus Taylor's plan to cut tobacco excise by 80%, labelling the move to curb soaring illegal cigarette sales as a backward step on tobacco control. [...] The Australian Medical Association president, Danielle McMullen, said the Coalition's plan would undermine decades of public health efforts and even drive more Australians back to smoking.

[Read More](#)

Veterans feel 'insulted' and 'betrayed' by new healthcare proposal

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 03/09/2026, Kabel Dawes

Riverina MP Michael McCormack has lashed a proposed \$5000 cap on veteran allied healthcare, accusing the federal Labor government of betraying former service men and women who sent a clear warning that the measure could cost lives. Speaking at a news conference at Pro Patria on Thursday, September 3, the Riverina MP voiced his disgust over the threshold, saying there is a growing wall of opposition across the veteran community.

[Read More](#)

Half of overseas-trained GPs using expedited pathway

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 03/09/2026, Michelle Wisbey

Almost half of all overseas-trained GPs applying for specialist registration in Australia used the new expedited pathway program in 2025, a new evaluation reveals. [...] But RACGP Rural Chair Associate Professor Michael Clements said this points to broader issues with the DPA system, saying it has 'failed rural and remote Australians'.

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POPULATION HEALTH

CBD no place for drug hub

Herald Sun, Editorials, 04/09/2026, Page 58

The Carroll government's move to reboot the controversial heroin injecting centre in the city as a different form of "harm minimisation" will still inflict serious harm on civic safety and amenity. A bad idea is a bad idea, and as Melbourne continues to struggle with crime levels that business groups and retailers say is the worst in the nation, the last thing it needs is a magnet for more addiction, abuse and mayhem.

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Advances in diabetes management

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/09/2026, Tracey Cheung, Page 50

Australia's rate of type 1 diabetes (T1D) is among the world's highest,¹ while type 2 diabetes (T2D) diagnoses have almost tripled over the past two decades. "In recent years, there's been a giant leap forward in scientific understanding of type 1 diabetes, enabling meaningful progress for both its

diagnosis and treatment," said Professor John Wentworth, Endocrinologist and Senior Clinical Research Fellow at St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne.

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The pharmacist role amid slow progress

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/09/2026, Cat Woods, Page 60

Endometriosis is a chronic disease that affects one in seven girls and women in Australia, although the length of time between onset of symptoms and a diagnosis can be many years. In August 2025, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners reported that sufferers take an average of six to eight years to receive a diagnosis. This is despite the introduction of the Australian government's National Action Plan for Endometriosis (NAPE) in 2018, which focused on awareness raising along with improving treatment options, funding research, and funding specialist clinics.

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Beyond the hot flush: key insights on perimenopause and menopause

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/09/2026, Margaret Mielczarek, Page 64

For many women, the first sign that something is starting to shift isn't necessarily a missed period. It's a sleepless night, an unfamiliar wave of anxiety, dry and itchy skin, or a sudden inability to find the right word mid-sentence.

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The journey to quit

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/09/2026, Samantha Crawford, Page 71

Tobacco damages almost every organ in the body and causes cancer, heart disease, stroke, reduced fertility, weakened immunity, and premature death. [...] While overall nicotine use is declining, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) data shows that multiple-product use is increasing.

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Coalition unveils plan to slash tobacco tax, legalise and regulate vapes

ABC Online, Other, 03/09/2026, Clare Armstrong

A future Coalition government would slash the tobacco excise by 80 per cent, legalise and tax vapes and nicotine pouches, and bolster law enforcement to shut down the illicit trade. [...] The survey, conducted by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) found daily vaping was broadly unchanged at 3.6 per cent.

[Read More](#)

Police investigate alleged rape of patient at Hader Clinic Queensland rehab facility

ABC Online, Other, 03/09/2026, Eden Gillespie

Patients at Hader Clinic Queensland are given a list of the facility's "cardinal rules". [...] A Hader Clinic Queensland spokesperson told the ABC the service "does not tolerate sexual misconduct, harassment, violence, intimidation, threatening behaviour or other conduct that may compromise the safety or wellbeing of people within our services".

[Read More](#)

'Silenced' chronicles the legal threats faced by women who speak up. It faced several of its own

Crikey, Other, 03/09/2026, Charlie Lewis

Even in a country as fundamentally prone to censorship as Australia, the documentary *Silenced* has received notable legal and political attention ahead of its release [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, of women who experienced sexual assault by a male in the 10 years before 2021–22, police were contacted in 8.3% of cases and in by the victim-survivor themselves.

[Read More](#)

Everything you need to know about egg freezing as average age of

motherhood reaches record high

7News.com.au, Other, 03/09/2026, Aimee Edwards

Australian women are becoming mothers later than ever, prompting more to freeze their eggs — but a leading specialist has warned timing remains critical to future success. The median age of mothers has reached a record 32 years, while the number of women having babies in their early 40s has more than doubled over the past three decades.

[Read More](#)

Tanya Plibersek claims Coalition tobacco tax cut will 'kill people' as political battle over black market intensifies

News24 Australia, Other, 03/09/2026, Oscar Godsell

Labor Social Services Minister Tanya Plibersek has claimed the Coalition's plan to slash tobacco excise by 80 per cent will "kill people" by encouraging Australians to smoke. [...] Nicotine consumption While the proportion of Australians using nicotine products has fallen , the amount of nicotine consumed has increased, according to separate AIHW and ABS measures.

Also reported by: [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Survey highlights perilous workplace conditions in Victorian prisons

The Mandarin, Other, 03/09/2026, Peter Gearin

One-third of Victoria's prison staff have reported being assaulted over the past year, while nine in 10 experienced verbal abuse or intimidation, according to a Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU) survey. [...] Mental health trainer Rodney Owen said the CPSU findings raise a broader question for organisations that operate in sectors where employees face aggression, trauma and high emotional demands as part of their work.

[Read More](#)

Thousands of Australians who received infected blood over decades will finally have their say

The New Daily, Other, 03/09/2026, Bridget Haire and John Kaldor

From the 1970s to the 1990s, an estimated 3500-8500 Australians acquired HIV or hepatitis C through infected blood or blood products. The exact number isn't known and it may be substantially higher. Many people likely died without knowing they had been infected.

[Read More](#)

A nurse's role in endometriosis and pelvic pain care

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 03/09/2026, Robert Fedele

At Bendigo Community Health Services' (BCHS) Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain Clinic, Sexual Health Nurse Mary-Anne McCluskey says women frequently arrive after years of pain, delayed diagnosis and feeling that their symptoms have been dismissed or minimised. Since opening in 2024, the federally funded clinic has provided multidisciplinary care for people experiencing endometriosis and pelvic pain, bringing together GPs, nurses, physiotherapists and psychology support.

[Read More](#)

ABC, 7:30, 03/09/2026, Sarah Ferguson

The Federal Opposition has announced a plan to lower the price of cigarettes by slashing the tobacco excise by 80% in a bid to end the booming illicit tobacco trade. Opposition Leader Angus Taylor says the current policy is protecting the business model of organised crime. At the moment, Australia has the most expensive legal cigarettes in the world. The Albanese government argues an excise cut is not the answer, and that it will just lead to higher smoking and vaping rates. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has recorded a 5.6% daily smoking rate in 2025, the lowest on record but still the leading cause of preventable death in the country.

Continues on: [ABC \(Melbourne\)](#).

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ABC, ABC News, 03/09/2026, Jeremy Fernandez

The Federal Opposition is promising to shut down the tobacco black market by slashing the tax on cigarettes by 80% and legalising vapes. It comes after ABS data suggested that 80% of the nicotine products consumed last year were illegal.

[Play Now](#)

ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 03/09/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Shadow Home Affairs Minister Jonathon Duniam on the Federal Coalition's plan to slash the tobacco excise. Duniam disagrees that they're copying One Nation's policy, noting that the Coalition will invest in a surge in law enforcement to shut down illicit trade. He notes that smoking rates in the country have still gone up under the current high tobacco excise, so lowering it won't guarantee higher smoking rates. He adds that their policy includes a plan to educate people about the ills of smoking altogether.

Continues on: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

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ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 03/09/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with One Nation MP Barnaby Joyce on the Federal Coalition's plan to slash the tobacco excise. Joyce says the Coalition is copying One Nation's policy. He criticises Labor's tobacco policy, saying that it's driving people to patronise illegal products.

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ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 03/09/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Australian Council on Smoking and Health CEO Laura Hunter on the Federal Coalition's plan to slash the tobacco excise. Hunter says the policy is dangerous and will only benefit the tobacco industry. She notes that it's disappointing to see the Coalition walking away from a bipartisan approach to tobacco control.

[Play Now](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 03/09/2026, James Glenday and Catherine Murphy

The Federal Coalition is today announcing its tobacco policy in an attempt to crush tobacco gang wars in Australia. The plan aims to slash tax on cigarettes by 80%, legalise and regulate vapes and see the Federal Opposition, if it wins the government, spend about \$200 million on law enforcement in a bid to stop curb illegal sales.

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

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Channel 10, 10 News, 03/09/2026, Sharyn Ghidella

The Federal Coalition has promised to cut the tobacco excise by 80% if it wins government in a bid to stamp out the illegal tobacco trade. However, there are concerns that it will lead to a spike in smoking rates. The Coalition also wants to make vapes legal, regulate them and tax them at a low rate.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 03/09/2026, Peter Mitchell

The Federal Coalition has a new plan to make cigarettes cheaper and legalise vapes to end illegal tobacco. Opposition Leader Angus Taylor claims their policy will cut organised crime profits, but the Australian Medical Association is worried it will lead to higher smoking rates.

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News24, AM Agenda, 03/09/2026, Laura Jayes

Interview with Shadow Health Minister Anne Ruston on the Federal Coalition's plan to slash the tobacco excise. Ruston refutes Social Services Minister Tanya Plibersek's claim that the policy will kill

people, noting that the firebombings of organised crime gangs have also killed people. She says it's concerning that 80% of nicotine products consumed in Australia are bought on the black market because it shows that the current system isn't working.

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SBS, World News Australia, 03/09/2026, Janice Petersen

The Liberals and Nationals are calling for a major policy rethink on tackling illicit tobacco markets as organised crime groups continue to profit. A coalition government would slash tobacco excise by 80% and move to make vapes more readily available. However, public health groups warn it could give rise to a new generation of nicotine addiction.

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2GB, Afternoons, 03/09/2026, Michael McLaren

Interview with Shadow Home Affairs Minister Jonathon Duniam on the Federal Coalition's plan to slash the tobacco excise. Duniam refutes Social Services Minister Tanya Plibersek's claim that the policy will kill people, noting that many innocent people were killed, caught up in gangland warfare driven by illegal tobacco. He adds that smoking rates are still going up under the current system, and 80% of nicotine products consumed in Australia are from illegal cartel operations. He admits that smoking is bad for health, but doing nothing will kill more people caught up in the illicit tobacco trade.

Continues on: [2GB \(Sydney\)](#).

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3AW, Drive, 03/09/2026, Jacqui Felgate

Interview with incoming Australian Medical Association national president Dr Michael Bonning, refuting claims by the Coalition that lowering tobacco excise duties would curb illicit sales. Citing similar policy backflips in Canada, Dr Bonning warns it would only drive up smoking rates.

Continues on: [3AW \(Melbourne\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 03/09/2026, Hamish Macdonald

Interview with Shadow Health Minister Anne Ruston, about the Federal Coalition pledging to cut the excise on tobacco by 80%, as well as legalise vapes and nicotine pouches to help crush organised crime groups. Ruston points out that the current policies for both cigarettes and vaping are failing Australians. She states that they need to stamp out this black market and stop Australians getting access to these products.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Just take panadol

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/09/2026, Evangeline Polymeneas, Page 19

Robert Gregor was told to "take Panadol" when he presented with a persistent cough and severe fatigue. After more than a year with agonising symptoms, including extreme weight loss, doctors eventually realised the 28year-old had terminal lung cancer.

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

Prostate test fear gone

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 04/09/2026, Page 10

GPs are being urged to step up prostate cancer conversations as new testing guidelines roll out across Australia removing a common fear that prevented some men from getting checked. Experts from the Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand (USANZ) say men may have previously put off being

checked for prostate cancer because they were worried about getting a digital rectal exam a practice that has been deliberately left out of new testing guidelines.

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

Warning over asthma

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 04/09/2026, Page 17

Doctors are urging Australian asthmatics to ensure their medication is up to date for the spring asthma season. McKell Institute research suggests more than 50 per cent of Aussies have taken old medication, delayed or simply not filled a prescription due to cost-of-living pressures.

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Australian scientists develop breakthrough treatment for deadly brain cancers

7News.com.au, Other, 03/09/2026, Jennifer Bechwati

Australian scientists have made a major breakthrough that could transform the treatment of deadly brain cancers, developing a revolutionary new way to deliver cancer-killing drugs directly into the brain. The world-first project aims to reach tumours that are notoriously difficult to treat, offering new hope for patients like 54-year-old Gian Sberna, who is defying the odds after being diagnosed with a brain tumour the size of an avocado five years ago.

[Read More](#)

Asthma patients urged to check meds

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 03/09/2026

Australian asthmatics are being urged to ensure their medication is up to date, and to visit their doctor to ensure they are on the right management regimen as we enter the spring asthma season. While management advice now recommends a move away from the traditional 'blue puffers' to inhaled steroids.

[Read More](#)

2GB, Drive, 03/09/2026, Clinton Maynard

Interview with Shadow Health Minister Anne Ruston on the Federal Government's decision to defund a Prostate Cancer Foundation Australia program that provides prostate cancer specialist nurses. Maynard says the \$9m funding that's been taken away will be transferred to McGrath Foundation cancer care nurses. Ruston wants the government to explain the rationale behind its decision. She says she's worried for the Prostate Cancer Foundation Australia, which is now facing uncertainty regarding its funding.

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FIVEAA, Breakfast, 03/09/2026, Will Goodings and Stacey Lee

Interview with Kate Miranda, CEO, Asthma Australia. Miranda points out that people with hay fever are often used to dealing with them through medication. She states that people with asthma should always have medication to keep themselves safe from worsening asthma or hay fever.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Mental health unit under fire

Courier Mail, General News, 04/09/2026, Brendan O'Malley, Page 29

Practices at a second South East Queensland hospital's mental health unit will be probed by a coroner after the suicide of a teenage boy just two weeks after his release. The boy, who cannot be identified, repeatedly warned that he wanted to take his life.

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

'I was very close to going down the suicide track': farmer's fight laid bare

Daily Advertiser, General News, 04/09/2026, Taylor Dodge, Page 2

Warning: This story contains descriptions of suicide that may be distressing for some readers. If Lockhart farmer Steve Matthews had taken his own life during a split-second decision to end years of mental torture, he would never have been able to meet his great-grand daughters.

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

Life-saving message spreads awareness

Shepparton News, General News, 04/09/2026, Hailey Wight, Page 8

For Shepparton's Josh Maude, asking for help was the turning point after substance abuse had made his life "quite small". Now, he uses his lived experience to support others through his role as a senior wellbeing navigator peer at the Mental Health and Wellbeing Local.

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R U OK? Day

Border Watch, General News, 04/09/2026, Page 15

One in five Australian men experiences mental illness each year, and suicide is the leading cause of death for men aged 15 to 44, claiming seven lives every day. With the impacts felt most acutely by vulnerable and marginalised boys and men, researchers are now calling for urgent action to better understand, prevent and respond to men's mental health challenges.

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

How an autism diagnosis finally explained my lifelong mental health battle

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 03/09/2026, Amalee Muir

I was born and raised in regional Australia, where mental health and needing help was heavily stigmatised and not necessarily a highlight of many conversations. When I was little, I would often go home with tummy aches.

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

[Read More](#)

Townsville community hub's vital program tackling loneliness faces funding axe

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 03/09/2026, Sarah Kleinman

Some time ago, I wrote an article about the loneliness epidemic and the effects that isolation has on all aspects of our health, both physical and mental. I discussed the fact that 1 in 3 Australians now experience loneliness and 1 in 6 would describe their isolation as severe.

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

[Read More](#)

Why mental fitness could become a classroom staple in Australian schools

7News.com.au, Other, 03/09/2026, Aimee Edwards

A growing push to make mental fitness as routine as maths and English in Australian schools is gaining momentum. Gotcha4Life founder Gus Worland has called for children to be taught the emotional skills needed to navigate life's challenges, arguing mental fitness deserves a permanent place in schools.

[Read More](#)

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Melanoma vax pioneer wins leading science prize

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 04/09/2026, Angus Dalton, Page 10

The scientist who transformed advanced melanoma into a treatable cancer and led a recent large-scale trial into a world-first personalised mRNA cancer vaccine has won the research prize at Australia's premier science awards. Professor Georgina Long was cautious to discuss the melanoma vaccine trial given that full results won't be released until October, but described it as an "absolute landmark, fork-in-the-road for cancer" ahead of being awarded the Eureka Prize for Scientific Research at the Australian Museum last night.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Albo's health heist

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/09/2026, John Rolfe, Page 1

Anthony Albanese's proposed health insurance rebate cuts for over-65s will likely bankrupt some private hospitals and push up the cost of pregnancy cover. A bombshell analysis also warns the government's \$3 billion plan will drive more people into aged-care facilities adding to the burden on the very sector the changes are meant to help and overload the already-stretched public hospital system.

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

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Another Albo policy plan that's set to backfire

Adelaide Advertiser, Editorials, 04/09/2026, Page 28

The Albanese government has once again demonstrated an alarming knack for crafting policy in a vacuum, seemingly blind to the complex domino effect of its legislative tinkering. Just as its heavy-handed interventions in housing failed to foresee basic market realities chasing short-term revenue while tightening supply and driving rents to record highs its Modernising the Private Health Insurance Rebate Bill threatens to trigger disastrous, long-term consequences across our entire healthcare ecosystem.

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

Calvary set to take over SCC Tasmania

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 03/09/2026

Not-for-profit health and aged care provider Calvary Health Care has entered an agreement with the Archdiocese of Hobart to progress a governance transition of Southern Cross Care Tasmania. The proposal, subject to regulatory approvals, includes SCC Tasmania's eight aged care homes, 300 Support at Home packages and 682 independent living units.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Aussie scientists cast light into dementia's dark cave

The Australian, General News, 04/09/2026, Penny Timms, Page 7

Inside an unassuming Brisbane research facility, a team of scientists is doing extraordinarily important work. They're trying to break through some of the biggest barriers that have prevented more effective treatments for the most common form of dementia.

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Drug to beat brain cancer

West Australian, General News, 04/09/2026, Page 3

Researchers are developing a brain cancer drug that can break through a protective shield that blocks 98 per cent of cancer drugs from ever entering the brain. Backed by the Medical Research Future Fund, experts from seven medical research institutes and hospitals across Australia will work towards establishing a drug development pipeline that will lead to clinical trials.

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

Personality is all in the genes

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 04/09/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 5

Personalities are locked into our genetic makeup and play a part in how life turns out, a new and extensive investigation has uncovered. Health, work, wealth and love are all influenced by genetic variants in our disposition, according to the team of scientists from across the globe, including QIMR Berghofer in Brisbane.

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Bid to beat barrier in brain cancer battle

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 04/09/2026, Page 10

A national project is set to develop brain-penetrating drugs that can overcome the biggest barrier in brain cancer treatment. Backed by the Medical Research Future Fund, researchers will use a pioneering approach to develop a new class of cancer drugs that can break through the blood-brain barrier.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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The clinical trials behind a cancer research success story

The Senior - SA, General News, 01/09/2026, Page 27

For people diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) the outlook today is dramatically different from what it was just a few decades ago. Once considered a death sentence, CML is now one of the great success stories of modern cancer research.

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

Natural selection: women win at top science awards

Canberra Times, Other, 04/09/2026, Abe Maddison

The extraordinary contribution of women in Australian science has been highlighted by the winners list for the nation's top science awards. Eleven Eureka Prizes were awarded to individual women or teams made up entirely or predominantly of women in a ceremony at Sydney Town Hall on Thursday night.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Women's health innovators face arduous path to success

Canberra Times, Other, 03/09/2026, Emily Woods

Australia could be a leader in women's health innovation, but investors are not prioritising health tech and it is sending female innovators overseas. Just two per cent of all tech startup capital in Australia in 2025 went to all-female founded teams, according to the State of Australian Startup Funding report.

Also reported by: [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail UK \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Coeliac treatment: Miracle drug changing lives for Australians living with chronic inflammatory condition

West Australian, Other, 03/09/2026, Ella George

For 1 in 70 Australians living with coeliac disease, recent clinical trial developments present a new

hope for a cure to the chronic autoimmune disease. Coeliac disease occurs when the presence of gluten triggers a person's immune-system to attack itself, resulting in inflammatory responses and painful symptoms.

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

[Read More](#)

Australian science prize awarded to researcher studying memory accuracy of domestic violence survivors

The Guardian, Other, 03/09/2026, Donna Lu

Memory is an imperfect thing: research shows that recollections of single events – a purse being snatched, say – differ to those about repeated or ongoing events, such as incidents of domestic and family violence. “What our research shows is that compared to a single-event witness, a repeated-event witness tends to report more gist-like details, the overall details of what typically would happen, and the things that remain constant between the episodes,” said Helen Paterson, an associate professor in forensic psychology at the University of Sydney.

[Read More](#)

Huge genetic study finds strong links between DNA and personality traits

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 03/09/2026, Briar Wormington and Michelle Lupton

Personality is something we all share, but the different ways we think and feel also make us unique. [...] Our new study, published in Nature, has linked personality with more than 1,200 common genetic variants, highlighting its central role in understanding human experience.

[Read More](#)

Sachdev to lead vascular dementia research centre

Community Care Review, Other, 03/09/2026

UNSW Sydney's Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing co-director and Scientia Professor Perminder Sachdev will lead a new five-year Centre of Research Excellence focused on improving the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of vascular dementia. Vascular cognitive impairment and dementia, or VCID, is the second most common cause of dementia, after Alzheimer's disease.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 03/09/2026, Angela Cox and Mark Ferguson

Australian scientists are developing a new way to deliver cancer-killing drugs directly into the brain, reaching brain tumours that are notoriously difficult to treat. The breakthrough drugs target aggressive brain tumours in adults and children.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Fortescue supports Aboriginal men's health in Hedland

Australian Mining Review, General News, 01/09/2026, Page 82

Fortescue (asx: fmg) has partnered with Wirraka Maya Health Service Aboriginal Corporation to give Aboriginal men in Hedland greater access to culturally safe health and wellbeing support. The two-year partnership, valued at \$200,000, will support Wirraka Maya to develop and deliver a men's health program shaped by local needs, cultural values and community leadership.

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The cadetship supporting mob in allied health careers

National Indigenous Times, Other, 03/09/2026, Callan Morse

Anna Westcott wanted to study occupational therapy since seeing her brother in sessions when she

was about 10 years old. [...] The NSW Government said it developed the program to both increase the number of Aboriginal allied health professionals working in the NSW Health system and boost career development opportunities.

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'There's really no reason to put it off': First Nations adults encouraged to take up free bowel cancer screenings

National Indigenous Times, Other, 03/09/2026, Jarred Cross

When it's free, simple and quick to do, there's no reason to put off at-home bowel cancer screenings which could save your life, First Nations advocates say. In Australia, eligible 50 to 74-year-olds will receive screening kits to their door automatically every two years. When it's free, simple and quick to do, there's no reason to put off at-home bowel cancer screenings which could save your life, First Nations advocates say.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Labor's 'fix' fails as ambulance ramping hits record

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04/09/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 3

Ramping hit an all-time record in August with ambulances stuck in hospital car parks waiting to unload patients for 5891 hours. Far from being "fixed" by the Labor government, the August total continues an upward trend since February and was ahead of the previous record of 5866 hours in July 2025.

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

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Patients cop triple-0 pain

Courier Mail, General News, 04/09/2026, Thomas Chamberlin, Taylah Fellows and Michael Nolan, Page 1

Desperate patients were left waiting for ambulances on Thursday after a Queensland Ambulance Service systems upgrade failed, resulting in triple-0 calls having to be manually dispatched. The QAS was implementing a computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system upgrade on Thursday, but had to switch to a redundancy back-up system after experiencing latency delay issues.

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The long-awaited report that left out the key detail patients were promised

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 03/09/2026, Rachel Rasker

Psychiatrists and mental health advocates have accused the Minns government of hiding the true extent of staff and resource shortages affecting vulnerable patients in a long-delayed report that fails to identify the worst-affected areas. The state government quietly published its mental health gap analysis report on the NSW Health website on Friday afternoon, which they had promised would show which of the state's Local Health Districts (LHDs) were underresourced so funding could be allocated appropriately.

[Read More](#)

Health system 'deteriorated' under current SA government, ramping hits record high

ABC Online, Other, 03/09/2026, Stephanie Richards and Daniel Keane

South Australia's public health system has "deteriorated" under the current government, according to an independent review released on the same day that ambulance ramping was revealed to have hit a record high. The review of SA Health found that ramping was "chronic" between 2022 and 2026 — a period overlapping with the first term of the Malinauskas government, which had promised to "fix the ramping crisis".

Nurses face 'near-daily' violence and assaults at Atherton hospital

Cairns Post, Other, 03/09/2026, Greg McLean

Staff at Atherton hospital were threatened by a dementia patient with a knife last month, it has been revealed. The knife-wielding patient is one of more than 10 dementia and NDIS patients clogging up beds, assaulting staff and pushing nurse workloads beyond acceptable levels at Atherton hospital, according to the nurses union.

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

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 03/09/2026, Sonya Feldhoff and Jules Schiller

A South East patient waited for 15 hours this week in the Royal Flying Doctors Service patient transfer facility due to a lack of beds at Flinders Medical Centre.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Should washing dishes count as aged care? Court case puts care minutes to the test

HelloCare, Other, 03/09/2026, Jakob Neeland

A Federal Court case involving one of Australia's largest aged care providers could become a litmus test for how the industry counts mandatory care minutes, with a nurses' union alleging workers were recording tasks such as washing dishes and folding laundry as direct care. The NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association (NSWNMA) has launched proceedings against Opal HealthCare, alleging the provider breached its enterprise agreement by failing to meet mandatory care minute requirements and misreporting the work being counted towards those minutes.

[Read More](#)

New Saturday issue: It's on - nursing union wants to deprivatise aged care

The Weekly Source, Other, 03/09/2026, Ian Horswill

The NSW branch of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, which has taken the nation's biggest aged care operator to the Federal Court, last month revealed its real objective. It wants to deprivatise aged care, reducing private aged care - think Opal HealthCare, Regis Aged Care, Estia Health, Bupa Aged Care and Arcare Aged Care - to a fixed percentage of the sector.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

New \$95m Rockhampton health academy to fast-track students into medical careers

Cairns Post, Other, 03/09/2026, Lili Tisch-Bostock

Students in Central Queensland will soon have the opportunity kickstart a career in health with the site guaranteed for the Queensland Academy for Health Sciences in Rockhampton. The \$95m state and federally funded project will provide regional students a pathway into medicine, nursing, paramedicine and allied health through a partnership with CQ University.

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

Coroner urges Barwon Health to increase staff after woman dies following six-hour wait

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 03/09/2026, Zoe De Koning

A coroner is calling on Barwon Health to increase staffing in its emergency department after a woman left Geelong hospital untreated after six hours and died an hour later. Susanne Keating died on March 7, 2021 from presumed massive pulmonary embolus – a condition where a large clot blocks blood flow in the lungs.

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

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Nationals call for more funds, raise ED privacy concerns just weeks after \$192m Geraldton Health Campus opens

West Australian, Other, 03/09/2026, Kate Campbell and Sally Davies

Just weeks after the \$192 million upgrade of Geraldton Health Campus was opened to the public, the WA Nationals has called for more funding to address so-called flaws and shortcomings at the revamped hospital. The new emergency department opened last month to be followed by other new services, including a new intensive care unit, high dependency unit, psychiatric ICU and adult mental health inpatient unit, from mid-September.

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

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Shorten the shortages

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/09/2026, Divya Lal, Page 31

Australia's pbs remains one of the nation's greatest healthcare achievements, providing affordable access to medicines for millions of Australians. Yet affordability alone is no longer enough.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

MRAC backs funding for longer consults

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 03/09/2026, Karen Burge

Reforms are needed to address inequities in the current time-based GP fee structure, which is skewed towards rewarding shorter, less complex consultations, according to a draft report into time-based Medicare items. Released for consultation on Thursday, the report feeds into a Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review Advisory Committee (MRAC) review into primary care time-tiered MBS items.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Top doctor in anti-Israel storm

The Australian, General News, 04/09/2026, Elizabeth Pike, Page 1

The incoming president of the nation's peak psychiatry body has "sincerely apologised" to the college

and stood down from his position, pending a review into social media posts he shared criticising the "Israel Lobby" and rubbishing antisemitism training on the grounds Jewish people would be considered "special". [...] According to records shared with The Australian, which were also sent this month to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, Dr Virgona reposted Nine Newspaper cartoonist Cathy Wilcox's controversial royal commission item three times in the month after the Bondi Beach terror attack.

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

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Psychiatrists' head stands down

The Australian, Editorials, 04/09/2026, Page 10

Painful as it is to acknowledge, too many Australians including some highly educated medical professionals have far to go to overcome the scourge of antisemitism. [...] AHPRA, the national health regulation agency, has adopted the definition, drawing opposition from the nurses' union for doing so.

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

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More than 3000 doctors invited to register as general practice's first subspecialists

Australian Doctor, Other, 03/09/2026, Rachel Carter

Thousands of rural doctors with eligible qualifications are now being invited to register as 'rural generalists', Australian general practice's first official subspecialty. It is believed there are at least 2400 doctors with ACRRM fellowships and an estimated 800 doctors with the FRACGP-RG, a qualification first awarded by the RACGP in 2022.

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Nearly 90% of medical board's fast-tracked IMGs have ended up in metro areas

Australian Doctor, Other, 03/09/2026, Ciara Seccombe

Just 11% of the IMGs brought into Australia under AHPRA's controversial fast-track pathway are working in rural areas of need, an evaluation has found. The pathway was open to GPs and certain other specialists holding specific overseas qualifications in 2024. It has since expanded rapidly, with around 760 fast-tracked doctors registered to practise.

[Read More](#)

Enough evidence is there for the antisemitism royal commission – let Virginia Bell tally it up

The Australian, Other, 03/09/2026, Michael Easson

Emotions are still raw and anxiety grows as the anniversary of the Bondi massacre of 15 people on December 14 approaches. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, for one, finally formulated policy and practices with teeth on hate speech, including antisemitism.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

3yo dies after pet zoo visit

The Australian, General News, 04/09/2026, Page 7

A girl who contracted a rare infection after visiting a petting zoo in Victoria has died. The three-year-old had spent the past six weeks in intensive care at Monash Children's Hospital after contracting a rare and life-threatening illness at a petting zoo that caused brain damage and kidney failure.

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Girl, 3, dies from petting zoo infection

Daily Telegraph, General News, 04/09/2026, Alexandra Feiam, Page 18

A young girl who contracted a rare infection after visiting a petting zoo in Victoria has died, her family has confirmed. The three-year-old had spent the past six weeks in intensive care at Monash Children's Hospital after contracting a rare and life-threatening illness at a petting zoo.

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

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Salmonella cases soaring as food safety ignored

Herald Sun, General News, 04/09/2026, Olivia Shying, Lynton Grace and Taylor Penny, Page 9

Victoria's salmonellosis cases are on the rise, with 1555 confirmed infections so far this year, up from 1452 over the same period last year. [...] An Australian Centre for Disease Control spokesman said salmonella bacteria lived in the intestines of people and animals.

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

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NSW has introduced permanent pill testing at music festivals. Some say that isn't enough

SBS, Other, 03/09/2026

For Sydney woman Jennie Ross-King, the path to changing drug laws in her home state has been a long and painful journey. "One that began with the loss of my beautiful daughter Alex, and one that I would give anything not to have happened."

[Read More](#)

'We've lost our darling girl': Toddler dies after rare infection linked to petting farm

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 03/09/2026, Henrietta Cook

A three-year-old girl has died after visiting a Victorian petting farm and contracting a serious infection that caused kidney failure and permanent brain damage. The toddler spent six weeks in Monash Children's Hospital's intensive care unit after developing a rare condition called haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS), which is caused by a type of bacteria that lives in the guts of many farm animals.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 03/09/2026, Leon Compton

A crested tern at Beaumaris on Tasmania's South Coast is the latest to test positive to bird flu in the state. The Department of Natural Resources and Environment says its the second event in Tasmania's NorthEast and brings the number of H5 bird flu events at 25.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

New management pathway for severe asthma

SBS, Other, 03/09/2026, Ricky Onggokusumo

Approximately 200,000 Australians are currently living with the health challenge of severe asthma and chronic rhinosinusitis. [...] To address this challenge, Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has approved GSK Australia's Exdensur (depemokimab) as an add-on maintenance therapy.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, A Current Affair, 03/09/2026, Allison Langdon

A grieving daughter is calling for more research to be done into adverse reactions from the GLP-1 weight-loss injectable Saxenda. Elyse Ramsay's father died after experiencing excruciating stomach

pain, which is a common side effect of Saxenda. She has also discovered that nine other deaths had been reported as being associated with Saxenda in Australia between 2019 and 2026. Saxenda's manufacturer, Novo Nordisk, has discontinued sales in Australia. The Therapeutic Goods Administration said that it was a commercial decision.

Continues on: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

A modern approach to women's healthcare

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/09/2026, Page 63

A modern medical cannabis approach is transforming women's health by moving from silent suffering to personalised care for complex, multifactorial pelvic pain conditions and their wide-ranging symptoms. From silent suffering to personalised care The treatment of chronic pelvic pain conditions (such as endometriosis) is not straightforward, as there's a spectrum of symptoms that are multifactorial and individual.

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FOOD STANDARDS

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