



TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 12th September 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
| [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Disability and Carers](#) | [Primary Care](#)
| [Population Health](#) | [Chronic Conditions and Screening](#) |
[Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Immunisation](#) | [Health Systems Strategies](#)
| [Health Economics & Research](#) | [First Nations Health](#)
| [Public Hospital and Health Reform](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#) | [Australian CDC](#) |
[Therapeutic Goods Administration](#) | [Office of Drug Control](#) | [Food Standards](#)
| [AICIS](#)

LINKS

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

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that the first allocation from the new Australian Cancer Research Program's \$300 million funding pool will be distributed to research into childhood cancers, as Minister Mark Butler moves to connect Australia with a cutting-edge network of international clinical trials.
- **[The Saturday Paper](#)** (page 1) reports that the Federal Government is considering changes to the tobacco excise to combat the black market, with Health Minister Mark Butler not ruling out a cut during Question Time.
- **[The Saturday Age](#)** (page 1) reports that members of the Victorian branch of the Australian Medical Association have expressed concern about the state's mental health services, of which 19 out of 21 are not meeting timeframe targets for admitting acute cases.
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 3) reports that a study by researchers from the University of NSW and University of Technology Sydney has revealed that the number of first-time mothers with low-risk pregnancies who have been subject to birth interventions is on the rise, prompting questions about medical necessity.
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 5) reports that a parliamentary inquiry into skilled migration has been told that some migrant doctors have faced homelessness due to a lack of housing

and support in rural areas, while waiting on a complex and lengthy approvals process. *Also reported by: [Canberra Times](#)*

- **[The Northern Territory News](#)** (page 5) reports that Royal Darwin Hospital's maternity ward has been temporarily located as a \$500,000 overhaul commences on the ward's faulty air-conditioning system.
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports that the ACT Coroner's Court has determined that the overdose death of a 42 year-old woman in 2022 is the first in Canberra with a confirmed link to protonitazene, a novel psychoactive substance many times more potent than heroin. *Also reported by: [Canberra Times](#)*
- **[The Canberra Times](#)** (online) reports that research from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has found a "profound" inequality in health outcomes between the average population and people receiving various income support payments, with economically disadvantaged Australians at a higher risk of premature mortality.
- **[The Guardian](#)** (online) reports that documents obtained under freedom of information laws have revealed that people with dementia were advised against applying for home support within weeks of the government's introduction of its aged care algorithm, amid fears their care would be downgraded.

MINISTER BUTLER

Fight to save cancer kids: how grieving mum's gift sparked a science revolution

Weekend Australian, General News, 12/09/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

Childhood cancers, including the worst types of brain tumours, are the first target of a new strategic research plan aimed at extending the lives of people with cancer and shoring up Australia's access to innovative drugs and groundbreaking international clinical trials. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has now moved to link Australia with a cutting-edge international clinical trial network for all children with untreatable and relapsing cancers.

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

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

Labor must clean up tobacco mess

AFR Weekend, General News, 12/09/2026, Michael Stutchbury, Page 38

The pandemic confirmed that the public health lobby should not be left to determine the policy trade-offs, incentives and costs of seeking to eliminate risk, rather than minimising harm.

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

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

Exclusive: Labor models cuts to cigarette excise to fight tobacco wars

The Saturday Paper, General News, 12/09/2026, Jason Koutsoukis, Page 1

Federal officials have begun exploring options to scale back the tobacco excise as the Albanese government comes under mounting pressure to put an end to Australia's deadly tobacco wars. [...] Pressed on the issue later that day during Question Time, Albanese passed it off to Minister for Health Mark Butler, who appeared to leave the door open to a cut to the tobacco excise.

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

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

Breaking the cycle

Adelaide Advertiser, Weekend, 12/09/2026, Paul Ashenden, Page 1

Lenny Deacon has spent more than 18 months pedalling a recumbent tricycle around Australia in honour of a great mate who took his own life five years ago. [...] Deacon is adding a 117km ride from Cooma to Canberra to the event, after missing that section during his journey so he could attend a meeting with federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

Hope for MND patients with PBS listing

Northern Territory News, General News, 12/09/2026, Emma Kirk, Page 22

Australians living with motor neurone disease (MND) will now have cheaper access to treatment through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme - carrying forward Neale Daniher's extraordinary legacy. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said MND was a heartbreaking insidious disease that Australians were all too familiar with.

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

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

One by one, Nicole's family members died from MND. A new PBS listing gives her hope

The Age, General News, 11/09/2026, Emily Kaine

Over the past four decades, Nicole Lynch has watched motor neurone disease strip her family members of their agency and rob years from their lives. In 1995, her cousin was diagnosed with MND.

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

[Read More](#)

'Cherrypicking': doubt over Labor's chosen smoking data

Canberra Times, Other, 11/09/2026, Jacob Shteyman

Labor has been accused of cherrypicking data to justify its approach to illicit tobacco, while ignoring conflicting evidence showing an increase in nicotine consumption. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the AIHW survey was "universally recognised as the authoritative source" for smoking trends, showing that daily adult smoking rates had dropped to the lowest level ever at 5.8 per cent, in a press conference in July.

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

[Read More](#)

Aged care patients clogging SA hospital hits record high

WEB InDaily SA, Other, 11/09/2026

Health and Wellbeing Minister Blair Boyer has today revealed that the number of elderly patients stuck in South Australia's public hospitals has hit a record high as they wait for a place in an aged care bed. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler's office was contacted for comment.

[Read More](#)

Longer hospital wait times as health feud deepens

Port Macquarie News, Other, 11/09/2026, Max Aldred and Duncan Murray

Patients are contending with extended emergency department stays, as the state minister again points his finger at federal counterparts. [...] Federal minister Mark Butler stared down calls for urgent intervention and referred to his government's previous investment, adding the aging population was driving unprecedented demand for healthcare.

[Read More](#)

Milestone for subsidised women's meds

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 11/09/2026, Brett MacFarlane, Megan Haggan and Kate Cowling

New figures shed light on how many women have accessed PBS-subsidised medicines for common conditions and contraception Subsidised medicines for contraception, endometriosis and menopause have been accessed by more than a million women since March last year, the federal government says. Health minister Mark Butler released a series of statistics to mark Women's Health Week.

[Read More](#)

Life-saving MND drug drops from \$28,000 to just \$25

OverSixty, Other, 11/09/2026

Australians living with a rare genetic form of motor neurone disease will have access to a cheaper treatment designed to slow the progression of the condition and help maintain muscle function. [...]
"The listing of Qalsody for ALS on the PBS is a game changer for Australian patients," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

[Read More](#)

What happened to the aged care “rapid review”?

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/09/2026, Caroline Egan

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced a three-month review of the Government's controversial automated aged care assessment tool on 3 June. More than three months later, the deadline has passed, but the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has told The Weekly SOURCE that the findings will be released "in due course".

[Read More](#)

2GB, 19:00 News, 11/09/2026

Australians living with a type of MND will soon have access to a cheaper treatment. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says Qalsody will be listed on the PBS from October.

Also reported by: [6PR \(Perth\)](#), [3AW \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Darwin \(Darwin\)](#), [2SM \(Sydney\)](#), [Triple J \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#), [ABC Radio Melbourne \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC Radio Canberra \(Canberra\)](#), [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 11/09/2026, Mark Burrows

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has announced that Qalsody, a medication used for MND, will cost \$25 per script following its addition to the PBS. There is no cure for MND, and the cause of 90% of cases is unknown, but experts are now calling for a national registry after NSW recently included MND as a notifiable disease.

Also reported by: [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Melbourne\)](#), [News24 \(Sydney\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

NITV, NITV News: Nula, 11/09/2026, Natalie Ahmat

Indigenous Senator Lidia Thorpe has confronted Federal Health Minister Mark Butler over the incarceration of children with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, or FASD, a lifelong neurodevelopmental condition caused by mothers drinking alcohol during pregnancy. Butler says he is open to engage further.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER MCALLISTER

Wave goodbye to your freedom for four years

Daily Telegraph, General News, 12/09/2026, Julie Cross, Page 21

She was all smiles while she was ripping off disabled people to the tune of \$2.2 million but this scammer sobbed loudly as she was handed the longest ever prison sentence imposed for NDIS fraud. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said people should note the length of Fahmy's jail sentence.

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

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

Feds get involved

douglasgazette.com.au, Other, 11/09/2026, Hugh Bohane

A far North Queensland disability care dispute has been escalated to the highest levels of the federal government as the impasse has deepened days before a mother and her adult daughter are due to return from Bali, with an NDIS overseas extension still awaiting determination and questions over proposed staffing arrangements. [...] Minister for the NDIS Jenny McAllister's office then referred the matter to the NDIA for review and advice.

[Read More](#)

2SM, Mornings, 11/09/2026, Chris Smith

Smith says the sentencing of a middle-aged Sydney mother who made more than 1000 false claims to the NDIS is expected today. He also adds that NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister stated that the criminals, fraudsters and grifters off the scheme are the worst of the worst.

[Play Now](#)

2GB, Breakfast, 11/09/2026, Ben Fordham

Fordham says a middle-aged mother who masterminded a \$2.2m NDIS fraud is going to be sentenced today. He says NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister has told the Daily Telegraph she is pleased to see the consequences of their actions.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER RAE

Hundreds of care residents refunded for basic services

Canberra Times, Other, 11/09/2026, Lucinda Garbutt-Young

A major aged care provider has paid back thousands of dollars it charged elderly residents for basic amenities like television and air-conditioning. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said laws would be tightened to ensure residents would not be charged for things they were receiving before the standards changed.

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

[Read More](#)

Rule change mandates HELF guidance

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 11/09/2026, Natasha Egan

The government will amend the rules to prevent aged care residents being charged a Higher Everyday Living Fee for services they previously received for free. [...] "We've always said it was unreasonable for providers to start charging older Australians for services they previously received at no cost," said Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae.

[Read More](#)

Government to ban providers from charging 'unreasonable' new fees

CathNews, Other, 11/09/2026, Rebecca Comini

Under reforms to the Aged Care Rules 2025, providers will no longer be able to charge residents a Higher Everyday Living Fee (HELF) for services they were receiving for free as part of their care arrangements before sweeping reforms to the aged care system came into effect on November 1, 2025. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said the government had listened to older Australians and were acting to make the "rules clear and strengthen protections".

[Read More](#)

HELF furore prompts new aged care laws

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/09/2026, Caroline Egan

The Government is moving to tighten the rules around one of the new Aged Care Act's most

contentious fees. Aged Care Minister Sam Rae announced last night (Thursday 10 September) the Government will introduce a new clause to the 736-page Aged Care Rules.

[Read More](#)

FIVEAA, 08:30 News, 11/09/2026

The Federal Government will ban residential aged care providers from charging extra fees for services residents received for free prior to sweeping system reforms. Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae says they are acting now to make the rules clear and strengthen protections.

Also reported by: [Salt 106.5 \(Sunshine Coast\)](#), [Hope 103.2 \(Sydney\)](#), [6PR \(Perth\)](#), [4BC \(Brisbane\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Bondi Medicare Mental Health Centre opens

Australian Jewish News, Supplements, 11/09/2026, Page 3

A significant step forward in accessible community mental health support was taken late last month when the Bondi Medicare Mental Health Centre officially opened. There was a ribbon cutting, and Jewish House CEO Rabbi Mendel Kastel, alongside Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Emma McBride, affixed a mezuzah to the centre's doorway, to symbolise that the community is always welcome.

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

'Australia needs passionate pharmacists now more than ever'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 11/09/2026, Nicholas O'Donoghue, Brett MacFarlane and Megan Haggan

The National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association's (NAPSA's) leadership of the campaign to have the Commonwealth Prac Payments program extended is being lauded by pharmacist-turned-politician Emma McBride.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Doctors said anxiety. Eight months later, Libby Trickett learned she'd had a heart attack

Thenightly.com.au, Other, 11/09/2026

Heart disease is still too often seen as a man's problem, and it's killing one Australian woman every hour. [...] "Women are not just little men and the symptoms that we experience when it comes to our cardiovascular health needs to be considered," Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White said.

Also reported by: [worldtravelblog.org \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Seven Tasmania, Nightly News, 11/09/2026, Michael Maney

Eight new centres nationwide will provide consultations and deliver affordable, long-acting and reversible contraception services. Federal Assistant Minister for Health and Women Rebecca White says consultation, insertion, removal and pain relief services will be free.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise 5AM News, 11/09/2026, David Woiwod

Around half a million Australian women are living with a heart condition, yet women are 50% more likely to be misdiagnosed. Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White says the symptoms that women experience when it comes to their cardiovascular health need to be considered.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 11/09/2026, Kylie Baxter

Interview with Assistant Minister for Health, Aged Care and Women Rebecca White, on Women's Health Week. White says a Senate inquiry is currently looking at postpartum care to properly understand women who have delivered a baby and are currently dealing with postpartum anxiety or depression. She notes that they are urging women who felt dismissed to share their stories with her.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, 16:00 News, 11/09/2026

The Federal Government has announced that Sexual Health Victoria, Sexual Health Quarters WA, Shine South Australia, and family planning clinics in NSW, Queensland, Tasmania, the Northern Territory, and the ACT will provide free consultations and deliver affordable, long-acting, reversible contraception services. Federal Assistant Minister for Health and Women Rebecca White says the \$2m investment will make these types of contraception more accessible.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

In the fight to change nurse program

Canberra Times, General News, 12/09/2026, Peter Jean, Page 12

Martin Fisk is dedicated to supporting others, so it is unsurprising his cancer fight has turned into a battle he hopes will also help other patients. [...] Federal government Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi said prostate cancer patients would continue to be cared for by specialist prostate cancer nurses under the new arrangements.

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

[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

Consultation style a circus

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 12/09/2026, Jo Russell, Page 26

So this week I am throwing a paddy. Indulging a tantrum. [...] Since then, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and the NDIA have been churning out "consultation" after "consultation" for disabled people to have their say.

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

Care changes bring uncertainty

Stawell Times News, General News, 11/09/2026, Henry Dalkin, Page 5

For Stawell resident Wendy Melbourne, home help is about much more than getting the housework done. [...] Council has endorsed Grampians Community Health and East Wimmera Health Service as its preferred providers, although the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care will make the final decision on who delivers the services.

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

Dementia patients warned off seeking home care in case Australia's aged care algorithm cuts funding

People with dementia were warned not to apply for home support because of fears their care would be downgraded by the government's aged care algorithm. [...] A spokesperson from the health department said rather than human override being returned, the government will legislate a new "assessment escalation pathway", giving assessors the option to raise cases to a system governor – in this case, the secretary of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

[Read More](#)

Rather than giving unwarranted praise, it's time to crack the whip on oral health reform

Croakey, Other, 11/09/2026, Melissa Sweet

While Australia's Health Ministers have received some praise for making progress on oral health reform, policy analyst Charles Maskell-Knight PSM says recent statements suggest they are just "kicking the can down the road", and delaying meaningful action. [...] While preparing an article on dental policy reform for Croakey in November 2025, I asked the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing a series of questions including: Did the National Dental Reform Oversight Group complete its work and present options to Health Ministers during 2024?

[Read More](#)

The battle for the GP digital front door

The Medical Republic, Other, 11/09/2026, Jeremy Knibbs

The GP digital front door, for years now dominated by the booking engines, seems quite suddenly up for grabs. [...] And she's working closely with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, to get them across the line on something a typical government department would see as a governance and regulation nightmare.

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

[Read More](#)

Costs continue to outpace revenue

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 11/09/2026, Katarina Lloyd-Jones

There was an 8.5 per cent rise in revenue in Q2 2025–26 but 12 per cent growth in operating expenses, the department's latest financial snapshot shows. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing also noted that the financial results presented in the report are year-to-date, covering the six-month period ending 31 December 2025.

[Read More](#)

DoHDA can't say how many will downgrade cover under rebate cut

Health Services Daily, Other, 11/09/2026, Cate Swannell

The department behind the government's prediction that 44,000 older Australians will drop private health insurance under its rebate reforms has conceded it cannot predict how many will downgrade their cover instead.

[Read More](#)

Movers & Shakers: NDIA promotes senior executives

The Mandarin, Other, 11/09/2026

Public Service Union names secretary, Victoria's treasury chief, NSW health secretary retires, Stott Despoja to examine ADF sexual violence, and more. [...] Luke Bricknell has been promoted to assistant secretary at the Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Covid-hit unit in isolation

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 12/09/2026, Lincoln Holmes, Page 4

A group of people inside a Mount Duneed healthcare facility has been placed in isolation after testing positive for Covid-19 last week. A staff member at the TLC Warralily Gardens facility confirmed the group, believed to consist of 13 people, tested positive on September 5.

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

Aged women violence fear

Hobart Mercury, General News, 12/09/2026, Alison Foletta, Page 12

Older Tasmanian women are an invisible but vulnerable group when it comes to gendered violence, advocacy leaders say. Council on the Ageing Tasmania chief executive officer Brigid Wilkinson said older women were vulnerable, but often less visible.

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

Elder abuse rising but support services are lacking

Canberra Times, Other, 11/09/2026, Emily Woods

Three years ago, a centre against sexual assault received a referral for a 65-year-old woman in a care home. "She'd been sexually assaulted and the narrative around it was 'she has dementia, therefore she won't remember'," South East Centre Against Sexual Assault manager Amanda Parkinson told AAP.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 11/09/2026, Manny Tsigas

South Australian taxpayers have spent more than \$123m on hospital care for elderly patients who didn't need to be there. The SA Government is using the figure to ramp up pressure on its federal counterparts to fix what it's describing as an aged care crisis.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

DISABILITY AND CARERS

NDIA accused of hypocrisy on staff treatment

Weekend Australian, General News, 12/09/2026, Sarah Ison, Page 7

A prominent advocate who worked for the National Disability Insurance Agency says the organisation is failing to meet the very workplace standards it's seeking to implement across the country, describing the idea that the agency is a leader in tackling employment discrimination as "laughable" after claiming she was demeaned, isolated and forced out of the organisation. NDIS participant and disability rights advocate Elly Desmarchelier who has cerebral palsy, autism and ADHD alleges she was belittled and "silenced" during what she says was "a nightmare" stint at the NDIA.

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

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

Fear it could be curtains

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 12/09/2026, Jacinta Round, Page 29

Members of a South Australian theatre company for people with disability say a looming 50 per cent funding cut will jeopardise their future with the group - which one actor calls the "best part" of her life. Management at Stepney-based not-for-profit No Strings Attached Theatre of Disability, established in 1994, says it faces possible closure when its performers lose funding.

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

[Back to Top](#)

'We're not backing down': Premier warns doctors as he reveals another plan to expand pharmacist prescribing

Australian Doctor, Other, 12/09/2026, Ciara Seccombe

Pharmacists will be allowed to treat ear infections and wounds and help manage chronic conditions under a new NSW prescribing trial that doctors' groups have already branded a threat to patient safety and antimicrobial stewardship. Premier Chris Minns announced the latest expansion at the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's annual conference, declaring his government was "not backing down" from its pharmacy reforms.

[Read More](#)

Minns outlines further scope expansion for NSW

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 11/09/2026

New South Wales Premier Chris Minns has announced a raft of reforms in community pharmacy that will expand access to vaccinations, unlock the skills of newly trained pharmacist prescribers, and establish a new trial enabling pharmacists to provide care for ear infections, wound management, and selected chronic health conditions.

[Read More](#)

NSW Premier delivers landmark pharmacy reforms to expand access to care across NSW

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 11/09/2026

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, NSW Branch, has welcomed landmark announcements by NSW Premier Chris Minns at Pharmacy Connect 2026, delivering a major boost to patient access, preventive healthcare and pharmacist-led care across New South Wales. Announced before hundreds of delegates at Pharmacy Connect 2026, NSW's leading conference for community pharmacy, the reforms will expand access to vaccinations, unlock the skills of newly trained pharmacist prescribers, strengthen primary care across NSW, and establish a new trial enabling pharmacists to provide care for ear infections, wound management, and selected chronic health conditions.

[Read More](#)

Pharmacist-prescribed contraception could free up 730,000 GP visits, says guild

Australian Doctor, Other, 11/09/2026, Heather Saxena

A government trial is underway allowing women with concession cards to be prescribed contraception by a pharmacist. Allowing pharmacists to initiate and supply oral contraceptives would free up around 730,000 GP appointments per year, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia says.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 11/09/2026, Loretta Ryan and Craig Zonca

Interview with Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Queensland Chair Dr Cathryn Hester. Zonca says a Federal Government review has found that patients are being shortchanged by a system that favours quicker consultations. Hester says they see short consults and quick turnover being much better funded by the Federal Government, and she also notes that they also want patients need to spend a little bit longer with their GPs, but patients do not have the opportunity because the funding system is not supporting it.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

How to ... not worry about your health

Sydney Morning Herald, Good Weekend Magazine, 12/09/2026, Stephen Lacey, Page 5

Last year, I had pancreatic cancer, mesothelioma, a myocardial infarction and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease. I also had plantar fasciitis. In the end, my long-suffering GP assured me that I actually had none of the above (with the exception of plantar fasciitis), but that I do have the worst case of Illness Anxiety Disorder (IAD) he's seen.

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

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

'Profound' increased death rate for welfare recipients

Canberra Times, Other, 11/09/2026, Rex Martinich

A study on the death rate among welfare recipients has highlighted "profound" inequality in health between average people and those on the lowest incomes. The report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare compared mortality rates and causes of death for people receiving and not receiving various income support payments by linking data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and government systems.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\) \(Perth\)](#), [7News.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

'Is that a band?': Men stumped by women's health questions

NEWS.com.au, Other, 11/09/2026, Naomi Kaplan

A recent street poll has uncovered a concerning gap in knowledge when it comes to everyday women's health matters. The news.com.au team took to the streets to find out just how much men actually know about common issues like endometriosis, menopause, period-related conditions like PMDD and PMS, as well as cervical screenings and contraception.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

The parting gift

Weekend Australian, Magazine, 12/09/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

In the pre-dawn stillness of a Monday morning at the crest of a long Sydney summer, Liliana Gjorgjijoska decided it was time. Her mother, Rachael, felt the first sharp pain of impending labour and pulled back the blanket.

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

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

The things we cannot see

Sydney Morning Herald, Good Weekend Magazine, 12/09/2026, Tim Elliott, Page 1

Early one Saturday morning in July, 2021, Gold Coast triathlete Alexa Leary set off on a training ride with a group of elite cyclists in the hills behind Noosa, on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. The route was demanding; an undulating 90-kilometre ride, including a 2.5-kilometre climb to the summit of a local landmark called Black Mountain.

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

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

We thought it was just travel fatigue

Courier Mail, General News, 12/09/2026, Kay McGrath, Page 7

TV news legend Kay McGrath has opened up about her heartbreaking final days with fiancé Richard Moore in the hope that sharing their tragic story will save lives. The former news anchor, writing in

Qweekend today, says the most "excruciating" part of Moore's death in February last year was that she believes it was "preventable".

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

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

Regional cancer patients paying 'postcode penalty'

Canberra Times, Other, 11/09/2026, Nick Wilson

When Kylie Trueman's teenage son Brandan was diagnosed with leukaemia, she packed up her life to move to Brisbane to be closer to specialist care. At the time, she expected to be back home in Cairns, in Far North Queensland, with her husband and daughter within three months.

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

[Read More](#)

Living with tinnitus can be distressing. So what can you do about it?

The Guardian, Other, 12/09/2026, Bianca Nogrady

For some it's a high-pitched mosquito whine; for others it's a low bass hum. It might come and go with periods of stress, or it might be the permanent, irritating background track to daily life and nightly sleep.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Mental health services are failing state's most unwell

The Saturday Age, General News, 12/09/2026, Grant McArthur, Page 1

Nineteen of Victoria's 21 adult mental health and wellbeing services are failing to meet their target for admitting acutely mentally unwell Victorians to a bed within eight hours. Five years after the state government promised to fix the broken mental health system, data shows more than half of patients are languishing in emergency departments because there are not enough specialist beds to treat them, and most facilities are using seclusion and restraints far more often than they are supposed to.

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

Mental health maths does not add up

The Saturday Age, Editorials, 12/09/2026, Page 34

Languishing too long in emergency departments is a matter of life and death for people with acute mental health conditions, a reality Dr Mark Putland and his colleagues today make desperately clear. The Age today reveals fewer than half the patients requiring a specialist mental health bed can get one within eight hours of arriving at Victoria's emergency departments because those beds simply do not exist.

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

SBS, World News Australia, 11/09/2026, Anton Enus

New research has found that a culturally tailored health program is helping men from multicultural communities overcome barriers to better physical and mental health. Victoria University has partnered with the Western Bulldogs Football Club to find new ways of reaching communities often reluctant to seek support.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Breakfast, 11/09/2026, Jess Ong

A suicide prevention forum in Darwin, which continues today, has heard about barriers within the health system affecting those seeking help for loved ones at risk of suicide. The Northern Territory's World Suicide Prevention Day forum yesterday heard from around 40 speakers, including mental health professionals and those personally affected by suicide.

IMMUNISATION

Diphtheria: WA Authorities renew push for greater vaccination against disease after two cases in Perth

West Australian, Other, 11/09/2026, Oliver Lane

Two cases of the deadly diphtheria disease have been detected in Perth in the past two weeks, sparking an urgent reminder for Indigenous people to get vaccinated. WA's chief health officer Clare Huppatz said the two cases were not connected, with one related to a patient who had recently travelled to regional WA.

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

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 11/09/2026, Michael Thomson

Perth has recorded its second case of diphtheria in as little as two weeks, bringing the state's total cases to 240. Health authorities do not believe the two Perth cases are linked, but they are urging Aboriginal people living in the metro area to get vaccinated.

[Play Now](#)[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

'Cascade' of interventions for low-risk pregnancies

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 12/09/2026, Rachel Rasker, Page 3

Rising numbers of first-time mothers with low-risk pregnancies are experiencing a "cascade" of birth interventions, from inductions to caesarean sections, analysis of more than 343,000 births in NSW reveals. More than one in four women (25.6 per cent) giving birth to their first child in 2018 and deemed to be low-risk experienced a labour induction or augmentation, followed by an epidural, then an instrumental birth or unscheduled caesarean section, with each intervention making the next more likely.

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

Autism link to chemical

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 12/09/2026, Page 7

A common chemical used to make plastic more flexible is linked to the development of autism and ADHD symptoms in early childhood, according to Australian research. Exposure to the plasticiser DEHP in pregnancy has previously been linked to autism/ADHD in young children.

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

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

AI not spot on for health

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 12/09/2026, Page 9

Artificial intelligence is transforming healthcare - among most of other fields - but Charles Sturt

University research has found that when it comes to detecting melanoma, experienced dermatologists still outperform AI technology. The findings are particularly significant in Australia, which has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#)

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

Logos linked to poor diet

Hobart Mercury, General News, 12/09/2026, Page 9

A new study suggests liking well-known fast-food and sugar-sweetened beverage brands may be a strong warning sign of a poor overall diet, even among those who rate these brands as unhealthy. The University of Technology research shows repeated exposure to branding can build familiarity and positive feelings that spill over into health perceptions and dietary choices.

Also reported by: [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\) \(Perth\)](#)

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

Study a shot in arm for cancer fight

Courier Mail, General News, 12/09/2026, Page 30

The same technology used to deliver mRNA in Covid-19 vaccines is being used to target a type of immune cell that can help tumours evade the body's defences. Adelaide University researchers have effectively reprogrammed these cells so they can do their job and fight cancer in experiments on mice.

Also reported by: [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\) \(Perth\)](#)

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

Sugar substitutes linked to heart attack and stroke risk

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 12/09/2026, Sarah Berry, Page 24

At the European Society of Cardiology congress in Munich in late August, there was chatter among the attendees about one particular presentation. It was by Dr Marco Witkowski, from the Charit University Hospital in Berlin, whose previous work had suggested sugar substitutes, such as the sugar alcohol xylitol, may increase the body's tendency to form blood clots.

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

People often skip a life-saving test for one big reason. In a month, that reason will be gone

The Saturday Age, General News, 12/09/2026, Angus Dalton, Page 30

What happens when evidence alone isn't enough? That was the problem faced by public health researcher Dr Jane Tiller a decade ago when she realised DNA screening could be catching and preventing thousands of cancers and early heart attacks each year.

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

Aussie calculator launched to help doctors overcome hesitations with heart failure treatment

Australian Doctor, Other, 11/09/2026, Louise Goodwin

A new heart failure treatment effect calculator will help doctors overcome concerns about prescribing life-saving medications, according to Aussie researchers. The first of its kind, the calculator has been launched by George Institute for Global Health having been modelled from almost 40,000 participants across nine major heart failure trials.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Weight-loss campaigns aimed at First Nations women look like drug marketing in disguise

If you've scrolled through social media or watched TV, you've probably seen campaigns featuring women describing how difficult weight loss can be. These say you've probably "tried everything".

[Read More](#)

New book revitalises language, equips young people to talk about mental health, and asks: Are You OK Today?

National Indigenous Times, Other, 11/09/2026, Jarred Cross

Western Australia's Kimberley has one of the highest suicide rates in the world. It's an issue that significantly impacts young people, and First Nations young people particularly.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Hospital overhaul kicks off

Northern Territory News, General News, 12/09/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 5

Maternity being upgraded The maternity ward at Royal Darwin Hospital is moving to a temporary new home as a much-anticipated \$500,000 overhaul begins on the ward's faulty aircon.

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

Delay leaves nurses angry

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 12/09/2026, Jessica Page, Page 13

Patient ratios that were a key Labor promise to end a damaging pay battle with nurses have apparently stalled, with the nurses' union issuing a blistering rebuke over the delay. In an email to Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation WA members it was revealed the next phase of the rollout of nurse to patient ratios part of a 2023 agreement is now in limbo "with no new timeline provided".

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

System 'failure'

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 12/09/2026, Brodie Everist, Page 1

A coroner has found a Bendigo hospital failed to assess a man's mental health - which may have saved his life - before he self-discharged and died. The coroner's findings on the 2021 death of Mitchell Dean Johns, who twice self-discharged from Bendigo Hospital before he died, say Bendigo Health's lack of a second mental health assessment for the man was a "serious failure" that could have stopped his death.

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

Need an ambulance? In line for surgery?

Western Advocate, General News, 12/09/2026, Orlander Ruming, Page 10

Half the patients with life-threatening conditions are being forced to wait longer than recommended at Dubbo's emergency department. Patients classified as emergency - those with life-threatening conditions or who are in severe pain - should be seen within 10 minutes of their arrival at the hospital.

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

Talk won't fix health crisis

Western Advocate, General News, 12/09/2026, Orlander Ruming, Page 10

Seven minutes and three seconds. In a two-day event touted as "tackling pressing issues facing our regions", that's how long healthcare was discussed at the National Bush Summit.

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

Inside hospital's emergency ward 'mess'

A woman has slammed Bathurst Hospital for long wait times and a rush to discharge her while she was experiencing symptoms associated with respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). The Western NSW Local Health District (WNSWLHD) has since apologised and reached out to the former patient, Helen Birkens, to discuss her experience.

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

[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Migrant talent lost to red tape and high costs

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 12/09/2026, Brittany Busch, Page 5

Dr Maha Selvanathan applied for 438 jobs in Australia before a rural NSW clinic offered her a role as a general practitioner. It took another three years and \$55,000 before she was allowed to start working there.

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

Policy forcing doctors into homelessness, inquiry hears

Canberra Times, Other, 11/09/2026, Will Nicholas

Doctors are effectively being left homeless by a migration policy designed to fix rural healthcare shortages, a parliamentary committee has been told. A requirement for foreign physicians to spend 10 years working outside urban centres after arriving in Australia has resulted in doctors being dumped in remote areas without any consideration of how to settle them, witnesses said.

[Read More](#)

Graduate nurses overwhelmed by workload pressures in rural health facilities, report finds

ABC Online, Other, 11/09/2026, Olivia Nunes

Danielle Rogers did not know what to expect when she moved to Monto — more than 400 kilometres north-west of Brisbane — to complete her graduate nursing program in 2010. "I think I cried all the way there," she said.

[Read More](#)

Doctors signing prescribing agreements with nurses need medical board guidance on the legal risks, lawyers warn

Australian Doctor, Other, 11/09/2026, Ciara Seccombe

Lawyers are seeking guidance from the Medical Board of Australia, amid growing uncertainty about the medicolegal risks faced by doctors signing partnership agreements with RNs allowing them to prescribe. Formal written agreements with doctors or nurse practitioners are a mandatory part of the RN prescribing model and are meant to document when an RN can initiate and cease medications, along with the conditions and indications for which they can prescribe.

[Read More](#)

New medical school graduates offered six-month deferment on AHPRA rego fees

Australian Doctor, Other, 12/09/2026, Ciara Seccombe

Newly graduated medical students will be allowed to defer paying their registration fees for up to six months under a new AHPRA pilot program. The regulator said some students do not have much money in savings after university and placements, and its goal is to let new graduates establish an income before they have to pay for their provisional registration.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Channel 9, Today , 11/09/2026, Tom Steinfort and Sylvia Jeffreys

Australians with a rare subtype of motor neurone disease will soon be able to access a cheaper treatment option from next month. The Federal Government has registered Qalsody on the PBS, and it will now cost \$25 per script.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

System to catch bad doctors is causing harm to the good ones

The Australian, Other, 11/09/2026, Michael Gannon

The regulator meant to protect patients has no bar on accepting complaints – and its own data shows 16 doctors took their lives while under its scrutiny. Complaints weaponised in the Family Court; anonymous complaints; no bar to accepting any kind of complaint, no matter how trivial; lengthy and onerous procedures that perpetuate stress and despair, sometimes to the point of suicide.

[Read More](#)

Thomas Brough cautioned for LGBTQIA+ comments made in 2024

ABC Online, Other, 11/09/2026, Rachel Jennings

An Albany councillor and former Liberal candidate has been cautioned by the State Administrative Tribunal over his comments falsely linking the LGBTQIA+ community with paedophiles. Thomas Brough, who is an emergency doctor at the Albany Health Campus, was referred to the SAT last year by the Medical Board of Australia after complaints to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

[Read More](#)

SAT finds Thomas Brough 'behaved in a way that is of a lesser standard' for a doctor over LGBTQIA+ comments

West Australian, Other, 11/09/2026, Melissa Sheil

The State Administrative Tribunal has cautioned an Albany doctor after finding he engaged in professional misconduct when he made allegedly homophobic comments about the LGBTQIA+ community in his capacity as a councillor. The caution, which followed a complaint from the Medical Board of Australia, involved four instances between February and April 2024 wherein Dr Thomas Brough linked paedophiles or "minor-attracted persons" to the LGBTQIA+ community.

[Read More](#)

Police drop investigation into gynaecologist accused of performing unnecessary endometriosis surgeries

Australian Doctor, Other, 11/09/2026, Heather Saxena

Victoria Police have dropped an investigation into Dr Simon Gordon, the former gynaecologist accused of performing unnecessary endometriosis procedures on female patients. Dr Gordon came to the attention of regulators in February following a Four Corners investigation that alleged multiple women had made complaints to Epworth HealthCare hospitals, where the surgeries took place, and to AHPRA.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

AUSTRALIAN CDC

'Disfiguring': Behind the growing spread of a flesh-eating ulcer

SBS, Other, 11/09/2026, Veronique Paris and Andrew Buultjens

A growing number of Buruli ulcer cases is prompting fresh research into prevention. Buruli ulcer cases have spread beyond coastal Victoria, with new clusters reported in Melbourne suburbs.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 11/09/2026, Steve Austin

The latest health data shows there were more than 3400 influenza cases in Queensland in the past week, as a late flu wave sweeps across the state. A recent report from Queensland Health has revealed that flu cases have trended upwards since July.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Matilda Baxter shows off slim waist after controversial surgery

Daily Mail UK, Other, 11/09/2026, Jade Watkins

An Australian influencer who underwent the controversial 'Barbie waist' procedure has shocked with her non-existent midsection. [...] Adelaide-based Matilda uses a risky combination of tanning peptides that are not approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), and a home solarium.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

New drug 100 times stronger than heroin linked to death

Canberra Times, General News, 12/09/2026, Hannah Neale, Page 12

A new drug said to be 100 times more potent than heroin has been linked to a woman's death in an ACT first. The woman, who The Canberra Times has chosen not to name, was 42 years old when she died in her Ainslie home in July 2022.

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

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

Death of Canberra woman first in the ACT linked to highly potent synthetic opioid

ABC Online, Other, 11/09/2026, Harry Frost

The ACT Coroner's Court has found the overdose death of a 42-year-old woman is the first in Canberra

with an established linked to a novel psychoactive substance. The woman's body was found at her home in Ainslie in July 2022 by her housemate who called emergency services.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

AICIS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

Prepared by Isentia

Subject to copyright. For internal use only.

See [Copyright Terms of Use](#)

