



TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 15th September 2026

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The West Australian](#)** (page 1) leads reports that One Nation's proposed policy to slash temporary visa holders by 750,000 over three years has faced criticism from the Federal Government, with the Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler stating that the cuts would severely affect health, aged care, and disability sectors that rely heavily on migrant workers, particularly in rural communities.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 2) reports a national snapshot by the Kirby Institute shows diagnosis rates for syphilis and gonorrhoea have increased by more than 50 per cent over the past decade, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities continuing to be disproportionately affected.
- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 9) reports that social media trends encouraging healthy individuals to microdose GLP-1 medications for health optimisation are unsupported by clinical trials, and doctors warn the practice carries serious health risks including vision loss. In response to potential adverse events, the Therapeutic Goods Administration has updated product warnings across GLP-1 medications due to the potential for these products to cause a rare but severe eye disorder.
- **[The Medical Journal of Australia](#)** (online) reports data from the AIHW shows extreme heat caused 78 per cent of weather-related injury hospitalisations over a decade, with experts

recommending the Commonwealth develop a national heat preparedness framework for the year's extreme El Niño.

- **Pharmacy Daily** (page 1) reports the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has announced the Palliative Care Pharmacist Integration and Workforce Development Initiative, funded by the DoHDA, aimed at upskilling pharmacists, expanding advance care planning roles, and supporting career pathways in palliative care.
- **The Daily Advertiser** (page 1) reports nurses and carers have travelled to Parliament House as part of the ANMF national campaign to demand that the Federal Government replace care minutes with mandated staffing ratios, address workplace violence, and increase financial transparency.
- **The Hobart Mercury** (page 1) reports the Tasmanian state government has earmarked 13 parcels of Crown land for potential aged care and assisted living facilities, following statements by Federal Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae acknowledging the nation's broader demand for additional aged care beds.

MINISTER BUTLER

Dusty's long walk to help little children fly high

Daily Telegraph, Edition Changes, 15/09/2026, Jessica Wang, Page 7

A marching band, socks from the parliament gift shop and a welcome by a bevy of politicians was how 12-year-old Dusty Langby was welcomed to Canberra after a 16day 540km fund raising walk from his hometown of Warren in northwestern NSW. But today is crunch time for the young Roosters fan, who is set to lobby Anthony Albanese and Health Minister Mark Butler this morning to get more funding for Little Wings, a charity which flies sick kids from the bush and their families to pediatric hospitals, often in the city.

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

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Migrant cut a growth killer

West Australian, General News, 15/09/2026, Andrew Greene, Page 1

One Nation has been accused of endangering the Australian economy particularly in the bush under a plan to slash the number of temporary visa holders by 750,000. [...] Labor frontbencher Murray Watt warned the plan would "kill the Australian economy and kill regional economies in particular", while his Labor colleague and Health Minister Mark Butler said it would hit industries already heavily reliant on migrant workers.

Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#), [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [The Daily Aus \(Online\)](#), [The Indian Sun \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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'Punching down': pensioners to cover half of rebate cut

Canberra Times, Other, 14/09/2026, Noah Secomb

Older Australians on the pension, set to fork out more for private health insurance due to government budget measures, will face "unfair" cost pressures, according to an independent MP. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler's office has been contacted for comment.

Also reported by: [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

One Nation would have more people leaving than entering Australia over three years

The Conversation, Other, 14/09/2026, Michelle Grattan

One Nation on Monday released a radical policy proposing Australia net overseas migration (NOM) be negative over three years, as the country reduced its temporary migrant population by 750,000. [...]

Health Minister Mark Butler said: "This would absolutely smash industries like construction that rely very heavily on migrant workers, but also devastate health and aged care and disability sectors that particularly rely upon migrant workers, especially in rural communities where it's very difficult to find Australian-trained doctors."

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

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Pensioners to shoulder \$1.6b of private health insurance cash grab, analysis reveals

MSN Australia, Other, 14/09/2026, Stephanie Dalzell

Pensioners will be hit hard by the federal government's controversial private health insurance rebate changes, with new analysis revealing that about half of the \$3 billion in forecast savings will be clawed back from those on lower incomes. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler last week vowed to press ahead with the changes, saying while he recognised they would be a cost-of-living hit for older Australians, the federal budget's bottom line meant there was little money available for new aged care spending.

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Pensioners left in tears over Australia's controversial health insurance rebate changes

7News.com.au, Other, 14/09/2026, Nick McCallum

Pensioners have been left in tears over a controversial plan to overhaul Australia's private health insurance sector. [...] "These are one of the hard decisions we have to make if we're going to deliver to older Australians the dignity and care that they deserve," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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'Cash grab': \$1.6 billion in budget savings from health insurance rebate changes will come from age pensioners, analysis shows

News24 Australia, Other, 14/09/2026, Kate Fowler

A sweeping \$1.6 billion in planned aged care savings from government reforms to private health insurance rebates will come from aged pensioners, a new analysis reveals. [...] Mark Butler, Minister for Health and Ageing, described the different rebate amounts as "harder to defend" and "not fair between generations", arguing that two households on the same income should not receive different rebates simply because of their age.

[Read More](#)

Mark Butler would be delighted with a 95% bulk-billing rate. So why aren't my patients any healthier?

Australian Doctor, Other, 14/09/2026, Ken McCroary

There is something deeply uncomfortable about celebrating the fact that GP bulk-billing rates in some of my local communities has reached 95%. Why do they continue to experience some of the poorest health outcomes in Australia.

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MND rates soar in western NSW

The Medical Republic, Other, 14/09/2026, Amanda Sheppeard

Motor neurone disease is striking people in western NSW at unusually high rates, with new Australian research finding incidence more than four times the latest global estimate and pockets of prevalence reaching almost seven times the expected rate. [...] Meanwhile, federal health minister Mark Butler has announced a new Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme listing for Australians living with a type of MND.

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Pensioner backlash: Thousands sign petition against health insurance changes

The Senior, Other, 14/09/2026, Carla Mascarenhas

Thousands of Australians have signed a new petition launched by the Council on the Ageing (COTA) to

fight the federal government's controversial changes to private health insurance. [...] The Senior has requested an interview with Health Minister Mark Butler on the proposal, but he has declined to comment.

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Rae, Butler were warned assessors could not override IAT days before launch

Health Services Daily, Other, 14/09/2026, Cate Swannell

The DoHDA knew its advice to aged care assessors conflicted with the rules before Support at Home began. Most assessment organisations subsequently raised concerns and reported algorithm results that did not align with clients' needs.

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Govt floats cap on specialist fees in new crackdown

The Limbic, Other, 14/09/2026, Emma Koehn

Fee caps, incentives for lower out-of-pocket costs and penalties for specialists deemed to charge excessive fees are among the options now under consideration as the federal government targets specialist affordability. [...] Minister for health, disability and ageing Mark Butler has been clear for months that specialist affordability is a flagship policy of this term of the Albanese government, repeatedly calling the issue a "barbecue stopper"

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PCFA warns nursing shift could harm prostate care

The Limbic, Other, 14/09/2026, Mardi Chapman

A federal government plan to move specialist prostate cancer nursing funding to the McGrath Foundation risks harming patient care, the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia has warned. [...] He called for public and parliamentary scrutiny, saying the government should release its decision, reasoning and evidence, and urged Health Minister Mark Butler to reconsider.

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HIV diagnoses in Australia show more work needed to reach some groups

OUTinPerth, Other, 15/09/2026, Graeme Watson

New Kirby Institute data show Australia has met key global HIV testing and treatment targets, but experts warn that progress is not being shared equally across communities. [...] In 2024 the Australian government launched the Ninth National HIV Strategy with Health Minister Mark Butler restating Australia's commitment to eliminate blood borne viruses and sexually transmitted infections by 2030.

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'Stranded' Far North residents stuck in hospitals due to lack of community care

Cape York Weekly, Other, 14/09/2026, Luke Mortimer

Dozens of Far North Queensland aged care and NDIS patients have been languishing in the region's public hospitals unnecessarily due to insufficient options for care in the community. [...] State Health and Ambulance Services Minister Tim Nicholls was due to speak to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler about the "stranded Australians" during a meeting last week.

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ABC, ABC News, 14/09/2026, Jeremy Fernandez

Pensioners will be hit hard by upcoming changes by the Federal Government to private health insurance rebates, but the independents and the Coalition are teaming up to criticise Labor's move to wind back the rebate those aged 65 and over receive on their private health cover. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler stated that it was not an easy decision.

Similar coverage reported by: [ABC \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC \(Brisbane\)](#), [ABC \(Canberra\)](#), [ABC \(Hobart\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC \(Perth\)](#).

Channel 9, Today , 14/09/2026, Tom Steinfert and Sylvia Jeffreys

Panel discussion with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and Paul Sakkal, Chief Political Correspondent, Nine Papers. Compere says One Nation is revealing today its long-awaited immigration policy, with attempts to slash temporary Visa holders by 750,000 during three years of negative overseas migration. Butler says One Nation leader Pauline Hanson, a few weeks ago, mentioned that she did not care what the impact on business would be of her migration policies, but he believes that this move is on another level. He believes that the move by One Nation would smash industries like construction that rely heavily on migrant workers.

[Play Now](#)

3RRR FM, Breakfasters, 14/09/2026, Daniel Burt, Nat Harris and Jason Moore

Australia is believed to have paid more than five times the benchmark price to visit a specialist doctor on more than a million occasions in 2025. It comes as the health department discovered Health Minister Mark Butler has put excessive fees in his sights as Labor attempts to alleviate persistent cost-of-living pressures on Australians.

Also reported by: [3AW \(Melbourne\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

2GB, Drive, 14/09/2026, Clinton Maynard

Interview with Private Healthcare Australia CEO Dr Rachel David, on the Federal Government's plans to reduce out-of-pocket fees when patients seek medical treatment from specialists. Maynard says Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has asked for advice, and he wants to see different options for controlling the growth of out-of-pocket expenses. David says they have seen steep increases in the median specialist fee for several specialist consults since the middle of the pandemic, and she adds that inflation has affected wages, costs of energy and food, but it should not affect medical specialists uniquely.

[Play Now](#)

6PR, 11:00 News, 14/09/2026

Private health insurers are backing an effort by the Federal Government to rein in the price of seeing some medical specialists. The promise from Federal Health Minister Mark Butler follows an analysis showing Australians paid more than five times the benchmark price for a visit to a specialist on more than a million occasions last year.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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MINISTER RAE

Land offer for aged care homes

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/09/2026, Rob Inglis, Page 1

Thirteen parcels of Crown land have been earmarked for potential new aged care and assisted living facilities as the state government looks to tap private operators to bring the plans to life. [...] Federal Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae last month acknowledged the need for further aged care beds.

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

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Rae, Butler were warned assessors could not override IAT days before launch

Health Services Daily, Other, 14/09/2026, Cate Swannell

The DoHDA knew its advice to aged care assessors conflicted with the rules before Support at Home began. Most assessment organisations subsequently raised concerns and reported algorithm results that did not align with clients' needs.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Dusty Langby arrives in Canberra after 540km journey to urge Albanese to invest in Little Wings, pediatric care

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/09/2026, Jessica Wang

A marching band, socks from the parliament gift shop and a greeting by a bevy of politicians was how 12-year-old Dusty Langby was welcomed to Canberra after a gruelling 540km walk from his hometown of Warren in regional NSW. [...] On the lawns of parliament, Dusty and his team were greeted by Emergency Minister Kristy McBain, Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride and NSW senator Deb O'Neil, who presented him with a book about Parliament House, and a gift of socks.

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

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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DEPARTMENT

PSA advances pall care role

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 14/09/2026, Page 1

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has announced initiatives that will facilitate pharmacists in providing greater support for people with life-limiting illnesses, their families, carers, and the interprofessional teams who care for them. [...] The PSA's Palliative Care Pharmacist Integration and Workforce Development Initiative is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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

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

Go hard on doctor fee crackdown, say insurers

The Medical Republic, Other, 14/09/2026, Holly Payne

Private Healthcare Australia is calling on the government not to pull any punches when it comes to reining in out-of-pocket patient costs, beseeching it to "go further to address the broader rise ... not just the extreme outliers". [...] Last week, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing released a consultation paper outlining six potential options to tackle extremely high non-GP specialist fees.

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

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Dire emergency wait times at Royal Hobart Hospital expose 'system at breaking point': Labor

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 12/09/2026, Rob Inglis

An average of four out of five patients were not treated within a clinically recommended time frame at the Royal Hobart Hospital emergency department last week, with nearly 90 per cent of people in potentially life-threatening conditions failing to be seen on time. The Health System Dashboard, which publishes daily data and is maintained by the Department of Health, shows that a median of just 20.6 per cent of RHH emergency patients were assessed and treated in a timely manner during the period beginning Saturday, September 5 and ending Friday, September 11.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

'This is a big issue'

Daily Advertiser, General News, 15/09/2026, Jac Marshall, Page 1

Riverina aged care nurses and carers have travelled to Parliament House in Canberra to urge the federal government to mandate staffing ratios across the sector. In response to the ongoing aged care crisis, the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association and the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation have joined forces to launch a national campaign demanding reform.

Also reported by: [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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Provider explores spiritual needs in dementia care

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 14/09/2026

Anglicare Southern Queensland has brought together researchers and practitioners for a webinar exploring how meaning, connection and personhood can endure beyond memory. The webinar, hosted by Anglicare SQ's Centre for Research and Social Change on 9 September, also explored the spiritual dimensions of dementia as people transition from entry into residential aged care to advanced dementia and end-of-life care.

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CCH embeds dementia doula role

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 14/09/2026

South Australian-based aged care provider Clayton Church Homes has become the first known

residential aged care organisation to embed trained dementia doulas in its staffing model. Six staff members have recently completed a four-day dementia doula training program and will now become an additional layer of support for residents, families and staff across CCH's five aged care homes.

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Knowledge brokers boost uptake of best practice

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 14/09/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

New research from Monash University has found that strategic, systems-level approaches can significantly improve how guidelines are followed, offering a blueprint for the evolving residential aged care sector. The Evidence-based Medication knowledge Brokers in Residential Aged Care trial looked at the use of knowledge brokers – the intermediaries who bridge the gap between evidence and practice – for implementing Australia's Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Appropriate Use of Psychotropic Medications for People Living with Dementia and in Residential Aged Care.

[Read More](#)

Dementia prevention needs broader scope

Community Care Review, Other, 14/09/2026

Research from Curtin University shows that dementia prevention efforts may be focusing too much on individual choices and overlooking the broader social and environmental factors that shape brain health. The research team argues that effective dementia prevention requires coordinated action across sectors, including education, urban planning, environmental policy and health care.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Stroke survivor feels brunt of waning NDIS support in Colac

Age, General News, 15/09/2026, Benjamin Preiss, Page 13

Peter Barry was about to start an exciting new chapter in his life. [...] Barry said support from the National Disability Insurance Scheme enabled him to regain some independence particularly through the provision of a motorised scooter he used to make trips to the shops.

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

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Ocean Grove mum threatens VCAT action after school allegedly banned external therapists

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/09/2026, Olivia Conder

A parent says she is prepared to take an Ocean Grove school to VCAT over a lack of disability inclusion. [...] "For many students with additional needs, accessing vital allied health services ... is the key to unlocking their educational potential."

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

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PRIMARY CARE

Calvary likely to offload some Healthscope assets

The Australian, Business News, 15/09/2026, Page 13

A syndicate of between five and 10 financiers is believed to be backing Calvary Health Care for its acquisition of 16 Healthscope assets, but sources close to the situation say that the not-for-profit Catholic healthcare operator may sell or hand over some of the newly acquired hospitals over time.

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

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Lenders seal deal to carve up assets of Healthscope

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 15/09/2026, Colin Kruger, Page 24

Australia's second-largest private hospital operator, Healthscope, will be broken up, with Sydney's Prince of Wales Private Hospital and Melbourne's Knox Private Hospital to be sold to private equity under a deal announced yesterday. Lenders to the embattled healthcare group approved the deal, which follows its financial collapse in April last year under \$1.7 billion worth of debt after its private equity owner, Brookfield, walked away.

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

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Yeah baby

Northern Territory News, General News, 15/09/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 1

Calvary Health Care has been named as the new operator of Darwin Private Hospital, ending 16 months of uncertainty over the future of the NT's only private hospital. It is a decision welcomed by Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro who said the new operator is committed to restoring maternity services to the hospital.

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Health provider to open GP service in Nhulunbuy

Northern Territory News, General News, 15/09/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 3

A Darwin primary healthcare provider is expanding its reach to Nhulunbuy as the NT community receives \$1.37 million to support access needed healthcare services. Top End Medical Centre, which operates four clinics across Greater Darwin, has been selected to deliver ongoing general practice (GP) services to the Top End community from October 12.

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Birthing care returns to Biloela, Cooktown, after mum's three-year fight

ABC Online, Other, 14/09/2026, Jacob Gamble & Hannah Moon

Katie Craig's son was born three months early, making him one of the last children born in Biloela Hospital's birthing unit before it shut down in 2022, forcing expectant mothers out of town. [...] Ms Craig believes the lives of both her and her son could have been at risk if they had been unable to access specialised care locally.

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Concern over NSW scope expansion

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 14/09/2026

THE Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has accused NSW Premier Chris Minns of prioritising politics over patient safety by expanding its pharmacist prescribing scheme, as announced at Pharmacy Connect last week. RACGP NSW & ACT chair Dr Rebekah Hoffman said better access to healthcare was critical, but could not come at the expense of patient safety.

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A very strong El Niño is coming: is Australian general practice ready?

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 14/09/2026, Bernard Shiu

The World Meteorological Organization forecasts the tropical Pacific reaching a seasonal average Niño3.4 anomaly of about 2.0°C between July and September this year, and NOAA's July diagnostic discussion put the odds of a very strong event peaking between October and December at 81%. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found extreme heat caused 7,104 of 9,119 directly attributable extreme weather injury hospitalisations, about 78%, over the decade to 2021 to 22, and that bushfire related hospitalisations happen 1.6 times as often in El Niño years as in La Niña years.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Sam wanted a baby. This diagnosis cost him \$90,000 and his relationship

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 14/09/2026, Courtney Thompson

As a healthy 26-year-old, Samuel Goodwin-Dorning never had reason to doubt his fertility. Wanting to start their family young, he and his wife began trying to conceive.

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Gonorrhoea and syphilis rise by more than 50% in Australia with 'concerning' rise in cases in women

The Guardian, Other, 15/09/2026, Achol Arok

Rates of reported gonorrhoea and infectious syphilis have increased by more than 50% across Australia over the past decade, with experts warning of concerning rises among women. Newly collated sexual health data from UNSW's Kirby Institute shows 42,393 gonorrhoea notifications and 5,986 infectious syphilis notifications were recorded in 2025.

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Understanding bias in medical AI systems

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 14/09/2026, Tracey Cheung

AI medical tools are contributing to medical innovations and clinical efficiencies globally, and experts recognise their potential to revolutionise clinical medicine. Meanwhile, there are growing concerns about the bias in medical AI technologies can exhibit and their impact on health care and treatment.

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Mozzies are causing Buruli ulcers in more parts of Australia. Here's what you need to know

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 14/09/2026, Cameron Webb, Andrew Buultjens & Veronique Paris

The threat of mosquitoes depositing flesh-eating bacteria has been restricted to a few parts of the country. But while rare, research shows it is now showing up in more areas – including in backyards in Melbourne's inner city.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Cancer's costly battle

Herald Sun, General News, 15/09/2026, Page 3

More Australians survive cancer than ever before, but new research shows the hidden legal and financial cost is mounting. A McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer report exposes a widening gap between the support people with cancer need and what the system actually provides.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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The cost of cancer: how do you pay bills if you're seriously ill?

Newcastle Herald, General News, 15/09/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

Mitch Tisdell lost about \$50,000 in income while he was being treated for blood cancer. [...] "There needs to be more assistance from state and federal governments in the form of subsidies and other supports to cover out-of-pocket expenses, especially for those undergoing prolonged treatment or those from rural areas."

Melb researchers uncover hidden heart rate cycles in 70 per cent of people

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/09/2026, Brendan Kearns

Melbourne University researchers have discovered a link to a secret "unique rhythm" that could change the way we think about heart health. [...] Lead researcher Associate Professor Pip Karoly said it could have implications for how high-performing athletes understand their resting heart rate, the likelihood that a heart disease sufferer experiences palpitations or how effective cancer treatments are at different stages of these "infradian" cycles.

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

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More women are receiving treatment for endometriosis

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 14/09/2026, Nance Haxton

The rate of endometriosis hospitalisations has increased more than four times faster than female hospitalisations overall in the past decade. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has published the data, providing insights for the first time into surgical procedures commonly performed to treat endometriosis.

[Read More](#)

What are statins? And can healthy people use them to prevent heart disease and dementia?

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 14/09/2026

Every month, around million Australians have a statin dispensed to lower their risk of heart attack and stroke. Statins reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease, the collective term for conditions involving the heart and blood vessels.

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Committee concerned cancer cuts will cost lives

Shepparton News Online, Other, 14/09/2026, Bree Harding

Federal Government plans to stop funding its Prostate Cancer Specialist Nursing Program could cost lives, particularly in rural and regional areas, says Shepparton's Biggest Ever Blokes Lunch Committee. [...] The Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia currently supports a national network of 131 specialist prostate cancer nurses, including 96 Commonwealth-funded positions, with 35 nurses funded through local community and partner organisations.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

You don't need a crisis to benefit from a psychologist

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 15/09/2026, Brendan Meagher, Page 10

A common reason people don't see a psychologist is surprisingly simple: they aren't sure whether their problem is big enough. They might be struggling with stress, feeling overwhelmed, having difficulties in a relationship, sleeping badly, losing confidence or simply not feeling like themselves.

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IMMUNISATION

A shot in the arm for lies as we snub cancer cure

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 15/09/2026, Ann Wason, Page 6

It seems nothing goes more viral than misinformation about an actual virus. Even, apparently, a literal solution for cancer. Twenty years ago, a breakthrough vaccine against diseases that killed millions of women and men was released, one that was created right here in Queensland.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Alarm over baby deaths from syphilis

The Australian, General News, 15/09/2026, Penny Timms, Page 2

Healthcare workers need to "do their jobs" and routinely test women and Indigenous patients for sexually transmissible infections, amid fears the deaths of 40 babies from syphilis in the past decade could have been prevented. A new national snapshot of STIs by the Kirby Institute, which focuses on infectious diseases, shows rates of syphilis and gonorrhoea among women are rising rapidly, while Indigenous communities have a disproportionately high incidence of sexually transmitted diseases.

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

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ADA NSW sounds alarm over rebate change

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 14/09/2026

The New South Wales Australian Dental Association branch has warned that changes to the private health insurance rebate risk putting dental care further out of reach for older Australians. More than half of Australians aged over 65 delayed dental treatment in the last year, primarily due to affordability, and the peak body has raised concern that the pending Private Health Insurance Amendment (Modernising the Private Health Insurance Rebate) Bill 2026 could put further cost pressure on people.

Also reported by: [Bite Magazine \(Online\)](#).

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Founders not out of CGT woods

The Australian, Technology, 15/09/2026, Jared Lynch, Page 20

Anthony Albanese and Jim Chalmers have retreated on key parts of Labor's capital gains tax overhaul, but tech founders warn the backflip has created extra bureaucracy while failing to properly support local drug discovery, and still risks driving younger entrepreneurs overseas. [...] Mr Williams chairs ASX-listed biotech Arovella, which is developing a cell therapy platform to fight cancer and is treating its first patient at the Alfred Hospital this month, criticised the \$50m turnover cap and 15-year cut-off as "nonsense".

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Channel 10, 10 News, 14/09/2026, Sharyn Ghidella

New research from Queensland scientists is revealing a link between the mind and the body when it comes to depression. The findings could lead to new ways to treat mental health as well as other conditions in the future.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Vital treatment on country': More purple houses

Northern Territory News, General News, 15/09/2026, Gera Kazakov, Page 12

More opportunities for "lifesaving treatment on country" in the Territory are in the pipeline, with a not-for-profit operating a number of remote renal clinics expanding. Purple House is seeking an exceptional development permit for a new clinic in Ali Curung, as planning and construction remains underway for new clinics in seven other communities.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Paper system 'archaic'

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 15/09/2026, Lochlainn Heley, Page 3

A senior solicitor at Law Partners Injury Lawyers described the Mildura Base Public Hospital's paper system as archaic after reports circulated of a patient who had died after waiting 16 months for a referral. Up to 150 patients' paper referrals were reported to have been untriaged dating back to 2024, with one cancer patient who has since died and another who is terminally ill following delays.

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News24, The Jaimee Rogers Show, 13/09/2026, Jaimee Rogers

Worn burnout, chronic understaffing and heavy workloads are putting patient care at risk. More than 2,400 nurses left the state's hospitals between 2024 and 2025, the highest number in four years. Almost another 1,700 departed in the first six months of the following financial year.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Security revamp after brutal attack on nurse

Cairns Post, General News, 15/09/2026, Samuel Davis, Page 6

Key changes to security have been made at Cairns Hospital following a brutal assault by a patient on a nurse inside the Mental Health Unit earlier this month. The female health worker sustained multiple injuries during the altercation, including to her head and neck, with two security guards forced to place the male patient in seclusion.

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QCAT disciplinary hearing finds nurse's drunken behaviour professional misconduct

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 14/09/2026, Jorina Maureschat

A nurse who clocked in for an overnight shift at a private hospital whilst intoxicated has been found to have shown professional misconduct but can stay on the job, recently published documents have revealed. [...] In response, the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia submitted she had a substance abuse disorder, substance dependency or any related mental health condition which would impact her capacity to work as a registered nurse.

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Looking at the bigger picture

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 15/09/2026, Katrina Lovell, Page 1

A "niche" way of practising medicine for a doctor who calls one small southwest town home has gained the attention of the medical community. [...] Dr Hammond - who established home visiting and disability care services, including bulk-billed, on-site healthcare for residents of a local disability support service - was among five "exceptional" rural generalists who were recognised.

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Hospital doctors avoid strike

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 15/09/2026, Page 3

At the 11th hour, doctors at the Mildura Base Public Hospital who planned to take part in protected industrial action on Tuesday have been shut down. According to a spokesperson from the Australian Medical Association Victoria, the state government advised last week that if it did not believe hospitals could be sufficiently staffed during the stoppage, it would use technical and patient safety mechanisms to stop the action.

Also reported by: [Sunraysia Daily \(Online\)](#)

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System failures 'putting lives at risk'

Burnie Advocate, General News, 15/09/2026, Matt Maloney, Page 7

Pulling paramedics from major hubs to plug regional gaps leaves both cities and country towns dangerously short-staffed, Health and Community Services Union (HACSU) state secretary Robbie Moore says. [...] The union leader's comments follow a response from Health Minister Bridget Archer to questions from Braddon Labor MHA Anita Dow that the Smithton ambulance station was left without a local branch station officer on four separate shifts since July.

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Where can pharmacists get funding for prescribing training?

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 14/09/2026, Chloe Hava

Pharmacists across Australia can access thousands of dollars in government funding to complete PSA's Graduate Certificate in Pharmacist Prescribing. But what's covered varies between jurisdictions. For pharmacists looking to expand their scope of practice, postgraduate training in pharmacist prescribing can incur a significant financial commitment.

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Rural doctors gain specialist recognition

Shepparton News Online, Other, 14/09/2026, Daniel Harvey

Rochester and Elmore are hoping to be at the head of the queue, with specialist registration now available for rural generalists. Giving them that specialist recognition is expected to strengthen medical recruitment and retention in regional communities such as those covered by Rochester and Elmore District Health Service.

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Nationals promise \$10k to healthcare workers who move regionally

Shepparton News Online, Other, 14/09/2026, Ashley Darling

An incentive of \$10,000 would be offered to doctors, nurses, midwives and allied health professionals who agree to move to the regions under a Nationals plan to tackle workforce shortages. The scheme will give eligible healthcare workers support packages including relocation assistance, accommodation support and professional development opportunities to encourage more professionals to build long-term careers in regional communities.

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3AW, Drive, 14/09/2026, Jacqui Felgate

Interview with Australian Medical Association Victoria President Dr Simon Judkins. Felgate says an industrial action is looming after parents reported that waiting times have increased at the Royal Children's Hospital. Judkins says the workload is increasing across the healthcare system, and ED staff in metro and regional areas have described July, August, and September as being the busiest that they can remember.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Your GP wait is weeks. AI could make that minutes

The Australian, Technology, 15/09/2026, Jared Lynch, Page 20

Healthtech start-up Everlab is showcasing its health services as an example of how the fusion of artificial intelligence with expert clinician teams can help solve Australia's ailing medical system. The company which raised \$65m in June, catapulting its valuation to almost \$500m is aiming to switch the medical system from episodic to always on care.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

FIVEAA, Mornings, 14/09/2026, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Private Healthcare Australia CEO Dr Rachel David, on the Federal Government's plans to tackle excessive specialist fees through measures such as fee caps and bulk billing incentives. David says they have seen some very steep increases in the median specialist fee for several specialist consults after the pandemic, and she states that it has outpaced the growth in the price of housing, food and other services. She also says the Federal Government's consultation paper on excessive fees needs to go further to look at what's happening with the market for medical specialist fees.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Plastic surgeon in bungle

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/09/2026, Amber Wilson, Page 1

A Launceston plastic surgeon has been reprimanded and fined after a tummy tuck he performed on a woman in fly-in, fly-out circumstances led to disastrous consequences. [...] Following a complaint brought by the Medical Board of Australia, the tribunal found that Mr Kode's conduct constituted unprofessional conduct.

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

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

Veteran dentist 'failed' patients

Courier Mail, General News, 15/09/2026, Vanda Carson, Page 19

A veteran Queensland dentist has been temporarily banned from offering orthodontic treatment to straighten teeth after she was reprimanded for professional misconduct. Anne-Maree Cole was found to have failed to manage "adverse outcomes" for seven of her patients, failed to engage a more

experienced orthodontic specialist to manage complex care for one patient and failed to appropriately manage known complications of orthodontic work for four others.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Channel 7, Seven News, 14/09/2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli & Will Goodings

Flu has overtaken RSV as the main respiratory virus circulating in South Australia after weekly cases hit almost 800. Eleven people have died from influenza in South Australia so far this year.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 14/09/2026, Brenton Ragless

SA Health has issued a warning about a measles case in a South Australian teenager. The teen visited a number of locations while infectious, including Brighton High School, a Metro bus from the city to Marion Shopping Centre, Adelaide Airport on Tuesday and a Singapore Airlines flight from the Maldives.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Slim people turn to GLP-1 drugs for other 'benefits'

Australian Financial Review, General News, 15/09/2026, Euan Black, Page 9

"Should I be taking Ozempic even though I'm not overweight?" It's a question that doctors are getting asked more regularly amid a wave of social media-fuelled interest in "microdosing GLP-1s."

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

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Patient suffers torn oesophagus after using unapproved peptide, prompting fresh warnings

ABC Online, Other, 14/09/2026, Rachel Carbonell

A patient who used an unapproved peptide labelled as the weight-loss drug retatrutide has suffered a potentially fatal torn oesophagus. The medicines regulator, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), has revealed details of the case to the ABC as part of its latest warning against the use of unapproved peptides.

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Peptide user tore oesophagus after using counterfeit product, Australian regulator warns

The Guardian, Other, 14/09/2026, Melissa Davey

A patient who tore their oesophagus after taking a counterfeit version of an experimental weight loss drug has prompted Australia's medicines regulator to warn of serious risks of such products. [...] Retatrutide has not been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) or regulators overseas, and it can not be legally prescribed or sold in Australia. Peptides are strings of molecules called amino acids that act as chemical messengers in the body, and are involved in a range of functions like hormone activity, digestion, immune defence, and tissue growth.

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

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 14/09/2026, Michael Thomson

Creatine is a supplement used by bodybuilders, but doctors warn it's not for everyone, as some people look at it as an effective way to support brain health. In Australia, certain creatine products need to be listed with the Therapeutic Goods Administration to make sure they comply with safety standards.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 14/09/2026, Loretta Ryan & Craig Zonca

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has now provided warnings about the use of unapproved peptides after a patient suffered a torn oesophagus. The TGA added that the serious adverse event was linked to an unapproved peptide product that was sold as Retatrutide.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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FOOD STANDARDS

ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 14/09/2026, Spence Denny

Interview with Public Health Association Australia fellow Mark Lawrence. Lawrence says studies have shown that ultra-processed foods are adversely associated with health outcomes. He also states that one of Food Standards Australia New Zealand's primary objectives is to protect public health and safety, and he adds that if a manufacturer wants to introduce a new additive in their products, FSANZ would have to demonstrate that they are safe.

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AICIS

PFAS threat to buyers

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 15/09/2026, Page 9

The number of PFAS-contaminated sites across Australia may be larger than once thought, and people are at risk of buying land without knowing about past contamination. Research by Australian company Lotsearch suggests the potential PFAS legacy could extend well beyond airports and firefighting sites.

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

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'Tidal wave' of Pfas being launched to satisfy AI industry, campaigners warn

The Guardian, Other, 14/09/2026, Damien Gayle

Pfas companies are launching a "tidal wave" of forever chemicals production to meet demand from the AI industry, a campaign organisation has warned. Despite alarm over the chemicals, which have been linked to cancer, a survey of the 10 biggest manufacturers found most had plans to increase production.

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