



TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 18th 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](#) |
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 2) reports the Federal Government has scrapped the proposed \$5,000 cap on veteran allied health services, following criticism from veterans and MPs. *Also reported by: [The Daily Telegraph](#), [Australian Financial Review](#), [ABC Online](#)*
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 2) reports the NSW Government announced the establishment of a new Institute for Pediatric Trauma at the Sydney Children's Hospital in Randwick to train clinicians and support children who have experienced trauma, following the Bondi attack. *Also reported by: [The Canberra Times](#)*
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 7) reports The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne stated its Australian Standards of Care and Treatment Guidelines for Trans and Gender Diverse Children and Adolescents were not part of the hospital's accreditation against the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards in 2025. This was in response to a Freedom of Information request seeking documents about the guideline during the hospital's "short-notice" accreditation assessment in August 2025.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 14) reports that the Public Health Association of Australia awarded Health Minister Mark Butler with the President's Award for his contribution to driving down smoking rates. *Also reported by: [News24 Australia](#)*

- **The Age** (page 1) reports that Victoria's influenza cases have increased by 400 per cent over seven weeks, with Chief Health Officer Dr Caroline McElnay saying the flu season has arrived late and cases are expected to rise through the school holidays. *Also reported by: Geelong Advertiser*
- **The Courier Mail** (page 9) reports that University of Queensland research found that people with severe mental illness have a shorter life expectancy than the general population, with male patients dying up to 12 years earlier and females 10 years earlier.
- **The Canberra Times** (online) reports the Federal Government will add Triptorelin (Diphereline) to the PBS for cancer treatment, after Astrazeneca removed Zoladex from the listing. Health Minister Mark Butler said US policy changes have "up-ended" the global pharmaceutical industry and the government has to respond.
- **Adelaide Now** (online) reports that disability advocate Shane Hryhorec said Health Minister Mark Butler's Port Adelaide office main door was still only accessible via stairs, a year after he lodged a complaint with the Australian Human Rights Commission over public buildings' accessibility. Mr Butler in a statement said that after delays, the Department of Finance has now secured a new electorate office, which is undergoing renovations, and the current office is wheelchair accessible via the rear.

MINISTER BUTLER

Query on hospital's green-tick process

The Australian, General News, 18/09/2026, Bernard Lane, Page 7

The contentious treatment guideline underpinning the nationwide spread of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones for minors was reportedly not scrutinised during accreditation of the hospital that issued it. [...] In January 2025, federal Health Minister Mark Butler ordered a "comprehensive review" of the RCH guideline by experts as part of a project, overseen by the National Health and Medical Research Council, to replace it with a new national guideline.

Also reported by: The Australian (Online).

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Moose, me & love this is his legacy

The Australian, General News, 18/09/2026, Louise Bryant, Page 12

Even though it was cut short, Craig Mooreor Moose, as he was affectionately known still lived his life like it was an extraordinarily lucky one. Now his legacy lives on. [...] At a recent launch for dementia innovation, Health Minister Mark Butler acknowledged Moose's legacy and Think Again in his opening address.

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Butler scores a win

The Australian, Business News, 18/09/2026, Will Glasgow & Max Aitchison, Page 14

There's no sign of a ceasefire in Australia's politically fraught "tobacco wars". [...] On Thursday morning, on the final day of the Australian Public Health Conference in Geelong, Health Minister Mark Butler was given an award for his contribution to driving down smoking rates.

Also reported by: The Australian (Online), News24 Australia (Online), Oz News Today (Online).

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Prostate nurse funds redirected

Border Watch, General News, 18/09/2026, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 15

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

Also reported by: South Eastern Times (Millicent).

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Hogan Backs Coalition crackdown on illegal tobacco

Northern Rivers Times, General News, 17/09/2026, Jeff Gibbs, Page 20

Federal Member for Page Kevin Hogan has backed a Coalition plan to dramatically reduce tobacco excise and strengthen law enforcement in an attempt to dismantle Australia's rapidly expanding illegal tobacco market. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has challenged the Coalition to explain the likely public-health consequences of the tax reduction.

Also reported by: [The Northern Rivers Times \(Online\)](#).

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Dollar for Dusty Did It!

Nyngan Weekly, General News, 17/09/2026, Molly Shannon, Page 1

By now, there are not many who don't know the name Dusty Langby or his story, deciding to walk to the nation's capital to raise money and awareness for bush kids' access to paediatricians. [...] Federal minister for health, Mark Butler MP; Little Wings CEO, Clare Pearson; senator Deborah O'Neill; prime minister Anthony Albanese; Dusty and Sarah Langby; Little Wing's nurses Nicole Callen and Chris Letton.

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Adelaide advocate weighs Federal Court action after returning to Mark Butler's inaccessible office

Adelaide Now, General News, 17/09/2026, Maria Bervanakis

A wheelchair user who lodged a human rights complaint after he was unable to access the office of Australia's health and disability minister via the front door returned to the scene a year on only to find little has changed. Shane Hryhorec, an Adelaide-based disability advocate with C5 incomplete quadriplegia, attended Mark Butler's Port Adelaide office last year and reported that the main access was by stairs and the doorbell to request wheelchair access was broken.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [7News.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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New cancer treatment gives lifeline to stranded women

Canberra Times, General News, 17/09/2026, Annabelle Banfield

When the drug keeping her breast cancer at bay was taken off the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme in July, Katie-Marie Thorpe made the heart-breaking decision to remove her ovaries. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said agility was needed to ensure the future viability of the subsidy scheme, as US administration policy changes have "up-ended" the global pharmaceutical industry.

Also reported by: [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Royal Australian College of General Practitioners \(Online\)](#).

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The Last Mile | Victoria launches virtual elimination of HIV goal

OUTinPerth, General News, 18/09/2026, Graeme Watson

"Why can't we be first?" is the question being asked by Victoria's HIV sector at the 2026 Australasian HIV & AIDS Conference. [...] 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.

[Read More](#)

Ministers left in dark about IAT change

Australian Ageing Agenda, General News, 17/09/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Emails released under freedom of information show that Australia's aged care ministers became aware that assessors would lose the ability to override the assessment algorithm three days prior to the commencement of the new Aged Care Act, according to a report by Melissa Davey in the Guardian. In an email briefing on 29 October 2025, Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing Mark Butler and

Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae were told the Aged Care Rules 2025 legislation had been drafted in a way that left no legal discretion for assessors or assessment delegates to change the recommendation of the Integrated Assessment Tool algorithm for a Support at Home classification.

[Read More](#)

Push to lower Young Australian of the Year age after Dusty's Canberra walk

The New England Times, General News, 17/09/2026

Federal Member for Parkes Jamie Chaffey MP has called on the Prime Minister to lower the age limit for Young Australian of the Year, after a 12-year-old from Warren walked 540 kilometres to Canberra and helped deliver \$2 million in federal funding for a service that flies doctors to sick children in the bush. [...] Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler announced the funding as they welcomed Dusty to Parliament House after his journey.

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Aged care minister blindsided by algorithm

The Saturday Paper, General News, 17/09/2026, Anna Stewart

New documents show that Aged Care Minister Sam Rae discovered human assessors would lose the power to override funding decisions made by a new algorithm just days before the tool's launch. [...] Documents published under freedom of information laws by the department of health, disability and ageing prompted an emergency briefing of Sam Rae and health minister Mark Butler just three days before the rollout of the algorithm (The Guardian).

Also reported by: [HelloCare \(Online\)](#), [CathNews \(Online\)](#), [The Weekly Source \(Online\)](#).

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States count the cost of aged care shortages

The Weekly Source, General News, 17/09/2026, Caroline Egan

Record numbers of patients are in State-run hospitals, well enough to be discharged but unable to access federally funded aged care. [...] After the meeting, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler was asked if there was "a single new dollar" for aged care to address bed shortages.

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Channel 7, Seven News at 4, 17/09/2026, Sarah Cumming

An Adelaide disability advocate is taking his complaint about access problems at the Port Adelaide office of Disability Minister Mark Butler to the Federal Court, after raising the issue for a year. Shane Hryhorec says he was stranded outside the office 12 months ago and found no improvements when he returned yesterday, while the minister says a new, more suitable office has been secured and is undergoing renovations.

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Channel 9, National Nine Morning News, 17/09/2026, Alison Piotrowski

Health Minister Mark Butler has announced the Federal Government will scrap its proposed \$5,000 cap on funding for allied health services for veterans, following weeks of pressure from veterans and politicians. The proposed cap would have replaced a 12-visit limit that could be extended by a veteran's GP, with the policy opposed by all senators except Labor last week.

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News24, The Bolt Report, 17/09/2026, James Macpherson

Panel discussion with Peter McGauran, Senior Advisor at Bondi Partners, and Kristy McSweeney, PR Counsel, on Health Minister Mark Butler receiving the Public Health Association of Australia's President's Award. McGauran says the award is undeserved, arguing the decline in daily smoking rates is part of a longer-term trend and that existing measures such as plain packaging and tobacco excise have continued.

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Curtin FM, 08:00 News, 17/09/2026

New breast cancer drug Triptorelin will be made cheaper as it becomes part of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme by November. Health Minister Mark Butler also confirmed that the drug is for the treatment of a range of women's health conditions.

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

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ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 17/09/2026, Kylie Baxter

Interview with Chris Grice, Chief Executive Officer, National Seniors Australia, on the proposed removal of the higher private health insurance rebate for Australians aged 65 and over. Grice says the change could affect 3.2m older Australians with hospital and extras cover, and warns that people dropping private cover could put more pressure on public hospitals. He says National Seniors has campaigned against the changes since Health Minister Mark Butler announced them earlier this year, with more than 46,000 older Australians with private health insurance contacting the organisation.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, Mornings , 17/09/2026, Rafael Epstein

Health Minister Mark Butler says the government has listened to veterans' concerns and will scrap its planned \$5,000 cap on allied health services. The threshold was due to begin in the middle of next year as part of an effort to save the budget hundreds of millions of dollars, but the government says it will not proceed following strong opposition from the veterans' community.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER MCALLISTER

Australian government will apologise to LGBTIQ+ veterans

OUTinPerth, General News, 18/09/2026, Graeme Watson

The Australian Government will formally make a historic apology to LGBTIQ+ Defence personnel and veterans who experienced discrimination because of their sexual orientation or gender identity under past discriminatory policies. [...] Speaking in the Senate, Jenny McAllister, the Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, announced: "The government will make a formal apology, acknowledging the harm experienced by LGBTIQ+ personnel and veterans as a result of historical discriminatory practices at the appropriate time."

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER RAE

DoHDA 'marking its own homework' in new IAT review: Eagar

Health Services Daily, General News, 17/09/2026, Cate Swannell

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing will effectively be marking its own homework under a new pathway allowing it to override funding and priority decisions generated by the controversial Integrated Assessment Tool, aged care expert Professor Kathy Eagar says. Federal aged care minister Sam Rae moved two government amendments to the Aged Care Legislation Amendment (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aged Care Commissioner and Other Measures) Bill 2026 this morning, establishing what the government calls an "escalation pathway" for home support assessment decisions.

Also reported by: [The Saturday Paper \(Online\)](#), [CathNews \(Online\)](#), [Australian Ageing Agenda \(Online\)](#), [HelloCare \(Online\)](#), [The Weekly Source \(Online\)](#), [The Weekly Source \(Online\)](#).

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How many times can the goalposts be moved on aged care providers?

The Weekly Source, General News, 17/09/2026, Lauren Broomham

The new Aged Care Act was years in the making. 10 months later, the Government is still changing the rules providers are expected to work to. [...] Last week, Aged Care Minister Sam Rae announced the Government would amend the 736-page Aged Care Rules to make explicit that providers cannot charge residents for services they were receiving free before 1 November 2025.

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Smooth FM 95.3, 06:00 News, 17/09/2026

Aged Care Minister Sam Rae was reportedly blindsided by changes to the new assessment algorithm for the Support at Home program. His department told assessors they could override funding decisions made by the computer system, but Rae learned just days before the launch that they couldn't.

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

ABC Riverina, Breakfast, 17/09/2026, Sally Bryant

Interview with Assistant Minister for Mental and Regional Health Emma McBride on new funding for headspace Plus facilities. McBride says headspace Wagga Wagga is one of the busiest headspaces nationally, and they want to ensure young people can be seen sooner. She states that the branch has provided 4300 appointments to more than 1100 local young people in the past 12 months.

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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DEPARTMENT

Bureaucrats point the finger at politicians responsible for problematic social media posts

The Mandarin, General News, 17/09/2026, Tom Ravlic

Videos and social media posts by a former and current senator are at the centre of concerns over the unfair treatment of departmental officials. [...] Former Health and Aged Care secretary Professor Brendan Murphy sent a letter to Senate President Sue Lines in March 2023 drawing her attention to Rennick's posts asserting Therapeutic Goods Administration boss John Skeritt was in denial about cardiac arrests triggered by vaccines.

[Read More](#)

How the BB PIP works in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations

The Medical Republic, General News, 17/09/2026, Holly Payne

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has issued a fact sheet on how the Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Payment works in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, where GPs are typically salaried employees. The BB PIP was designed with mainstream GP practices in mind, where GPs tended to be either contractors or tenant doctors rather than employees.

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News24, AM Agenda, 17/09/2026, Laura Jayes

A \$2.4m federal grant for Australia's first respectful maternity care program has come under scrutiny after several midwives involved in the project allegedly posted offensive content online. The grant's recipient is Western Sydney University, whose School of Nursing and Midwifery was hijacked by protesters in 2024. The Australian Zionist Healthcare Alliance has made complaints to the Department of Health about posts described as anti-Semitic and offensive. Western Sydney University says it assessed complaints about the grant under its policies and found no breach.

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[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Blame game on aged care

Northern Territory News, General News, 18/09/2026, Camden Smith, Page 7

With seniors taking up about 80 hospital beds NT-wide and Code Yellows a regular feature of the health system, the federal and Territory governments are involved in a service-delivery sniping match. Eight months after Queensland-based not-for-profit Ozcare was announced as the preferred provider to build and operate a 120-bed aged care facility beside Palmerston Regional Hospital, no ground has been broken at the site.

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Ageing at home is changing who arrives in aged care

The Weekly Source, General News, 17/09/2026

Australia wants older people to remain at home for longer. What does that mean for the aged care home they eventually enter? The answer is already becoming apparent for residential aged care operators.

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Bringing vision care into focus

Australian Ageing Agenda, General News, 17/09/2026, Jodie Wolf

Vision services should be embedded into aged care funding, workforce training and system design to ensure older people can stay independent for longer, says David Williamson. Some of the greatest challenges facing older Australians are often the ones that cannot immediately be seen.

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Program boosts comms skills of new grads

Australian Ageing Agenda, General News, 17/09/2026

TAFE Queensland students have joined a professional development program to improve their interpersonal skills ahead of entering the aged care workforce. A five-month professional development program to boost new aged care workers' interpersonal and communication skills is nearing completion, with early participant feedback reporting the program has been beneficial.

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Nominate staff for free dementia training

Aged care workers supporting people living with dementia are invited to submit expressions of interest to participate in a free dementia care training program with Dementia Training Australia. The Dementia Knowledge to Action program is government-funded and will train experienced aged care workers to become dementia guides.

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'Go home and be the good wife': Why young onset dementia is often missed

The Senior, General News, 17/09/2026, Carla Mascarenhas

Three years into her second marriage, Vicki Barry began noticing small changes in her husband Michael that led to a young onset dementia diagnosis. Now, 16 years after her husband's diagnosis, she is on a mission to help others recognize the symptoms, after her concerns were repeatedly dismissed because doctor's viewed Michael as "too young" to have dementia.

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[Back to Top](#)

DISABILITY AND CARERS

IMF to Jim: Show 'more ambition'

The Australian, General News, 18/09/2026, Matthew Cranston, Page 1

The International Monetary Fund has implored Jim Chalmers and state treasurers to tighten their fiscal positions, redouble efforts to lift productivity, and enact wider tax reform amid the highest costs of Australian government debt in 15 years and stubbornly high inflation. [...] "The combined fiscal deficit of the common and s state governments widened over the past two fiscal years, reflecting large infrastructure investment by states rising social spending, especially healthcare and the National Disability Insurance scheme and response to the global energy price shock."

Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review \(Australia\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [News24 Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Fewer than 2 per cent of hotel rooms in major Queensland cities are accessible, report finds

ABC Online, General News, 17/09/2026, Sarah Richards

Fewer than 2 per cent of hotel rooms are accessible in three major Queensland cities, as the state prepares to host the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics, a new report has found. It revealed accessible hotel rooms in key Games destinations across Brisbane, Cairns and the Gold Coast were scarce, with the international sporting events less than six years away.

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Treasury says \$500 billion will be wiped off Australia's debt in the long run

NEWS.com.au, General News, 17/09/2026, Ben Graham

Australia's economic future has taken a massive turn for the better, with Treasury's long-term forecasts wiping more than \$500 billion off the nation's projected debt pile over the next four decades. Extracts seen by news.com.au from the upcoming Intergenerational Report (IGR) show a dramatic turnaround in the country's debt problem, driven by structural reforms to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and back-to-back budget surpluses.

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[Back to Top](#)

Forced retreat on veterans' health

The Australian, General News, 18/09/2026, Thomas Henry & Elizabeth Pike, Page 2

The Albanese government has scrapped a proposed \$5000 cap on veteran allied health services following a backlash from the veterans community, the Coalition and the crossbench. Veterans' Affairs Minister Matt Keogh on Thursday confirmed the government was taking the proposal off the table after "listening carefully" to veterans.

Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review \(Australia\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Sunraysia Daily \(Mildura\)](#), [7News.com.au \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#), [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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New indicators to guide 'gold-standard prescribing'

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, General News, 17/09/2026

GPs are a step closer to having an evidence-based guide to safer prescribing, with researchers identifying a set of quality prescribing indicators (QPIs) for common conditions in Australian primary care. The 23 QPIs were developed by a team at Monash University, including two prominent GPs and three pharmacists, who conducted a rigorous review and consensus process, with the outcome published in the BMJ Quality & Safety.

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Channel 10, 10 News, 17/09/2026, Jennifer Keyte

The Albanese Government has scrapped its controversial \$5,000 cap on veterans' access to allied health services after months of pressure from the Opposition, the crossbench, and the veteran community. Those who campaigned against the proposed cap have welcomed the decision.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 17/09/2026, Peter Overton

NSW Health Minister Ryan Park has launched a new statewide institute for paediatric trauma, which is being established to bring together research and expert clinicians and help health workers treat children with traumatic injuries. Based at Sydney Children's Hospital in Randwick, the institute will provide statewide education and simulation training, funded by donations and a \$500,000 boost from the state government.

Report continues on: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).

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2GB, Mornings, 17/09/2026, Mark Levy

Interview with Michael McCormack, Shadow Veterans Affairs Minister, on the Federal Government's decision to scrap the proposed \$5,000 cap on allied health services for veterans. McCormack says the decision is welcome but argues there is more work to do to improve access to health care and services for veterans.

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[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Celebrating the best of us

Daily Telegraph, General News, 18/09/2026, Matthew Benns, Page 10

Sydneysiders came out to celebrate "the best city in the world" last night and acknowledge the remarkable people and projects that allow it to claim the title. [...] Sydney's Unsung Hero award went to St Vincent's Health Australia's Erin Longbottom, the inaugural national director of homelessness who has brought a health sector voice to the national conversation about ending homelessness.

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

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Initiative a class act

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 18/09/2026, Greta Lannen, Page 25

Data showing high levels of disengagement and unhappiness among middle school girls left North Geelong Secondary College assistant principal Brad Headlam deeply disheartened. But rather than just accept the statistics or keep the status quo, Brad sat down with the school girls in question to find out why they were feeling this way.

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Elizabeth was the life of the party. As a new mum, alcohol helped her feel like herself again

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 17/09/2026, Paula Goodyer

Elizabeth Adams-Cairns describes the early years of parenthood as the hardest of her life, as she juggled a toddler, work and an interstate move, followed by a new baby. During this period, a few drinks with other mums wasn't so much a fix for her anxiety as it was a way of feeling like her old self again – a person who had more freedom.

[Read More](#)

New endometriosis plan to support earlier management

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 17/09/2026

Women living with endometriosis and chronic pelvic pain will be able to begin managing their symptoms with their GP earlier, following the launch of Australia's first national Endometriosis Management Plan (EMP). The EMP brings the latest endometriosis guidelines into an online personalised care plan, helping patients and GPs make evidence-based decisions about treatment, symptom management, referrals and ongoing care in a bid to achieve better health outcomes.

Also reported by: [The Medical Republic \(Online\)](#), [Royal Australian College of General Practitioners \(Online\)](#).

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An ancient disease is surging in Australia — and it isn't always easy to detect

SBS, General News, 17/09/2026, Arielle Richards

Reported cases of infectious syphilis and gonorrhoea have surged by more than half over the past decade in Australia, as experts warn education and testing urgently needs to improve. In 2025, there were 42,393 gonorrhoea notifications and 5,986 infectious syphilis notifications — a 10-year increase of 57 per cent for gonorrhoea and 56 per cent for syphilis, analysis from the University of New South Wales' Kirby Institute has shown.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 17/09/2026, Rory McClaren

Interview with Dr Michael Wright, National President of the RACGP, about new prescribing guidelines for off-label and unapproved medicines. Wright supports the guidance, noting the need for proper clinical assessments, informed consent and evidence-based prescribing rather than responding to consumer demand, particularly through telehealth services. He also warns that the growing use of GLP-1 peptides through compounded, grey and black markets creates confusion and stresses that practitioners must explain the risks and have a clear clinical reason for prescribing.

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[Back to Top](#)

CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Bringing disease out of the shadows

Hobart Mercury, General News, 18/09/2026, Agnes Nsofwa, Page 29

In July this year, a 39-year-old African-Australian died from Sickle Cell Disease. He was a young father, a husband, a son, and a proud Australian.

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Heart attack not the end of the story

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 18/09/2026, Jellie Redfern, Page 20

In the late 1980s, more than one in three men who suffered a heart attack died within 28 days. Maybe you knew one. For the better part of a century, heart disease was the leading cause of death in Australia.

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Committee concerned cancer cuts will cost lives

Shepparton News, General News, 18/09/2026, Bree Harding, Page 10

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 government announced on August 31 its intention to end funding for the program on June 30, 2027.

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Let's build on progress to give men with prostate cancer a fair go

Border Watch, General News, 18/09/2026, Wayne Swan, Page 8

Dear Editor, This Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, Australians will again be told that men should know their risk and talk to their doctor. But awareness without public investment is not a strategy.

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Regional men urged to get tested

Border Watch, General News, 18/09/2026, Page 14

Regional men are being urged to speak with their local GP about prostate cancer risks, following a high-profile diagnosis that has sparked renewed calls for a targeted national testing program. Health Services Union NSW secretary Gerard Hayes recently revealed his own prostate cancer diagnosis, caught early thanks to a routine Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) blood test.

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Health Chats: Why tinnitus affects one in five people and the best ways to manage it

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 17/09/2026, Sarah Kleinman

I can always tell when it is particularly bad for my husband. He looks unsettled. He takes a moment to answer any questions. He seems to drift out of the conversation.

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

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AdPha champions safe care on World Patient Safety Day

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 17/09/2026

To mark World Patient Safety Day 2026, Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has launched its fifth annual World Patient Safety Day series, authored by members of the AdPha Medication Safety Leadership Committee. This year's theme: Safe care for noncommunicable diseases. Safe care for life! – highlights the importance of preventing medication-related harm for people living with conditions that require ongoing care and treatment.

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Channel 10, 10 News, 17/09/2026, Kate Freebairn

Australian women battling breast cancer will have another treatment option from next month, with Triptorelin being added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. The change follows the scheduled removal of Zoladex from the PBS in November, with Breast Cancer Network Australia's Vicki Durston welcoming the announcement. Patients are expected to save more than \$1,300 per prescription.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 17/09/2026, Peter Mitchell

Australian women with breast cancer who lost access to a crucial treatment have been given an alternative, with the injectable hormone triptorelin added to the PBS to replace Zoladex. Endometriosis patients will also benefit.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 17/09/2026, Saskia Mabin

Interview with Greg McRoberts, former president and member of the ACT and Region Prostate Cancer Support Group, on changes to federal funding for prostate cancer specialist nurses. McRoberts says the nurses provide vital specialist support for men with prostate cancer, and is concerned about the lack of consultation with the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. He says moving funding to the McGrath Foundation could disrupt continuity of care and raises questions about whether the same specialist knowledge will be maintained.

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[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Mental illness can take years off your life

Courier Mail, General News, 18/09/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 9

Queensland hospital data has exposed that people with severe mental illness die up to 12 years earlier than the general population. Researchers from the University of Queensland tracked the mortality rate of hundreds of thousands of patients over 14 years and found that while there had been some improvements in life expectancy over time, males with mental health disorders die 12 years earlier and females 10 years earlier.

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

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Health staff at capacity

Hobart Mercury, General News, 18/09/2026, Elise Kaine, Page 5

Health professionals are being stretched to the limit, Labor says, as the government spruiks improved access to ADHD treatment. Fifty Tasmanian general practitioners have undertaken training to be able to diagnose and provide care for patients with ADHD and the first trained doctors will start seeing patients from October 1.

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

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Breaking point

Cairns Post, General News, 18/09/2026, Greg McLean, Page 1

Cairns Hospital's mental health unit is one of the most dangerous in Queensland, with staff claiming a directive to reduce the number of patients in seclusion rooms has preceded assaults on doctors,

nurses and security guards. According to a facility whistleblower, a push to reduce seclusion numbers has left staff confused and hesitant to isolate violent patients.

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Help shape suicide plan

Border Watch, General News, 18/09/2026, Page 8

The State Government is working to strengthen the state's Suicide Prevention Plan to ensure the right processes are in place to support wellbeing and prevent suicide across the state. South Australians are invited to have their say about suicide prevention, with consultation now open to help develop the next plan.

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WA cuts children's mental health beds despite strain on system

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 17/09/2026, Carla Hildebrandt

Western Australia will cut the number of inpatient mental health beds available for children in crisis, despite years of warnings that the system is struggling to keep up. This masthead can reveal Perth Children's Hospital's mental health inpatient ward for children under 16 will be reduced from 20 beds to 16, once an ongoing refurbishment is complete.

[Read More](#)

Australians with big mortgages are stressed out – and the mental health toll is heavy

The Guardian, General News, 18/09/2026, Achol Arok & Melissa Davey

When Emily Knights bought a quaint two-bedroom starter home with her then-partner in Geelong, Victoria, the milestone marked years of financial sacrifice. However, the end of their relationship shortly afterwards left her shouldering the entire mortgage on a home that needed renovation and had “no working oven”.

[Read More](#)

Melbourne influencer Beck Lomas lifts lid on postpartum isolation

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 17/09/2026, Olivia Shying

Melbourne mum Beck Lomas didn't expect to feel a debilitating sense of loneliness following the birth of her first child, Tom. The social media influencer said the feeling was all-consuming, leading her to wonder why she wasn't experiencing the ideal version of motherhood promised to her.

[Read More](#)

Should you say 'autistic person' or 'person with autism'? Here's how language has changed

Yahoo! News Australia, General News, 17/09/2026

How should we refer to people with mental ill health, disability, or neurodivergence? Terminology should be respectful, apt and avoid carrying stigma.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 17/09/2026, Peter Mitchell

The Victorian Government's long-running dispute with teachers is over after 93.1% voted in favour of a new pay and conditions deal. [...] Premier Ben Carroll has also committed \$10m to extend funding for the Blue Hub police mental health service for another four years.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 17/09/2026, Kylie Baxter

Tasmania is introducing increased access to medical services for people seeking ADHD diagnoses, with GPs who have completed the required training beginning to work under expanded capabilities. The change follows a 2025 state election commitment by the Liberals to allow GPs to assess, diagnose and initiate medication for children and adults with ADHD.

FIVEAA, Afternoons, 17/09/2026, Leith Forrest

Interview with Carly Dober, Policy Coordinator, Australian Association of Psychologists, on the Federal Government's decision to scrap the proposed \$5,000 cap on allied health services for veterans. Dober says continuity of care is particularly important for veterans receiving mental health support, as changing psychologists can lead some people to disengage from services and experience worsening mental and physical health. She says the organisation will continue working closely with government to provide practitioner and client perspectives on policy changes affecting veterans.

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IMMUNISATION

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 17/09/2026, Kylie Baxter

From October 1, free COVID-19 vaccinations in Australia will be limited to people at highest risk of severe illness. Royal Australian College of GPs President Michael Wright says the change reflects COVID-19 becoming an ongoing health issue, with Australians having stronger immunity and fewer severe infections. People outside high-risk groups can still receive a booster but will likely need to pay, with costs expected to exceed \$30.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Pregnancy food myth

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 18/09/2026, Page 3

Higher maternal consumption of egg and peanuts during pregnancy and breastfeeding does not protect infants against developing egg or peanut allergies in their first year, new research suggests. The Kids Research Institute Australia said its research would allow pregnant and lactating women to be reassured that high levels of egg and peanut consumption were neither detrimental, nor required, to reduce the risk of a baby developing the allergies.

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

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Misleading health info

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 18/09/2026, Page 7

Researchers have raised concerns about the promotion of Alzheimer's disease blood tests on social media, particularly posts making claims that do not align with clinical recommendations. The University of Sydney researchers analysed 188 posts shared between March 2014 and May 2025 on TikTok, Facebook and Instagram about Alzheimer's blood tests.

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Far North Qld couple behind 'promising' type 1 diabetes treatment research at Johns Hopkins University

ABC Online, General News, 17/09/2026, Rosanne Maloney

A Far North Queensland couple who started their research journey in Cairns are behind "promising" early research on a new type 1 diabetes treatment. Rafid Al-Hallaf and his wife, Zainab Agha, migrated to Cairns in 2013 to study immunology at James Cook University (JCU).

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[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Indigenous researcher develops culturally safe menstrual health resources

National Indigenous Times, General News, 17/09/2026, Callan Morse

Research led by an Aboriginal general practitioner and PhD student at the University of Western Australia has led to the development of culturally safe Aboriginal women's menstrual health resources. The research came about after Dr Talila Milroy's conversations with Aboriginal women, who said they often didn't feel taken seriously when they discussed period pain and other menstrual health issues with primary care health providers.

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[Back to Top](#)

PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Bondi victim's father welcomes new child trauma hub

The Australian, General News, 18/09/2026, Lachlan Leeming, Page 2

The father of the Bondi terror attack's youngest victim has welcomed the launch of a new institute focused on improving paediatric care in mass casualty events, after the clinicians who worked that day prompted the NSW government to act. Michael Britvan, whose tenyear-old daughter Matilda was among the 15 innocents killed in the December attack, threw his support behind strengthening the health system with the lessons learned from that day.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [7News.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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Callers told no ambulances available almost 17,000 times in Tasmania in 2025-26

ABC Online, General News, 17/09/2026, Josh Duggan

When Rosie Maddock fell over in the bathroom while at a pathology appointment, the 75-year-old did not expect to be waiting too long for medical help. Mrs Maddock said the wait for an ambulance ended up being three hours long.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 17/09/2026, Michael Thomson

The number of mental health beds at Perth Children's Hospital will be reduced by four as part of ongoing refurbishments to the state's only paediatric inpatient mental health facility. Opposition Health Minister Libby Mettam says the reduction is concerning, while the government says Ward 5A has averaged 57 per cent occupancy over the past four years and the redesign will provide more therapeutic spaces and a larger courtyard.

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News24, Sharri, 17/09/2026, Sharri Markson

Interview with Ryan Park, NSW Health Minister, on calls to reduce the tobacco excise and pressure on NSW hospital beds. Park says the excise should be reduced, arguing the gap between legal and illicit tobacco is distorting the market. He also says 1,362 hospital beds are unavailable to NSW residents

because patients are waiting for aged care, home care packages or NDIS support. He calls for more fully funded federal packages to help move people out of hospital.

Interview continues on: [News24 \(Sydney\)](#).

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ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 17/09/2026, Kylie Baxter

Interview with Sarah Lovell, Tasmanian Shadow Minister for Health, Mental Health, Wellbeing and Ageing, on ambulance availability and pressure on Tasmania's health system. Lovell says right-to-information data shows the number of Triple Zero calls requiring an ambulance when none was immediately available rose to 16,905 in 2025-26, with ambulance ramping and hospital capacity contributing to the problem. She criticises the government's planned \$700m health budget reduction.

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[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

\$2.4m taxpayer-funded maternity program faces scrutiny over allegations involving two midwives

News24 Australia, General News, 17/09/2026, Caroline Marcus

A \$2.4 million grant for Australia's first "respectful" maternity care program has come under fire, as News24 can reveal two midwives involved in the project have a history of highly disrespectful posts about Jews and white people. The Respectful Maternity Care for Maternity Clinicians program was awarded the seven-figure Commonwealth grant in June by the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF), which falls within the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Midwives to ease trauma

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 18/09/2026, Lauren Novak, Page 18

Midwives can now conduct forensic examinations for people who have been sexually assaulted, in a bid to spare victims from long wait times or having to travel long distances to be seen. The change was recommended after a royal commission was told victims in regional South Australia were travelling to city health services, often without showering, eating or changing clothes, to have forensic evidence collected.

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

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Shock pay accusation

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 18/09/2026, Zoe De Koning, Page 1

A whistleblower has accused a public aged care service in Winchelsea of intentionally underpaying staff, claiming the national workplace regulator ignored damning evidence. An anonymous former employee of Hesse Rural Health alleged that during her employment she became aware of kitchen and floor staff being short-changed.

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

Nats unveil plan to lure workers to regions

Shepparton News, General News, 18/09/2026, Ashley Darling, Page 10

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 longterm careers in regional communities.

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Pharmacists still underutilised in harm reduction: PSA

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 17/09/2026, Brett Macfarlane

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has welcomed the recent report for the inquiry into the health impacts of alcohol and other drugs in Australia. The report was published this week by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care, and Disability.

[Read More](#)

NSW Health 'committed' to expanding scope

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 17/09/2026, Brett Macfarlane

GP's resignation from an advisory group will not deter NSW Health from "safely extending the scope of practice for pharmacists" in the state. A GP who resigned from NSW Health's expert advisory group on Expanded Scope Community Pharmacy Service is being thanked for his contributions.

[Read More](#)

Rising Code Black incidents trigger push to reduce violence against SA health workers

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 17/09/2026, Anmj Staff

New figures show 9,213 Code Black incidents have been reported across South Australian hospital and health sites during the first six months of 2026. Code Black calls for urgent/emergency assistance are made by staff who perceive that their safety, or that patients/or other people is at risk from threatening behaviours.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News, 17/09/2026, Kate Freebairn

SA Health Minister Blair Boyer has announced that victim-survivors of sexual assault will have faster access to forensic examinations, with midwives now able to undertake 40 hours of training to perform certain procedures. The change follows a recommendation from SA's Royal Commission and is intended to improve access to sexual assault services and evidence collection for criminal proceedings.

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[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Duty of care query

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 18/09/2026, Ann Wason Moore, Page 4

A legal expert has warned duty of care questions could arise for Gold Coast Health for its response to "professional performance" concerns about a mental health nurse later accused of sexual assault. Robina man Derek George Jackson, 58, who was employed at Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service's Child Youth Mental Health Service, has been charged with 25 offences including stalking, sexual assault, indecent treatment of a child, abuse of office, and creating and possessing child exploitation material.

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Queensland tribunal upholds misconduct finding against nurse for using unreasonable force

The Courier Mail, General News, 18/09/2026, Vanda Carson

A Queensland nursing home resident was left distressed after a nurse was so "overly rough" applying cream to his groin that he thought she was "playing ping pong with his testicles", a tribunal heard. A Queensland nursing home resident was left distressed after a nurse was so "overly rough" applying cream to his groin that he thought she was "playing ping pong with his testicles", a tribunal heard.

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

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Brisbane nurse Scott Anthony Dumschat suspended after being charged with sexual assault

The Courier Mail, General News, 17/09/2026, Vanda Carson

A Queensland nurse has been charged with sexual assault and suspended from his job. Scott Anthony Dumschat is facing four counts of sexual assault and one of wilful exposure, alleged to have occurred earlier this year.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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STI rates high but stable, HIV down

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 17/09/2026

New sexual health data released by the Kirby Institute at UNSW Sydney shows a mixed picture for Australia, with rates of syphilis and gonorrhoea remaining high after significant increases since 2016, and chlamydia stable but still the most commonly notified sexually transmissible infection (STI).

[Read More](#)

New safer prescribing guidelines released

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 17/09/2026

Researchers from Monash University, the University of Tasmania and the University of Sydney have developed an evidence-based guide to safer prescribing designed to reduce medication harm and ease the burden on the national healthcare system.

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[Back to Top](#)

AUSTRALIAN CDC

Flu cases surge as season hits state late

Age, General News, 18/09/2026, Henrietta Cook, Page 1

A 400 per cent spike in influenza cases across Victoria is expected to continue rising over the school holidays, placing pressure on emergency departments and fuelling an increase in workplace absences. Chief Health Officer Dr Caroline McElnay said this year's influenza season had arrived unusually late, and was set to peak well past the traditional mid-winter surges observed in 2024 and 2025.

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

Covid-19 camp to get new clientele

Herald Sun, General News, 18/09/2026, Jade Gailberger, Page 9

Victoria's mothballed quarantine facility could be repurposed to house visa-overstayers as detention centres fill with criminals awaiting deportation after release from prison. Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke revealed the federal government was looking at the Centre for National Resilience at Mickleham, in Melbourne's north, as part of a plan for 100 additional compliance officers and 250 extra detention beds at places near airports.

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

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Could bird flu become the next COVID?

Newcastle Herald, General News, 18/09/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 6

Bird flu could become the next human pandemic, Newcastle-based disease experts say. "It's definitely possible," infectious diseases physician Joshua Davis, of the Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI), said.

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Everything you need to know about COVID-19 vaccine changes in Australia

ABC Online, General News, 17/09/2026, Lauren Roberts

For the past five-and-a-half years, vaccines against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, have been free for everyone living in Australia. But that's about to change.

[Read More](#)

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

Medicine Today, General News, 17/09/2026, Veronique Paris

Warmer weather has arrived and mosquitoes will be buzzing about before you know it. As El Niño is expected to bring an early start to summer heat, it's likely mosquitoes will make their presence felt earlier than usual.

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Covid-19 vaccine will no longer be free for most Australians under new immunisation rollout

News24 Australia, General News, 17/09/2026, Kate Fowler

The Covid-19 vaccine will no longer be offered to all Australians for free from next month. Since the pandemic, the vaccine has been offered for free as part of the National Covid-19 Vaccine Program.

[Read More](#)

Australia narrows free COVID-19 vaccine access

WEB OZ Arab Media, General News, 17/09/2026

According to ABC News, Australia will limit free COVID-19 vaccines from October 1 to people at highest risk of severe disease, ending universal no-cost access that has been in place for the past five-and-a-half years. Free doses will remain available twice yearly, about six months apart, for adults aged 75 and over.

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[Back to Top](#)

Last gasp for nasty nangs

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 18/09/2026, Craig Dunlop & Brendan Kearns, Page 27

The national medicines regulator's powerful advisory board will consider a proposal that would shut down Australia's predatory online "nang" trade. The Therapeutic Goods Administration this week wrote to mum Penny Reaby confirming the advisory committee for chemicals scheduling would consider her application for a nationwide crackdown.

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

Inside Australia's fake weight-loss drug boom

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 18/09/2026, Melanie Collins

From counterfeit weight-loss drugs to injectable peptides sold online, Australia's wellness obsession has created a lucrative new opportunity for scammers and fraudsters. Here's how to spot them. [...] When a scam looks legitimate In 2025, the Therapeutic Goods Administration warned that semaglutide products had been intercepted at the Australian border, with batch numbers confirmed as illegitimate by the manufacturer.

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

[Read More](#)

Peptides are spreading on social media. Here's how platforms can better protect public health

Yahoo! News Australia, General News, 17/09/2026

Scroll through social media these days and you'll likely come across someone injecting themselves with a clear liquid, waxing lyrical about how it's changed their body for the better, improved their recovery, or maybe their skin. [...] Just this week, Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration revealed that a person who used an unapproved peptide suffered a potentially fatal torn oesophagus due to uncontrolled vomiting.

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[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Agency delivers boy from kindy to meth den, via text

The Australian, General News, 18/09/2026, Ros Thomas, Page 1

The grandparents of a young Indigenous boy who have been his sole carers since birth were only informed by text message that child-protection officials had removed the four-year-old from school and placed him into the hands of his meth-addicted and convicted drug-dealer mother. The Australian has obtained the extraordinary message sent in February 2021 to Kariyarra grandmother JD and her husband WD, a Murujuga man, informing them in blunt terms that "Adam", who was attending his second day of kindergarten, had been taken from a classroom in South Hedland and given permanently to his mother, a woman he hadn't spent a night with since birth.

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Amended drug-driving reforms branded 'reckless'

Daily Telegraph, General News, 18/09/2026, Harrison Finlay, Page 3

Controversial drug-driving reforms have been branded "rushed and reckless" after the state government was forced to fix a major blunder in its legislation at the last minute. Independent MP Rod Roberts discovered an oversight in the draft text that would have resulted in medicinal cannabis patients exceeding the new 50 nanograms per millilitre THC limit facing charges after two indiscretions, despite the state government's pledge to grant two warnings before punishment.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

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AICIS

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