



TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 20th September 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[Web Region Canberra](#)** reports Triptorelin will be listed on the PBS as an alternative monthly treatment for breast cancer, endometriosis, and uterine fibrosis following the planned delisting of Zoladex. Federal Minister for Health Mark Butler stated that the Federal Government expedited the application process with the PBAC to ensure Australian women maintain access to an affordable subsidized medicine, with Minister White noting women's health is a priority for the department.
- **[The Sunday Age](#)** (page 2) reports researchers will explore whether GLP-1s can be repurposed to treat drug and alcohol addiction. Experts from the federal DoHDA network note that conclusive results on their real-world safety, efficacy, and potential roll-out remain five to ten years away.
- **[The Sunday Age](#)** (page 3) reports public hospitals in Victoria recorded nearly 24,000 violent workplace incidents last year, according to the AIHW, with workforce representatives warning that systemic issues like overcrowding, delayed general practice care, and prolonged waiting times are driving severe physical and psychological trauma among staff.
- **[The Sunday Territorian](#)** (page 4) reports the Federal Government has rejected criticisms from Northern Territory regarding delays to a proposed aged care facility in Palmerston, citing outstanding paperwork as a primary barrier to commencing construction. Federal Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae emphasized the Commonwealth's commitment to

collaborating with local authorities to progress the priority project once access and regulatory requirements are fulfilled.

- **The Daily Telegraph** (online) reports health authorities in WA have issued a public warning after a second child within two weeks was hospitalized with meningococcal disease. The federal Department of Health notes that free immunisations remain available for targeted groups, including infants and eligible Aboriginal children.

MINISTER BUTLER

Millions of Aussies put oral health at risk as they skip dentist visits to save money

Thenightly.com.au, General News, 19/09/2026, Bryce Luff

On any given workday, patients might be seated in Dr Monica Farrelly's dental chair for a multitude of reasons; a routine examination, a scale and clean, an extraction, filling, or repairs to teeth damaged while playing sport. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler's office said the plan is expected to be finalised before the end of 2026 and is being put together with states, territories and other key stakeholders, including the dental sector.

[Read More](#)

New breast cancer treatment option listed on PBS

WEB Region Canberra, General News, 19/09/2026, Chris Johnson

A new drug will be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) from next month to expand access to treatment for a range of women's health conditions. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the expanded listing meant Triptorelin would be available as an alternative monthly treatment at PBS prices.

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Mr Butler and the art of Medicare maintenance

The Medical Republic, General News, 19/09/2026, Holly Payne

It might not look like it from the outside, but federal health minister Mark Butler is walking a tightrope when it comes to specialist fees. [...] At the start of Mr Butler's second term as health minister, DoHDA head honcho Blair Comley even explicitly encouraged the minister to take an "even more doing, less reviewing" approach. Evidently, that message got lost in translation.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

Arts groups fear fallout of looming NDIS funding cuts

Michael West Media, General News, 19/09/2026, Troy Stolz

Australia's disability arts sector is sounding the alarm about cuts to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister's office has been contacted for comment.

Also reported by: [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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MINISTER RAE

Signs of progress on aged centre

Sunday Territorian, General News, 20/09/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 4

The federal government has hit back at the NT government's criticism of its failure to start work on a \$60m aged care centre, blaming unsubmitted paperwork and communication issues. [...] Mr Gosling said he had met with federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae to discuss moving the "priority" project forward.

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

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

New breast cancer treatment option listed on PBS

WEB Region Canberra, General News, 19/09/2026, Chris Johnson

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DEPARTMENT

New breast cancer treatment option listed on PBS

WEB Region Canberra, General News, 19/09/2026, Chris Johnson

A new drug will be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) from next month to expand access to treatment for a range of women's health conditions. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the expanded listing meant Triptorelin would be available as an alternative monthly treatment at PBS prices.

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Mr Butler and the art of Medicare maintenance

The Medical Republic, General News, 19/09/2026, Holly Payne

It might not look like it from the outside, but federal health minister Mark Butler is walking a tightrope when it comes to specialist fees. [...] At the start of Mr Butler's second term as health minister, DoHDA head honcho Blair Comley even explicitly encouraged the minister to take an "even more doing, less reviewing" approach. Evidently, that message got lost in translation.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Nurse of year ends up in world of fear

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 20/09/2026, Brad Crouch & Lauren Novak, Page 7

A retired nurse, who gave five decades of service to the state's health system, is caught in her own healthcare nightmare. Shirley Gunn, 81, has spent two years in various hospitals waiting for an aged care bed, as dementia fanned other mental health challenges.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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Dementia cases tipped to surge

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 20/09/2026, Sue Bailey, Page 9

More than 11,000 Tasmanians are living with dementia with the number expected to increase by 47 per cent by 2054. The condition is Australia's leading cause of death, "but it's not talked about nearly enough", Dementia Australia general manager of client services Nikki Gilbertson says.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

'All about adapting': how burlesque artist got back on stage

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 20/09/2026, Petlee Peter, Page 3

When her second-hand motorised mobility scooter finally gave out in June, burlesque artist Empress Eyrie was left heartbroken and "stranded at home". [...] Approaching the National Disability Insurance Scheme for a replacement wasn't even an afterthought, let alone an option.

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Cut spending and mind cost of tax reforms, IMF urges Labor

Australian Financial Review, General News, 17/09/2026, John Kehoe

The International Monetary Fund has urged the federal and state governments to rein in spending to help reduce inflation and interest costs on \$1.6 trillion of public debt.

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PRIMARY CARE

Compassionate healthcare team delivers essential kits to local homeless

Canberra Times, General News, 19/09/2026, Megan Doherty

Every Thursday evening outside The Griffin Centre in Civic, volunteer doctors, nurses and managers work at Street Side Medics, offering free medical care to those experiencing homelessness and other challenges. This week, the Street Side Medics mobile GP clinic pulled up in its usual place outside the Vinnies food bank on Genge Street, as a bitterly cool spring breeze whipped through the avenue.

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Donations put hospital-level blood testing in paramedics' hands

Shepparton News Online, General News, 19/09/2026

Paramedics can now perform hospital-level blood tests in the field, giving them vital information about critically ill patients within minutes. Seven portable blood chemistry analysers were purchased after Air Ambulance Victoria received \$47,000 in community donations.

POPULATION HEALTH

Fat chance: Why a blood test to detect microplastics is a hard sell for scientists

Sunday Age, General News, 20/09/2026, Sarah Berry, Page 28

Around the world each year, an estimated 20 billion kilograms of plastic ends up littering the environment. [...] While Johnson's company may have been the first, multiple other companies now offer at-home blood tests, including in Australia, where they can cost up to \$750.

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Australia's rising STI rates raise alarm

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 20/09/2026, Page 19

Sexually transmissible infections remain a significant public health issue in Australia, with new data showing syphilis and gonorrhoea rates remain high. In 2025, there were 5986 syphilis diagnoses, 42,393 gonorrhoea diagnoses and 94,184 chlamydia diagnoses, according to the Kirby Institute at UNSW Sydney.

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'Why I need to know my genetic identity'

Sunday Times, General News, 20/09/2026, Angela Pownall, Page 18

As someone who was adopted as a child, genetic testing could give Tracey Jewel Constable her first insight into her family health history. [...] A 2025 Monash University study found one in 50 Australians had a genetic variant that put them at high risk of cancers or heart disease that can be prevented or treated early.

Also reported by: [Sunday Times \(Perth\)](#).

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'Operating in the dark': Push for transparency as vulnerable children detained for safety

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 19/09/2026, Julie Cross

Child advocates warn an increasing number of young girls who have committed no crime are being locked up for their own safety, to protect them from lone sexual predators and grooming gangs. [...] The foundation's calls for national data is backed by the Queensland Family and Child Commission, the ACT Public Advocate and Children and Young People Commissioner, MacKillop Family Services, and Churchill Fellow Kate Crowe who have released a joint submission to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

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

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Speaking up for lives harmed by alcohol in the womb

Canberra Times, General News, 19/09/2026, Chelsea Heaney

Bedridden by her late 20s and "laughed out of doctors' offices", it took years for Jessica Birch to receive a life-changing diagnosis. [...] Ms Birch is speaking out as part of national efforts to destigmatise and raise awareness of support for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, or FASD.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail UK \(Online\)](#).

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Labor government's Intergenerational Report predicts Australians will have one of the longest lifespans

Future Australians will have one of the longest life expectancies in the world according to a new report. [...] "The IGR lays out the case for the Albanese Government's investments to strengthen Medicare, make medicines cheaper, delivering Urgent Care Clinics and more bulk billing to take pressure off our hospitals.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Stress hidden threat to life

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 20/09/2026, Page 5

Scientists have revealed that a 'hidden threat' could significantly increase your risk of heart attack and stroke. Chronic stress could cause changes to the structure of the heart and reduce your life expectancy, research has suggested.

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Put heart into rehab

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 20/09/2026, Page 22

Exercise-based cardiac rehabilitation reduces hospital admissions by a third and heart attack risk by more than a quarter as well as remaining beneficial in the long term. Researchers, led by the University of Glasgow, analysed 107 trials involving 26,886 people with heart disease.

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My Maddie is so strong

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 20/09/2026, Tayla Couacaud, Page 19

The mother of a cheeky and determined three-year-old twin says her daughter is fighting an extremely rare cancer with more strength than she believes most adults could manage. [...] The rare liver cancer has been diagnosed in only 40-odd cases in Queensland in the past 20 years, according to Queensland Health.

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Auburn woman Tricia Booker's brain tumour 'shrinking' after she defied initial dire prognosis

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 19/09/2026, Evangeline Polymeneas

Tricia Booker was just 49 years old when her doctor delivered the news no one wants to hear — she had a brain tumour, and there was nothing they could do. [...] Tricia Booker was just 49 years old when her doctor delivered the news no one wants to hear — she had a brain tumour, and there was nothing they could do.

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

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Funding for prostate cancer research

Border Watch, General News, 19/09/2026

South Australian scientists are launching a new offensive against advanced prostate cancer, backed by a major funding injection...

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Channel 10, 10 News (Weekend), 19/09/2026

John Farnham's legacy will be celebrated at a star-studded tribute concert featuring more than 120 musicians performing his biggest hits. The event will raise funds for Head and Neck Cancer Australia and promote oral cancer awareness, with free health checks available before the concert.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

ADHD symptoms change as you age. Here's what to expect over the years

Sunday Age, General News, 20/09/2026, Dana Smith, Page 24

Elizabeth's two sons, ages eight and 10, have both been diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. [...] But according to a 2021 longitudinal study that followed children with ADHD for 16 years, only about 10 per cent experienced "sustained remission" into young adulthood.

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Mental issues slash lifespan

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 20/09/2026, Page 22

People with a severe mental illness die more than 10 years earlier than the general population. University of Queensland researchers have found that while the mortality rate has improved in the past 14 years for mental health patients, inequality is still prevalent.

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Australian researchers find potential link between plastic additive and symptoms of autism and ADHD

7News.com.au, General News, 19/09/2026, Freddy Pawle

Australian researchers have uncovered a potential link between the prevalence of a common additive to plastic and children being born with autism or symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). The additive, Di-2-Ethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP), is used to make plastic more flexible and can be found in a number of household items such as rain-proof clothes, garden hoses, or shower curtains.

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IMMUNISATION

Late surge in flu alert

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 20/09/2026, Genevieve Holding, Page 4

Cold, flu, Covid and other acute respiratory infections are on the rise in Tasmania, with the state's Department of Health attributing this to a late "seasonal increase in influenza". [...] Influenza vaccinations in Tasmania are below 40 per cent for age groups from 2 years old to under 65 years old, according to the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance Australia.

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

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Urgent warning after second meningococcal alert reported in WA

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 19/09/2026, Blair Jackson

A second WA child is in hospital with meningococcal in the space of just two weeks, forcing health authorities to issue another warning over the potentially deadly disease. [...] "Due to a higher rate of meningococcal disease in Aboriginal children in WA, the MenACWY vaccine is offered free to Aboriginal children aged from six weeks to 12 months old," a WA Health spokesperson said.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Diet link to Alzheimer's

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 20/09/2026, Page 5

A new study has found a link between an unhealthy Western-style diet and a faster decline in attention for people who carry a genetic risk of Alzheimer's disease. A research team led by Murdoch University and Alzheimer's Research Australia followed 185 older adults for more than seven years and examined whether dietary patterns were associated with changes in cognition.

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Leukaemia survivors lead way to drug-free recovery

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 20/09/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 5

A new Adelaide biobank will help researchers trying to solve the puzzle of why some leukaemia survivors can be weaned off drugs while in remission. [...] The collaboration between the SA Health and Medical Research Institute, the Leukaemia Foundation and Cancer Council SA, will collect clinical data from patients across the country who attempt treatment-free remission.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Doctors at Albury Wodonga Health advised to send patients home early to meet surging demand

ABC Online, General News, 19/09/2026, Erin Somerville

A stretched regional health service facing significant patient demand amid a late flu season has advised doctors to consider discharging patients earlier and without physical consultant review. An email to doctors sent from Albury Wodonga Health's chief medical officer Simon Craig on Thursday, which was verified by the ABC, warned that the service was facing "overwhelming" demands that were expected to continue for days.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Nurses and midwives threaten to strike over Cook Government's broken promise on ratios

West Australian, General News, 19/09/2026, Jessica Page

Nurses are threatening to strike over stalled plans to introduce minimum patient ratios in hospital emergency departments. A mass walk-out by nurses and midwives in 2022 over pay and conditions forced the State Government to commit to nurse-to-patient ratios.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Violence in emergency departments at crisis level

Sunday Age, General News, 20/09/2026, Melissa Cunningham, Page 3

Exclusive Health reporter Victorian emergency room doctors and nurses are being increasingly assaulted at work, with the number of violent workplace incidents reported at public hospitals soaring 44 per cent in the past three years. [...] The most recent data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare showed in the 2024-25 financial year at least 230 healthcare workers were hospitalised after being assaulted in Victoria.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Radio National, Health Report, 19/09/2026, Preeya Alexander & Lauren Roberts

Alexander and Roberts discuss the government's legislation to improve transparency around non-GP specialist fees, noting the shortcomings of the existing Medical Costs Finder and the significant discrepancies in specialist charges. They cite concerns that publishing fees could inadvertently encourage price matching among specialists, while also highlighting measures to crack down on 'product phoenixing' by private health insurers and increase transparency and regulation of health insurance premiums.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Award-winning 'Rising Star' psychologist seduced vulnerable patients at his parents' clinic, betrayed their darkest secrets - and told another how to cut herself and hide the scars

Daily Mail UK, General News, 19/09/2026, Karleigh Smith

An award-winning Victorian psychologist has been banned for six years after he had sex with two vulnerable clients he had been treating, and told a third where to self-harm so the scars wouldn't show. [...] The misconduct came to light after notifications to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency in April and May 2022.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Could Ozempic treat addiction? Why the question has split researchers

Sunday Age, General News, 20/09/2026, Rachel Rasker, Page 2

Sometimes, the drugs that transform our society are stumbled upon by pure happenstance. [...] GLP-1 drugs which market under brand names including Ozempic, Trulicity, Wegovy and Mounjaro have already been repurposed.

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

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Smoke busters run out of puff

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 20/09/2026, Andreas Nicola, Page 9

Illegal tobacco shops are getting a "free ride" after Queensland Health paused high-risk raids over safety concerns. [...] "Police work closely with policing counterparts nationally and federally as well as other government agencies, including Queensland Health and Therapeutic Goods Administration, who are the lead agencies in respect to the sale of illicit tobacco and vapes in Queensland, including investigations targeting the sale of these products."

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

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