



# TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 30th September 2026

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

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 2) reports that OpenAI apologised through a blog post over the recent Medicare Statistics Reporting Service hack by its AI agent. The company said they will “rebuild trust with the Australian people” and scrapped the planned October release of its next generation model. *Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review](#), [The Sydney Morning Herald](#), [The Canberra Times](#)*
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 2) reports that Victorian public hospital doctors will hold their first state-wide strike in more than two decades on Thursday in protest of unsustainable working hours, fatigue and threats to patient safety, seeking 12.5-hour shift limits and at least three guaranteed days off each fortnight. *Also reported by: [The Herald Sun](#), [The Canberra Times](#), [ABC Online](#)*
- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports that patients waiting for treatment at the new Footscray Hospital are facing delays of up to 72 hours for emergency surgery due to staffing and funding shortages that have left about 170 beds and operating theatres closed.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 4) reports that clinicians and experts warned that sexual strangulation is rising among younger people and could cause serious harm, including brain injury, stroke, seizures and death.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 7) reports Queensland is facing ED delays of up to 70 hours due to staffing shortages, increased hospital presentations and patients waiting for aged care or

disability services.

- **ABC Online** reports the Federal Government is considering a more active role in how disability housing is planned, funded and monitored. Health Minister Mark Butler said the government wants to give NDIS participants choice from approved Supported Independent Living providers and remove poor quality operators from the system.
- **Northern Territory News** (online) reports that NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister announced new initiatives, including expanding the Remote Community Connector program, to protect First Nations clients in remote NT communities and address dodgy NDIS practices.
- **Australian Doctor** (online) reports that according to the Australian National Audit Office report, DoHDA and Services Australia are monitoring the use of AI-enabled billing tools that could increase incorrect or inappropriate MBS claims. The Health Department said it was focused on “preventing and responding to incorrect, inappropriate and fraudulent claiming”.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Victorian pharmacy PBS revocation

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 29/09/2026, Page 2

The Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler has revoked the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) approval of AE & MM Pty Ltd, trading as Upper Beaconsfield Pharmacy, following serious and repeated transgressions around PBS prescriber bag claims. This included making PBS claims based on false and misleading information, including in circumstances where supplies did not occur as claimed; supplying prescriber bag medicines in amounts greater than permitted and misrepresenting the timing of supplies; and making PBS claims using a non-approved prescriber bag order form.

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### The government wants to cut NDIS costs, advocates are pushing for alternatives to group homes

ABC Online, General News, 29/09/2026, Nas Campanella & Mary Lloyd

Jason Toppin's group home is more than a roof over his head. [...] Disability Minister Mark Butler told 7.30 he only wants a pool of approved providers to offer services in supported living arrangements to remove poor-quality operators from the system.

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

[Read More](#)

### Aussie smokers targeted again with new ban just days away

Yahoo! News Australia, General News, 29/09/2026, Matthew Dunn

Australia's crackdown on illegal cigarettes and vapes will tighten from Thursday, with new powers aimed at black-market products still being sold through tobacconists, convenience stores and other retailers. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said this month the scale of Australia's illegal tobacco market had "exploded over the last three or four years", describing it as a major law-enforcement challenge.

[Read More](#)

### NDIS housing alternatives gain attention as costs face review

WEB OZ Arab Media, General News, 29/09/2026

According to ABC News, the federal government is seeking to reduce National Disability Insurance Scheme costs by \$36 billion over four years as advocates call for more alternatives to group homes. [...] Disability Minister Mark Butler said the government was considering a pool of approved providers for supported living services, while maintaining participant choice and control.

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**ABC, 7:30, 29/09/2026, Sarah Ferguson**

The Federal Government is looking to reduce the cost of the NDIS by \$36b over the next four years, and disability advocates believe it's an opportunity to consider alternative living plans. The Federal Government recently asked the disability community for their suggestions on how to improve housing services, but made no mention of alternatives to group homes, and when asked on whether providers should be pressured to expand their offerings beyond things such as group homes, NDIS Minister Mark Butler said he does not want to preempt it.

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

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## ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 29/09/2026, Leon Compton

Interview with St Luke's Health CEO Paul Lupo, on the Federal Government's decision to slash the private health insurance rebates for older Australians. Lupo recalls that Federal Health Minister Mark Butler suggested that they should make an inquiry and express their concerns about the decision's impacts in regional states like Tasmania, which he notes they have done. He also says Australians over 65 should get a better deal than Australians under 40 because they draw down on the system, and he notes that the Federal Government's investment in elderly Australians maintaining their private health insurance means that they are kept out of the public system.

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[Back to Top](#)

## MINISTER MCALLISTER

### Remote NT communities to receive new NDIS safeguards to promote 'real change'

Northern Territory News, General News, 29/09/2026, Lottie Hood

The federal government say they are cracking down on dodgy NDIS practices and introducing a range of supports to better help and protect First Nations clients in remote Northern Territory communities. In the announcement from the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Minister, Jenny McAllister, a range of measures designed to strengthen safeguards and identify dubious practices across the country were revealed late on Tuesday for the NT.

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

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### NDIS advisors warn funding cuts could threaten 24-hour supports

Health Services Daily, General News, 29/09/2026, Cate Swannell

The government's own NDIS reform advisors are warning that looming funding reductions could threaten continuity of care for participants requiring 24-hour and other complex supports, as the first stage of a major funding reset begins this week. [...] Disability minister Senator Jenny McAllister has told the committee its priorities for the next stage of reform would include implementation of new framework planning, access and eligibility reform, and monitoring the rollout of Thriving Kids and its interface with the NDIS and foundational supports.

[Read More](#)

### ABC North Queensland, Mornings (Late), 29/09/2026, Susan Graham-Ryan/Emma Jones

Interview with Lynn Rees, Riding for the Disabled Queensland. Jones says Rees was part of the recent roundtable with NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister and Dickson MP Ali France. Rees says the meeting was important, and they aim to keep their programs as accessible as possible by keeping costs down through involvement of unpaid volunteers and fundraising, and she also notes that many of the participants still need the support of the NDIS funding to be able to pay for their riding lessons.

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[Back to Top](#)

## MINISTER RAE

### Extra Support at Home funding is coming, here's how to prepare

Aged Care Online, General News, 29/09/2026

The federal government has committed an extra \$389.8 million to speed up Support at Home funding release. Here's what it means for older Australians, and how to start planning for a provider before your funding arrives. [...] In a recent interview, Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae, confirmed that the additional funding will support the release of 32,000 additional Support at Home places during the 2026–27 financial year, building on the 83,000 additional places released last financial year.

[Read More](#)

### TLC decides not to introduce HELF at most homes

Australian Ageing Agenda, General News, 29/09/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Victorian aged care and primary health provider TLC Healthcare has announced it will not be charging residents at 10 of its 12 homes a Higher Everyday Living Fee. [...] In March, Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae had described Opal HealthCare's HELF trial as "absolutely disgusting", following reports the trial included the removal of personal access to televisions and free-to-air channels and the removal of hot meals for breakfast as universal services.

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[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

### Aussies urged to protect skin

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 29/09/2026, Page 1

Wounds Australia has marked Wound Awareness Week (28 Sep - 04 Oct) with the launch of SOS: Save Our Skin, a public health campaign encouraging people to protect their skin, recognise a wound early, and "get the right care, right now". [...] A consumer-facing campaign will be launched tomorrow in Hobart by Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Rebecca White.

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

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### Seven Tasmania, Nightly News, 29/09/2026, Kim Millar

The Launceston General Hospital has admitted that it is experiencing a sustained period of high demand, while Tasmania Health Minister Bridget Archer is calling on the Federal Government to help relieve the pressure placed on the system by longer-stay patients. Assistant Federal Health Minister Rebecca White says the Tasmanian Government is not going to solve problems in its hospital system, such as bed block, if it's cutting funding to health care.

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[Back to Top](#)

## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## DEPARTMENT

### Health officials say they are concerned about GP practices using AI tools to 'maximise' MBS revenue

Australian Doctor, General News, 29/09/2026, Jamie Thannoo

Government departments are quietly monitoring how AI is being used by practices to bill more on the MBS, according to a new report. [...] However, both Services Australia and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing believe that AI may be used to "increase the scale, speed or sophistication" of non-compliance.

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### eNRMC implementation timeframe extended

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 29/09/2026

Government gives residential aged care facilities an extra three months to adopt conformant electronic medication charts Residential aged care facilities will have until 31 March 2027 to transition to Electronic National Residential Medication Charts (eNRMC) conformant systems, following a decision by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to extend the process.

[Read More](#)

### The NACC still doesn't know what a conflict-of-interest is

Michael West Media, General News, 29/09/2026, Sarah Russell

It's nearly two years since former commissioner Brereton was found to have engaged in "officer misconduct" for not appropriately managing his conflict of interest with Kathryn Campbell over the Robodebt referral, yet NACC deputy commissioners appear unclear about what it means. [...] A longstanding Commonwealth public servant, Shakespeare commenced as acting Deputy Commissioner at the NACC on 6 July 2026 straight from her job as a deputy secretary at the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DHDA).

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[Back to Top](#)

## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Aspirin for dementia

Courier Mail, General News, 30/09/2026, Page 19

Low-dose aspirin is associated with a 70 per cent lower risk of dementia among older people with a particular genetic profile, new analysis has found, raising the possibility of a more personalised approach to dementia prevention. The Monash University study's strongest finding was linked to genetics that influence platelet count.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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### Dying pensioner facing homelessness

Launceston Examiner, General News, 30/09/2026, Saree Salter, Page 1

Mick Brown recently stopped chemotherapy for terminal cancer to enjoy his quiet coastal life, but now he's more stressed than ever, with potentially only months to live. When Mr Brown's partner and carer, Amanda, suddenly died in June, his income was halved.

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### Screening for dementia at pharmacies

Newcastle Herald, General News, 30/09/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

Chris Piggott has witnessed the effects of dementia, so he didn't hesitate to help design a new

screening program to be piloted in the Hunter. "We've got 15 friends with dementia, half of them are severe," said Mr Piggott, 81, adding the disease was "really hard" on the patients' partners.

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## 40% of home care funding going unspent, Bolton Clarke tells Senate

The Weekly Source, General News, 29/09/2026, Lauren Broomham

The money is there, but some older Australians still cannot get the care they need. Not For Profit provider Bolton Clarke is urging the Government to let providers use some unspent Support at Home funding to top up care for clients whose budgets fall short.

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## The crucial document Aussie couples need to sign before a medical crisis

The Senior, General News, 29/09/2026, Carla Mascarenhas

Filling in an advance care document before you or your partner is ill is a must, say medical experts after a spate of readers say they were locked out of partner care. In September, The Senior ran a story about a woman whose husband was misdiagnosed but actually had young onset dementia.

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## Australia's health policy Dark Age? The 1260 years patients are stuck in hospital waiting for an aged care bed

Australian Doctor, General News, 29/09/2026

The public debate is obsessed about crippling health budgets, egregious specialist fees and mass Medicare rorts. So you would think that there would be more sound and fury about the resources being squandered in a system where thousands of patients are stuck in hospital because they have no alternative place to go.

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## Aged care worker's drug mix-up led to preventable death, coroner finds

Star Community, General News, 29/09/2026, Afraa Kori

A 69-year-old woman's death after she was given another resident's medication at an aged care home was preventable, a coroner has found. The elderly resident was mistakenly given 300mg of the antipsychotic drug clozapine at Monash Health's Mooraleigh Hostel in Bentleigh East on 4 August 2024.

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[Back to Top](#)

## DISABILITY AND CARERS

### Former NDIS provider accused of \$325k rort

The Australian, General News, 30/09/2026, William Elliott, Page 3

A former National Disability Insurance Scheme provider has been accused of fraudulently obtaining more than \$325,000 from the scheme. Denise Clissold, 52, who previously operated registered NDIS provider Coast Community, faced Sydney's Downing Centre Local Court on Tuesday.

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

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### Cost shift 'threat to federation stability'

The Australian, General News, 30/09/2026, Mackenzie Scott, Page 6

Queensland will face up to \$22bn in additional spending over the next five years as Jim Chalmers shifts costs from the federal budget to the states in what has been labelled "a threat to the federation's stability". [...] Reforms to the NDIS are expected to be the biggest cost impost on the budget, with an

estimated impact of \$3bn to \$10.1bn. This is despite Queensland being the only state yet to sign on to the Thriving Kids program, which is slated to begin receiving federal funding on Thursday.

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## **‘Rushed and unclear’: Parents anxious ahead of introduction of Thriving Kids, disability scheme changes**

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 29/09/2026, Nieve Walton

Australian parents whose children have autism have slammed changes to disability support, saying they face a void of information in a “rushed and unconsidered” new program. Thriving Kids, which seeks to help reduce the number of children seeking support on the \$55 billion National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), is starting on October 1, 2026.

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## **Taxpayers won't receive a cent after group collapses following \$130,000 grant**

Newcastle Herald, General News, 29/09/2026, Matthew Kelly

Taxpayers won't receive a cent back from a \$130,000 state government grant that the Charlestown Caring Group received before its collapse in late 2024. The former aged care and disability support provider was approved to receive the money on September 28, 2023, under the Local Small Commitments Allocation (LSCA) program.

[Read More](#)

## **Former NDIS provider faces court, accused of \$325,000 fraud**

News24 Australia, General News, 29/09/2026, Bianca Mulheron

A former NDIS provider has been accused of defrauding the scheme of more than \$325,000 by submitting claims for services that were never delivered. Denise Clissold, 52, faced Downing Centre Local Court on Tuesday on 18 counts of obtaining a financial advantage by deception.

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[Back to Top](#)

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## **PRIMARY CARE**

### **‘Inspirational’ NT GPs honoured**

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, General News, 29/09/2026

The Territory's RACGP Awards celebrated the achievements of GPs and clinics, and their role in building the future of general practice. The RACGP's NT Awards recognised Palmerston GP Super Clinic for delivering a service that brings together general practice, allied health and urgent care services.

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[Back to Top](#)

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## **POPULATION HEALTH**

### **Free dental care like pulling teeth**

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 30/09/2026, Millie Muroi, Page 18

A few weeks ago, I was struggling to open my mouth more than one or two centimetres. My jaw was locked on one side, and I was starting to lose a bit of hearing in my right ear... all thanks to a wisdom tooth which had decided rather selfishly to erupt at an awkward angle.

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

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## Bed shortage may stymie outreach work

Age, General News, 30/09/2026, Cara Waters, Page 2

Homelessness services warn that they are stretched beyond capacity and the state government's \$27.8 million assertive outreach program to reduce rough sleeping will further increase demand. Under a new statewide expansion of the "by-name" program, which already operates in inner Melbourne, teams of homelessness workers will be sent onto streets around Victoria to profile homeless people, build trust, prioritise those in the greatest need, and connect them to housing and other support.

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## Warning of brain injury risk from sexual strangulation

Age, General News, 30/09/2026, Wendy Tuohy, Page 4

Women in their early 20s risk becoming a generation with higher stroke risk at a younger age because of the "epidemic" of sexual strangulation, also known as the consensual practice of "choking", forensic and research experts warn. [...] The prevalence of choking in domestic violence situations is probably underreported, as the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare states only about 8 per cent of sexual assault incidents are reported.

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

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## Listening to new mums to find out what they need

Courier Mail, General News, 30/09/2026, Corrine Mulholland, Page 23

Two weeks before I was due to give birth to my second child, I was suddenly rushed through the hospital's emergency department doors with a collapsed lung. It was the second time my lung had collapsed during this pregnancy. Pregnancy rarely goes exactly to plan.

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## Brisbane mother welcomes healthy baby after surviving two rare back-to-back molar pregnancies

Northern Territory News, General News, 29/09/2026, Jackie Sinnerton

When Gabrielle Marosz was told she had a molar pregnancy she was stunned. "Never heard of such a thing and what a weird name," the Brisbane woman said.

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## Foster care experts say families reuniting with biological children need more support

ABC Online, General News, 29/09/2026, Eden Hynninen & Coco Veldkamp

Foster care experts say there needs to be more support for families reuniting with children following the death of an 8-month-old less than three days after she was returned to her biological parents. [...] More support needed According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, approximately 81 per cent of children put into care in Victoria return home within two years.

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## Glen Eira City Council endorses antisemitism action plan in Victorian first

ABC Online, General News, 29/09/2026, Costa Haritos

In the heart of Australia's largest Jewish community, people are gathering for a free first-aid training session inside a former church. The coloured light beams through the stained-glass windows and onto rows of CPR mannequins as the group find their seats.

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## GPs asked to prescribe more vapes for quitters in light of Cochrane update

Australian Doctor, General News, 29/09/2026, Jamie Thannoo

Growing evidence of the effectiveness of nicotine e-cigarettes should give GPs confidence to prescribe

them to patients trying to quit smoking, according to Professor Nick Zwar. The former chair of the RACGP's Smoking Cessation Expert Advisory Group says there has long been concern about small sample sizes in studies but the evidence base is beginning to shift.

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## ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 29/09/2026, Ross Solly

Interview with ACT Health Minister Marisa Paterson, on the ACT Government's new anti-vaping campaign. Paterson says the 'Every Vape is a Hit to Health' campaign is about strengthening the response to vaping among young Canberrans, and it will be run by the ACT Government and Anglicare. She also states that vaping is a serious public health concern and has increased significantly amongst young people over the past few years.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

## CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

### Exercise best in ACL repair

Hobart Mercury, General News, 30/09/2026, Page 9

Exercise-based rehabilitation, along with education, can reduce the chance of knee osteoarthritis following ACL reconstruction in people aged under 40. Research also shows this will improve pain and quality of life.

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

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### Survey reveals 73 per cent of Australian adults lack the confidence to check their pulse for a heart flaw

Hobart Mercury, General News, 30/09/2026, Warrick Bishop, Page 18

Most of US know roughly what our health feels like when everything is going well. But when change happens gradually, it can be surprisingly easy to miss.

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### We need better services

Western Advocate, General News, 30/09/2026, Amy Rees, Page 1

They suspected a life-threatening disease, but the process of scans, biopsies and surgery took months. She had private health insurance, but was still stung by massive medical bills.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#).

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### The 'unheralded' organ: Why kidney disease is so difficult to detect

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 29/09/2026, Abby Seaman

Greens leader Larissa Waters announced on Monday night she will step down due to a decline in her health. Waters has been managing pre-existing chronic kidney disease (CKD).

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### Two-year-old child undergoes assisted dying in Netherlands under expanded euthanasia laws

Adelaide Now, General News, 29/09/2026, Gabriela Amoils

A two-year-old child suffering from severe, incurable medical conditions has undergone assisted dying treatment in the Netherlands, in what is believed to be the first case of its kind under expanded laws. The toddler — whose gender has not been publicly released — had spent nearly their entire life

battling severe brain damage, cerebral palsy, and vision impairment following a premature birth at just 26 weeks.

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## **Diagnosed at 48, Amanda is running a half marathon to prove a point**

Canberra Times, General News, 29/09/2026, Sophie Blewitt

After suffering from painful, swollen legs her whole life, 51-year-old Isaacs resident Amanda Bogar is running to prove a point. Diagnosed with lipoedema at 48, Ms Bogar is now training for The Canberra Times Fun Run half marathon on November 1 to prove to herself that she can cross the finish line.

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## **A third of Aussie women suffer crippling migraines – yet no one's talking about it**

NEWS.com.au, General News, 29/09/2026, Ravisha Rajapaksha

If you've ever wondered whether your thumping headaches might be something more serious, research suggests you could be onto something. The recent National Women's Health Survey, conducted by Jean Hailes for Women's Health, shows 30 per cent of Australian women live with migraine, with half of them suffering attacks more than once a week.

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## **Aussie's warning after her 'innocent' mole turned out to be melanoma at 27 despite the GP saying it was 'fine': 'Don't think it won't happen to you'**

Daily Mail UK, General News, 29/09/2026, Elise Wilson

An Australian woman has issued a warning to others to get their skin checked after an 'innocent-looking' mark on her leg turned out to be melanoma when she was just 27. The woman, now 31, shared a photograph of the seemingly unremarkable spot as Australia heads into the warmer months, revealing she initially struggled to convince doctors that something wasn't right.

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## **Kids' pain too often overlooked**

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 29/09/2026

Chronic Pain Australia is calling for greater recognition of the experience of children with chronic pain and their families, with a new campaign urging the Australian Government to ensure chronic pain is consistently reflected in national health data, policy and planning.

[Read More](#)

## **A decade on from Melbourne's thunderstorm asthma event, are your patients prepared?**

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 29/09/2026

The storm that hit Melbourne on 21 November 2016 remains the largest epidemic thunderstorm asthma event on record. Ten people died, and several thousand more struggled to breathe, including people with asthma, people who didn't know they had it, and people with allergic rhinitis who had never had an asthma attack.

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## **Spotlight on shingles**

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 29/09/2026

New research commissioned by GSK Australia reveals that 92% of people aged 50–69 don't think that talking about shingles with their healthcare provider is a priority despite the fact that 1 in 3 Australians will "develop shingles in their lifetime with the risk increasing from 50 years of age". This comes as Australian TV personality Nicky Buckley speaks publicly about her experience with the condition.

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## ABC News, News Breakfast, 29/09/2026, James Glenday and Emma Reballato

Interview with cardiologist Monique Watts, on World Heart Day. Watts says 80% of heart disease cases are preventable, and it's important that Australians conduct regular heart health checks. She also says the risk factors for heart disease, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and diabetes, often do not cause any symptoms, particularly in the early phases.

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## ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 29/09/2026, Thomas Oriti

Interview with leading women's health expert Dr Magdalena Simonis AM. Simonis says the common symptoms of endometriosis are fatigue, bloating, and pelvic pain, which can be associated with periods or the absence of periods, but she also notes that the later stages of endometriosis can interfere with women's ability to conceive. She notes that they have been conducting research on being able to diagnose endometriosis definitively.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Anger over son's death

Courier Mail, General News, 30/09/2026, Ann Wason Moore, Page 18

The family of a young Gold Coast man who died after being refused admission to Robina Hospital's mental health unit is calling for the coroner to investigate his medical care. Pacific Paradise man Tyler Paige presented at the hospital after trying to take his own life earlier the same day, but he was not deemed a high enough suicide risk for inpatient admission.

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### 21yo sent home

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 30/09/2026, Ann Wason Moore, Page 1

A 21-year-old Pacific Pines man died just hours after being refused admission at Robina Hospital's mental health unit, despite trying to take his own life earlier the same day. His mother, Paige Campbell, said she found her son Tyler Campbell's body in the family home after he returned from hospital where he had sought help for the second time following a serious selfharm incident.

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### A tragic death

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 30/09/2026, Page 18

It's absolutely paramount that we provide hope to people who are suicidal, and today's story on the front page of the Bulletin in no way suggests that help isn't available. There are many services who can, and do, support people during the darkest parts of their life including Robina Hospital.

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## Australian government concedes no scientific consensus on social media harms for teenagers – but ‘credible risks’ justify ban

The Guardian, General News, 30/09/2026, Josh Taylor

The Australian government has conceded it implemented the “world-leading” under-16s social media ban before there was scientific consensus on the link between mental health harms and social media use, but argued the “credible risks” of issues such as addictive behaviours and anxiety justify the policy. In its defence against a high court challenge of the ban, the government has also argued its proposed digital duty of care legislation, allowing users to opt out of social media features such as algorithms, would ultimately have the same effect as the ban, if implemented.

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## Major study finds no clear link between daylight saving and significant mental health decline

News24 Australia, General News, 29/09/2026, Joe Gallop

Australians' fears that the upcoming daylight saving change could have a significant impact on mental health have been challenged by a major international study involving Melbourne researchers. The review of 157 studies from 36 countries found no clear or consistent link between the twice-yearly clock changes and significant declines in mental health.

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[Back to Top](#)

## IMMUNISATION

### ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 29/09/2026, Troy Sincock

Interview with University of South Australia Professor of Biostatistics and Epidemiology Adrian Esterman, on a research study commissioned by GSK, which suggested that Australians aged 50 to 69 are putting their risk of shingles on the back burner, with less than one in 10 considering it a priority to discuss shingles or their individual risk with a health care professional. Esterman states that shingles is the same virus that gives people chickenpox, and once it enters the system, it does not go away and it appears when one's immune system is weakened. He also notes that Australians over 65 are being urged to visit their GP and have themselves protected by accessing the free shingles vaccine.

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

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### FIVEAA, Breakfast, 29/09/2026, Will Goodings and Stacey Lee

Interview with Deakin University epidemiologist Professor Catherine Bennett, on the latest measles case in SA. Bennett says vaccination rates are dropping a bit, and it is more likely that someone who isn't fully vaccinated might now be exposed to measles. She also says there is now a long list of exposure sites, and she notes that it's important for people to check the lists, see whether they might have been in any of those places, and monitor for symptoms if they're not sure they're fully vaccinated.

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[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### 'Make the most': Liver recipient, 84, competes at Australian Transplant Games in Launceston

The Mercury, General News, 29/09/2026, Alison Foletta

At 84, organ transplant recipient Esther Scott is proving age is no barrier as the oldest competitor taking to the greens at the Australian Transplant Games in Launceston. The Australian Transplant Games are being held in Tasmania for the first time and the competition started on Saturday and will run over a week.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

## 'Ultimate superbug': New form of antibiotic resistance uncovered

Age, General News, 30/09/2026, Angus Dalton, Page 13

In the brutal arms race between drugs and bugs, serendipity has often been on humanity's side. In 1928, Alexander Fleming left a Petri dish unsealed and later found it overgrown with a green fuzz that had partly killed his culture of *Staphylococcus aureus*.

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

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## E-scooters' toll on kids

Herald Sun, General News, 30/09/2026, Brendan Kearns, Page 1

Parents are being warned escooters are "not a toy" after new research revealed more than a quarter of all injured riders were under 16. The joint study by the Royal Melbourne Hospital and RACV examined 644 e-scooter and e-bike injuries treated by Victorian ambulance services and emergency departments between November 2025 and May 2026.

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## Unprepared for death

Herald Sun, General News, 30/09/2026, Page 15

New research has found few Australians are prepared for the moment or know how to help family members with the end of their lives. A new La Trobe University study shows 48 per cent of people have not prepared a will, 54 per cent don't know where to access palliative care, 58 per cent don't know about end-of-life paperwork, and almost 63 per cent don't know what to do when someone dies at home.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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## Race for faster and cheaper lab-grown blood

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 30/09/2026, Stella McKenna, Page 4

Queensland biomedical engineers are producing lab-grown blood like it has never been done before. Researchers from The University of Queensland, Australian Red Cross Lifeblood and SMART CRC are joining forces in a new \$2.5m project to make lab-grown red blood cells faster, cheaper and in quantities large enough for medical use.

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## One in eight cancers are likely caused by an infection worldwide – new study

The New Daily, General News, 29/09/2026

Around 12 per cent of the world's total cancer cases in 2024 were likely caused by an infection, according to alarming new research from the World Health Organisation. [...] In Australia, one of the best examples of preventing cancers caused by infections is the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine.

[Read More](#)

## Lab-grown blood moves closer to reality

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 29/09/2026

Australia is one of the few countries that can produce lab-grown blood. But it takes three weeks just to produce just a few teaspoons.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 9, Nine News, 29/09/2026, Melissa Downes & Joel Dry

A new \$2.5m collaboration between Lifeblood and the University of Queensland could one day be a lifeline through the production of lab-grown blood, offering new hope for families. Lifeblood scientists are already growing fully functional red blood cells from donor stem cells in the lab, but right now, it takes three weeks to make just a few teaspoons for \$70,000.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#).

### 3AW, Breakfast, 29/09/2026, Ross Stevenson & Russel Howcroft

Interview with Dr Jack Talbot, Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute, on World Heart Day and the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute calling for an urgent focus on women's heart health. Talbot says 2024 figures have revealed that 8000 women died from heart health concerns, but he notes that it's more than that when they look at cardiovascular disease cases. He states that they are now running the Lifelong Exercise and Vascular Function in Females study, and they are calling for women aged 45 to 65 to participate in their research.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Paramedics taking lead on mental health callouts welcomed by First Nations health group

National Indigenous Times, General News, 29/09/2026, Dechlan Brennan

A Victorian Government announcement to put health professionals at the forefront of mental health callouts has been welcomed by the state's peak body for Aboriginal health organisations, which says the approach will offer greater "compassion" to people in crisis. On Monday, Mental Health Minister Ingrid Stitt announced the Mental Health Crisis Response Protocols, which set out arrangements for interactions between Victoria Police, protective services officers (PSOs), paramedics, mental health workers and other health professionals.

[Read More](#)[Back to Top](#)

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## PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

### New hospital, fresh crisis

Age, General News, 30/09/2026, Melissa Cunningham, Page 1

People requiring emergency surgery at the new \$1.5 billion Footscray Hospital are waiting days for treatment, with doctors warning funding and staffing shortages have left operating theatres closed, beds unopened and a diagnostic scanner sitting idle. More than six months after the long-awaited hospital service in Melbourne's west opened, doctors say some patients needing urgent procedures are waiting up to 72 hours as demand for emergency care soars and staff are unable to open about 170 beds across the health service.

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### ED patients wearing thin

Courier Mail, General News, 30/09/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 7

Patients are waiting up to 70 hours at some of the state's emergency departments as clinicians warn that frontline services are collapsing due to understaffing and a lack of investment. The state's peak medical body has slammed the excessive delays warning of the risks to patients.

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

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### 'The pain is unbearable'

Burnie Advocate, General News, 30/09/2026, Benjamin Seeder, Page 1

For 67-year-old Steve Murray, every step across his rural property is a sharp, grinding reminder of a public health system that he says abandoned him to years of chronic pain. As the full-time carer for his terminally ill wife, Mr Murray was supposed to be her primary source of support - helping her dress, shower, and manage her severe emphysema and oxygen treatments.

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## Soccer player's 70km car dash with broken leg sparks call for change to ambulance policies

ABC Online, General News, 29/09/2026, Caroline Horn

The family of a soccer player injured in a game believe the decision to take him by ambulance to the closest regional hospital led to unnecessary pain and delayed surgery. After waiting hours at Victor Harbor's South Coast District Hospital for an ambulance transfer, Harry Jones made the 70-kilometre dash to a metropolitan hospital in the back seat of a car.

[Read More](#)

## Geraldton to get off-road ambulance, but there are fears for areas 'left behind'

ABC Online, General News, 29/09/2026, Chloe Henville

The family of a teenager who was paralysed after a motorcycle crash in an off-road area says the region's first four-wheel-drive ambulance is overdue. St John WA said Geraldton, 420 kilometres north of Perth, is set to receive a Toyota HiAce four-wheel-drive ambulance in October — the first off-road paramedic van in the Midwest.

[Read More](#)

## Nurses apologise to parents of toddler who died at NBH

Nursing Review, General News, 29/09/2026

Nurses have apologised to the family of two-year-old Joe Massa as a coronial inquest continues to examine the events leading up to the toddler's death at Northern Beaches Hospital in September 2024. In emotional evidence last week, triage nurse Hilary O'Neill told the court she believed she had "played a role" in the circumstances surrounding Joe's death and felt the family had been let down.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 29/09/2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

Work is officially underway on an \$80m expansion of Burnside Hospital. The facilities will include extra operating theatres, upgraded chemotherapy services and a new fertility clinic.

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## ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 29/09/2026, Ross Solly

Interview with NSW Shadow Health Minister Sarah Mitchell. Solly says he spoke to a woman named Kate, who had a terrible experience at the Queanbeyan Hospital, and he also adds that neither a NSW Health spokesperson nor NSW Health Minister Ryan Park is willing to explain the issue. Mitchell says they've heard that several local GPs who used to provide obstetric services at the hospital are not doing so at the moment.

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[Back to Top](#)

## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### Career clarity key to retaining nurses, ACN report finds

Nursing Review, General News, 29/09/2026, Stefanie Schultz

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) has launched a new national career planning resource after consultation with almost 800 nurses found many were struggling to navigate career progression and were relying on 'guesswork' to identify future opportunities. [...] The ACN said the resource aligns with priorities identified in the recently released National Nursing Workforce Strategy, particularly around workforce retention, career mobility and the development of research and clinical-academic careers.

## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### 'No choice': State doctors to stage historic walkout

The Australian, General News, 30/09/2026, Lily McCaffrey, Page 2

Victorian public hospital doctors will walk off the job on Thursday in protest of "unsustainable working hours" and the "threat to patient safety", in their first statewide strike in more than two decades. The industrial action marks an escalation in the prolonged bargaining dispute between doctors and the government and creates a fresh headache for Premier Ben Carroll just over two months out from the November state election.

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### Doctors out for half-day strike

Herald Sun, General News, 30/09/2026, Sarah Booth, Page 8

Public hospital doctors will strike statewide on Thursday in an escalation of their long EBA dispute with the government. It comes after more than 14 months of negotiations have failed to address what doctors describe as unsafe working conditions that endanger patients and clinicians.

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

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### We're sick and tired of gaps in the system

Hobart Mercury, General News, 30/09/2026, Amber Wilson, Page 11

Nurses at the Wellington Clinics on Argyle St will stop work for an hour on Tuesday as industrial disputes ramp up amid claims of critical understaffing. Emily Shepherd, the Tasmanian branch secretary of the Australian Nurses and Midwifery Federation (ANMF), said "overburdened" nursing staff had expressed ongoing frustrations around staffing levels, workloads, and the growing amount of administrative work required.

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### Doctors' dispute deepens

Ballarat Courier, General News, 30/09/2026, Michelle Smith, Page 1

Grampians Health doctors will strike again tomorrow as they fight for government to address their concerns about unsustainable working hours, fatigue and threat to patient safety. The Ballarat medical staff will join colleagues across the state in a four-hour strike, which follows the cancellation of an earlier statewide 24-hour stopwork because of patient safety concerns.

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### Doctors to walk out as fears over patients' safety grow

Canberra Times, General News, 29/09/2026, Eleanor Wilson

Thousands of doctors will briefly hang up their scrubs later this week in a bid to win momentum for stalled government negotiations over pay and conditions. For the first time in 20 years, doctors across Victoria's public hospital system will walk off the job for four hours on Thursday in an escalation of their months-long stoush for better pay and safer workloads.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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### Victorian doctors to walk off the job amid ongoing pay dispute

ABC Online, General News, 29/09/2026, Jason Katsaras

As many as 10,000 doctors at Victoria's public hospitals could walk off the job later this week amid an

ongoing dispute over pay and conditions. The industrial action, planned for Thursday afternoon, will see doctors stop work for the third time in two months.

[Read More](#)

## NSW Safe Staffing Levels reaches more than 360 hospital wards

Nursing Review, General News, 29/09/2026, Stefanie Schultz

NSW Health will begin recruiting 950 additional nurses as part of the next stage of the state's Safe Staffing Levels reform, extending minimum nurse-to-patient ratios to more than 360 general and specialty wards across 70 hospitals. The expansion follows the rollout of staffing ratios in 81 emergency departments, where more than 990 nurses have already been recruited.

[Read More](#)

## GV Health doctors set to strike on Thursday

Shepparton News Online, General News, 29/09/2026, Hailey Wight

GV Health doctors are set to join a statewide strike on Thursday, October 1, as a long-running dispute over pay and working conditions continues. Doctors will strike from 1.30pm to 5.29pm, following 14 months of negotiations between the Australian Medical Association Victoria and the Victorian Government.

[Read More](#)

## Psychology assistants scrapped... for now

The Medical Republic, General News, 29/09/2026, Holly Payne

The Psychology Board of Australia will progress reforms allowing psychology students to shave a year off their training but has cut some of the more unpopular aspects of its plan. If enacted, the amount of study required to register as a psychologist would change from six years to five years, changing the degree from an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) level 9 qualification to an AQF level 8 qualification.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 9, Nine News, 29/09/2026, Alicia Loxley

Victoria's public hospital doctors have called a statewide strike this Thursday after the Victorian Government failed to offer better pay and shorter shifts. This is the second time the union has attempted a statewide strike, with the first one being cancelled a few weeks ago after the Victorian Government intervened.

Also reported by: [Channel 10 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Melbourne\)](#)

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## 3AW, Mornings, 29/09/2026, Heidi Murphy

Interview with Australian Medical Association Victoria President Dr Simon Judkins. Murphy says Victorian public hospital doctors will conduct their first statewide strike this Thursday afternoon, but emergency departments will be exempt, ensuring the safety of patients. Judkins says they do not want to strike, and they would much prefer the Victorian Government to enter into a bargaining agreement with the workforce, but they've already had 70 to 80 meetings, and government representatives still do not have an offer to resolve the ongoing dispute over pay and conditions.

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[Back to Top](#)

## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### I'm bombarded by relentless spam for weight-loss drugs

The Australian, General News, 30/09/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 7

Ozempic was never mentioned. Neither was Mounjaro. [...] Weight-loss drug Wegovy is going back

before the nation's medicines approval committee in November as pharma and the government attempt to agree on a deal to list the GLP-1 on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

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## AstraZeneca scraps free Zoladex program after govt lists PBS alternative

Australian Doctor, General News, 29/09/2026

AstraZeneca has scrapped plans to provide its goserelin 3.6mg implant Zoladex free to eligible patients after the Federal Government secured a PBS listing for an alternative breast cancer treatment. The company has also delayed the planned delisting of Zoladex from the PBS by six months, until 1 May 2027.

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## Zoladex PBS listing extended

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 29/09/2026

Astrazeneca has announced it will make the Zoladex (goserelin) 3.6mg implant available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) until 01 May 2027, extending the planned 01 Nov 2026 delisting date by six months.

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[Back to Top](#)

# MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

## OpenAI apologises for hacking Medicare

The Australian, General News, 30/09/2026, Jared Lynch, Page 2

OpenAI has apologised for its hack into Medicare and other agencies as a damning report has exposed how bureaucratic inertia is leaving Australia's critical government databases dangerously exposed to fast-moving artificial intelligence-powered threats. OpenAI, which makes ChatGPT, revealed on Tuesday that the Medicare breach happened during "internal training and evaluation" when it asked one of its models to research skincare.

*Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [News24 Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Royal Australian College of General Practitioners \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [7News.com.au \(Online\)](#).*

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## Medicare hack email revealed

Australian Financial Review, General News, 30/09/2026, Edmund Tadros, Page 3

The initial email sent by OpenAI to a Services Australia public email address was direct and to the point: the company's AI agent had inadvertently breached the Medicare system.

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

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## OpenAI in apology for the hack on Medicare

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 30/09/2026, David Swan, Page 13

OpenAI has apologised to Australians after revealing its AI model took credentials and internal files from a Medicare portal and attempted to breach NSW and Victorian government systems. In a blog post yesterday, titled "How we will do better for Australia", the company said an experimental model found a way into Services Australia's Medicare Statistics Reporting Service in June.

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

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## Red alert on AI bot

OpenAI's security team called on Services Australia to investigate the "vulnerability" exposed by one of its rogue artificial intelligence bots in a strikingly brief email informing the agency of the Medicare website hack. The tech giant yesterday apologised for the breach and dramatically paused training of one of its models.

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

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## OpenAI apologises for Medicare hacking, creates task force

Canberra Times, General News, 30/09/2026, Lucinda Garbutt-Young, Page 8

An artificial intelligence giant whose agent went rogue and hacked an Australian government website has publicly apologised and committed to setting up a task force in an attempt to control its technology. An OpenAI agent breached a Medicare statistics portal during a training exercise in June, but the company did not inform the government until early September.

*Also reported by:* [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#)

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## OpenAI's sorry state of affairs after hack

West Australian, General News, 30/09/2026, Caitlyn Rintoul, Page 1

OpenAI has apologised after one of its AI agents gained unauthorised access to a Services Australia internet portal in June, promising to "do better" in future. In a long blog post on Tuesday, the developer of ChatGPT vowed to rebuild trust with Australians after the incident, which Prime Minister Anthony Albanese raised directly with boss Sam Altman last week in the US.

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

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## OpenAI apologises for hack, pledges funding to fight rogue AI agents

Australian Financial Review, General News, 29/09/2026, Paul Smith

OpenAI has apologised for the way it handled the breach of Medicare data by rogue artificial intelligence-powered agents and says it will work with Australian officials to find new ways to defend sensitive systems from the threat.

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## Coroner urges statewide EMR after hospitals miss signs of abuse before infant's death

Australian Doctor, General News, 29/09/2026

The Victorian State Coroner cited evidence that identified cognitive bias and barriers to information sharing as contributing factors. A coroner has called for steps towards a statewide electronic medical record and integrated inflicted-trauma alerts after an eight-week-old baby was killed following repeated hospital presentations with missed warning signs.

[Read More](#)

## ATO lures federal Digital Health head to become next chief operating officer

The Mandarin, General News, 29/09/2026, Julian Bajkowski

The Australian Taxation Office has named a successor to the key leadership position of chief operating officer for the revenue agency following the departure of Jacqui Curtis. [...] Commissioner of Taxation Rob Heferen on Monday told ATO staff in an internal announcement that Amanda Catterole, currently chief executive officer of the Australian Digital Health Agency, will move across to Tax to permanently replace Curtis as the agency's operations chief, which includes staffing and human resources.

[Read More](#)

OpenAI has apologised to Australians for its handling of a Medicare data breach. The company says it wants to help defend Australia from future cyberattacks amid renewed calls for global regulation.

*Similar coverage reported by: [Channel 10 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Perth\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Sydney\)](#), [SBS \(Sydney\)](#).*

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## Radio National, Life Matters, 29/09/2026, Beverley Wang

Interview with Australian Medical Association President Dr Michael Bonning. Wang says Bonning spoke at a conference in Queensland about AI being used in the health industry. Bonning states that his colleagues are positive about AI being used in the industry, but they also recognise the need for strong guardrails around the technology, regulation, and ensuring that, as a profession, they have enough information to inform patients and themselves as to how they understand, check and approve notes or records that are written with the help of AI.

*Also reported by: [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#), [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#).*

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[Back to Top](#)

## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Scandal doc has licence renewed

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 30/09/2026, Dasha Havrilenko & Brad Crouch, Page 11

A GP-obstetrician awaiting a tribunal ruling that could permanently end his medical career after an explosive sex scandal with a patient has had his registration quietly renewed. [...] Following a complaint to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra), Dr Taylor had strict conditions placed on his practice, including a ban on contact with female patients. He is not facing criminal charges.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

## AUSTRALIAN CDC

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Lab-grown blood offering hope for Queensland family with ultra-rare grouping

ABC Online, General News, 29/09/2026, Janelle Miles

Joe Fa'agase has a blood type so rare, three units of his blood are kept on ice in case of emergencies. [...] Lab-grown blood produced at scale would have to be rigorously tested in human trials and then approved by regulatory bodies, such as Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration, before it could be routinely used in patients.

[Read More](#)

### Concern over removal of another opioid use disorder treatment

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, General News, 29/09/2026

US-based pharmaceutical company Indivior is planning to remove another opioid use disorder treatment, Subutex, from the Australian market by the end of next year. [...] The Department of Health,

Disability and Ageing (DoHDA) confirmed Indivior has advised the Therapeutic Goods Administration of Subutex's discontinuation in Australia, and its removal from the PBS at the end of next year.

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[Back to Top](#)

## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### Chinese-owned firm Yongji Health takes over Tasmanian Botanics cannabis farm

ABC Online, General News, 29/09/2026, Monty Jacka

One of Australia's largest cannabis cultivators is now almost entirely owned by Chinese-owned firm Yongji Health. Company documents show Yongji, a subsidiary of a Guizhou-based company, has taken full control of Pijen, which owns more than 95 per cent of the shares in Tasmanian Botanics.

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### The cocaine mums of suburban Australia

Mamamia, General News, 29/09/2026, Erin Docherty

It's 3pm on a Friday. The school gate is a sea of suburban bulldozers parked in no-stopping zones, tired parents chatting about weekend sports schedules (why so many!), head lice (Harper had it first) and birthday parties (why didn't they just invite all the kids). [...] It's just a regular Friday night in suburban Australia. Forget mummy wine culture; cocaine has been sweeping kids' parties and barbeques for years.

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[Back to Top](#)

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