

Saturday, 10th October 2026

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

LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Saturday Paper** (page 11) reports the NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister stated that new legislative support determination powers aim to curb average social and community participation funding, but advocates warn that restricting safeguards to participants funded for 24-hour care—rather than those requiring it—excludes high-needs individuals reliant on informal family support.
- **CathNews** (online) reports official figures from the Health Department show that 6,436 older Australians approved for Support at Home died while on the waitlist in 2025-26, representing an average of 17 deaths per day and an increase of almost 34 per cent from the previous year's National Priority System data. While Council on the Ageing Australia chief executive Patricia Sparrow labeled the numbers an absolute tragedy, Aged Care Minister Sam Rae noted that this death rate remains significantly lower than that of the broader older Australian population and highlighted the Federal Government's delivery of 83,000 additional home care places in 2025-26, with 32,000 more rolling out this year.

- **ABC Online** reports an exemption allowing privately practising midwives to attend homebirths without professional indemnity insurance ends on New Year's Eve, requiring all attending and assisting midwives to hold Commonwealth-funded coverage available only to endorsed midwives. The federal Department of Health, Disability and Ageing stated these insurance requirements provide important safeguards for practitioners, women, and families, though peak bodies warn the strict endorsement criteria could force up to a third of private-practice midwives to leave the profession and lead to an increase in unassisted home births.
- **The Saturday Paper** (page 6) reports public hospitals and higher education institutions in Australia routinely rely on unpaid, unrecognised labour from junior doctors and casual academics to maintain operational standards, which results in significant mental health impacts, burnout, and safety risks. In response to these systemic practices, class actions have secured over $430 million in back pay for junior doctors while establishing new legal challenges in the sector, prompting medical professionals to rally outside Parliament to demand that state governments address dangerously excessive working hours.
- **The AFR Weekend** (page 3) reports the TGA is currently evaluating oral versions of GLP-1 weight-loss medications, with new pharmacy data showing that 1.6 million Australians have accessed GLP-1 treatments privately over the past 12 months.
- **The Northern Territory News** (page 1) reports concerns have been raised over surging violence against paramedics in the Northern Territory, highlighting 107 reported assaults in Darwin in the past year alongside 90 incidents in Alice Springs since January.
- **The Courier Mail** (page 1) reports Queensland Health performance data shows 42 per cent of patients at the state's 26 largest public hospital emergency departments wait longer than 30 minutes to be transferred from paramedics, with ambulances losing an average of 17.2 additional minutes on the ramp.
- **Consultancy.com.au** reports the redesign of the Federal Government's My Aged Care platform, developed to align with the Aged Care Act 2024, won in the Digital Design category at the 2026 Australian Good Design Awards.

MINISTER BUTLER

Do not fund harmful procedures

Weekend Australian, Editorials, 10/10/2026, Page 12

Australia's hard-pressed health system has more urgent and important priorities-- fixing ambulance ramping, cutting elective surgery waiting times and expanding the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme-- than footing the bill for more than 30 types of gender reassignment surgery. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler must put common sense ahead of ideology and ensure the surgeons' outrageous proposal never sees the light of day.

Also reported by: The Australian (Online)

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Victorian Opposition Leader pledges $10.4 million for proton beam therapy to treat cancer at Peter MacCallum Centre

7News.com.au, General News, 09/10/2026, Jennifer Bechwati

Victoria 's state opposition has pledged $10.4 million to establish proton beam therapy at Melbourne 's Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, as pressure mounts to bring the lifesaving cancer treatment to Australia. [...] "I'm calling on (Prime Minister) Anthony Albanese and (Federal Health Minister) Mark Butler to commit to this so that we get this treatment here for Victorians, we get it here for Australians, and we make sure that we can save lives," Wilson said.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Statewide Mornings, 09/10/2026, Rory Mcclaren

Interview with The Guardian journalist Krishani Dhanji. Dhanji recalls that Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced changes to the private health insurance rebates for older Australians and the NDIS

months ago. She says the issue has been bubbling away in the background, but it will be in the spotlight next week.

Also reported by: ABC Broken Hill (Broken Hill)

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

Carers on the brink

The Saturday Paper, General News, 10/10/2026, Sara Gingold, Page 11

People with the highest needs on the National Disability Insurance Scheme who rely on family support are likely to be ineligible for last-minute concessions the government made to its cuts to funding for social interaction. [...] In response to questions from The Saturday Paper, NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister says, "The benchmark amount of $215,030 combines funding across assistance with daily life, home and living, and assistance with social, economic and community participation supports.

Also reported by: The Saturday Paper (Online)

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MINISTER RAE

Average of 17 seniors died every day waiting for home care last year

CathNews, General News, 09/10/2026, Rebecca Comini

An average of 17 older Australians died while waiting to receive necessary home care each day last year, according to the latest official figures – an increase of more than a third on the previous year. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said the rate of people who died waiting for Support at Home was "significantly lower than the rate of death for older Australians in the broader population".

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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DEPARTMENT

Homebirth midwives prepare to quit profession ahead of insurance changes

ABC Online, General News, 09/10/2026, Bryn Wakefield

Nicole Miller gave birth to her son Cohen at her home in Farleigh, North Queensland, in February. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said the insurance requirements would provide "important safeguards for practitioners, women and families".

Also reported by: *MSN Australia (Online)*

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Department of Health and Liquid win Good Design award for My Aged Care redesign

Consultancy.com.au, General News, 09/10/2026

The redesign of Australia's My Aged Care platform has been named a winner at the 2026 Australian Good Design Awards, recognised for how it helps millions of older Australians confidently navigate the largest reform of aged care in a generation. [...] To meet both changing user needs and the intent of the new Act, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing launched an overhaul of the My Aged Care platform.

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IAT ‘rapid review' pathway gets nod, but branded a ‘band aid'

Health Services Daily, General News, 09/10/2026, Helen Tobler

A Labor-led Senate committee has recommended a bill containing a new rapid review pathway for disputed integrated assessment tool decisions pass without amendment, but Greens and Coalition senators say the government is ignoring evidence and could fix the controversial algorithm with the "stroke of a pen". Schedule 4 of the bill concerns the introduction of a rapid review pathway for IAT decisions which will enable an assessor who believes an IAT outcome is incorrect in exceptional circumstances to refer the decision for review by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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Midwife PI crunch looms as homebirth insurance exemption expires

Insurance Business Australia, General News, 09/10/2026, Roxanne Libatique

Brokers advising allied health clients face an unusual PI problem from January: a single government-backed insurer, a mandatory coverage requirement, and a workforce that may be about to contract. [...] Since July 1, 2025, the MPIS has covered 100% of eligible claims for out-of-hospital intrapartum care, including homebirths and Birthing on Country services, the Department of Health and Aged Care confirmed.

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Health tries to justify failed PBAC recommendations

MedNews, General News, 09/10/2026, Megan Brodie

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has moved to explain why…

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ABC, ABC News, 09/10/2026, Jessica Van Vonderen

Medical professionals warn that up to a third of Australia's private midwives may quit when an insurance exemption ends in January. The Federal Health Department says the insurance requirements will safeguard practitioners, women, and families, but the Australian College of Midwives says it's an unnecessary change that will further limit home birth access for regional residents.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

What migration cuts will do to life in Dubbo

AFR Weekend, General News, 10/10/2026, Greg Bearup, Page 14

'I've taken the Libs and the Nats kickin' and screaming to change their policies, whether it's immigration, net zero and the Voice,'' Pauline Hanson tells Dubbo's Bush Summit.

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Dying in the queue for care

Herald Sun, Editorials, 10/10/2026, Page 68

After a life of contribution work, raising families, paying taxes older Australians deserve a degree of comfort and guarantee of dignity at the very least. For the tens of thousands of older Australians who each year choose to live at home rather than add to the call on residential aged care facilities, the provision of decent support is essential to enable that decision.

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Dementia has become our greatest killer. But are things about to change?

Sydney Morning Herald, Good Weekend Magazine, 10/10/2026, Amanda Hooton, Page 1

Historically, dementia has been a death sentence. But with revolutionary new drugs, diagnostic tests and encouraging research into prevention and rehabilitation, are things about to change?

Also reported by: The Saturday Age (Melbourne)

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'Incredibly disappointing'

Ballarat Courier, General News, 10/10/2026, Nick Powell, Page 1

An aged care facility has terminated a multimillion-dollar redevelopment after failing to secure the funding required to match a government grant. The $18 million project at Creswick's John Curtin Aged Care (JCAC) would have delivered an additional 28 beds, with construction initially planned for early 2026.

Also reported by: Ballarat Courier (Online)

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Active Aussies turn to sport and travel to fight back against dementia

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 09/10/2026, Holly Byrnes

When Robyn Rex realised she had dementia, she was literally at a crossroads. The shock had followed months of symptoms, including hearing problems and confusion while shopping, as well as nursing her mother with Alzheimer's, which combined to finally set off alarm bells in her brain.

Also reported by: The Courier Mail (Online), Adelaide Now (Online), Northern Territory News (Online), The Mercury (Online), NEWS.com.au (Online)

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Aged care's two peak bodies demand Govt rethink 2.55% AN-ACC increase

The Weekly Source, General News, 09/10/2026, Caroline Egan

Australia needs thousands of new aged care beds. The Federal Government's latest funding decision is destroying any such ambition.

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FIVEAA, Mornings, 09/10/2026, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Council On The Ageing CEO Patricia Sparrow. Goodings says figures revealed that 17 older Australians a day died last year while waiting for home care that they had already been assessed as needing. Sparrow says they want to see older people being assessed and being able to get the support they need within 30 days of the assessment.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

NDIS rort accused faces 13 charges

Courier Mail, General News, 10/10/2026, Julie Cross, Page 21

An NDIS director whose $40m property and luxury vehicle portfolio was frozen last year has been arrested and hit with 13 criminal charges over an alleged sophisticated $1.8m disability scheme rort. [...] Following an investigation by the Fraud Fusion Taskforce set up to tackle crime in the NDIS a major joint operation was launched in April last year by the NSW Crime Commission, NSW Police and National Disability Insurance Agency, which runs the scheme.

Also reported by: Daily Telegraph Australia (Online), The Courier Mail (Online), Adelaide Now (Online), Northern Territory News (Online), 7News.com.au (Online)

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Thriving Kids program set to roll out

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 10/10/2026, Helen Dickinson & Catherine Smith, Page 2

On october 1, the first stage of Thriving Kids begins to roll out. This new program, announced just over a year ago, is part of the federal government's sweeping changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

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Alleged ISIS propagandist getting NDIS care paid for by Aussie taxpayers after being released back into the community

Daily Mail UK, General News, 09/10/2026, Tara Cosoleto & Maisy Rae

An accused member of Islamic State will be released into the community because of health and age concerns and will receive 24-hour weekly NDIS care. [...] The court also heard Bakit had been approved for NDIS care following a stroke in 2023.

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PRIMARY CARE

Hospital delays ramp up the pain

Courier Mail, General News, 10/10/2026, Taylah Fellows, Page 3

Ambulance crews are waiting longer to get back on the road, with long-wait queues outside emergency departments barely shifting in the past two years. [...] Ambulance ramping was up in August compared to the 38.7 per cent of patients that waited longer than 30 minutes in July.

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Ramping fail puts pressure on LNP

Courier Mail, Editorials, 10/10/2026, Page 77

The Crisafulli government may regret setting a lofty target of getting ambulance ramping down to under 30 per cent. Because it is once again finding that it is easier to criticise from opposition than be in government and have the unenviable task of fixing a broken system.

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The key to keeping doctors in regions

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 10/10/2026, Professor Belinda OSullivan, Page 17

One-third of Australians live in rural, regional and remote areas. For some of these communities the health outcomes are poor, and life expectancy is shorter than those living in metropolitan areas. [...] In the eight years from its inception in 2015, the federal government's Medical Research Future Fund

allocated $20 billion to research funding but invested just under $300 million on research being conducted in regional, rural and remote areas and $86.5 million to organisations located in those areas.

Also reported by: *Ballarat Courier (Ballarat)*

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Premature babies to get donor breast milk

Central Western Daily, General News, 10/10/2026, Ciara Bastow, Page 8

For years, regional parents of premature babies faced a brutal choice: remain far from home in metropolitan hospitals or cut off their baby's access to donor milk. That gap is finally closing, with Western NSW Local Health District preparing to introduce pasteurised donor human milk across its Special Care nurseries in Dubbo, Orange, and Bathurst.

Also reported by: *Western Advocate (Bathurst)*

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Millions for health

Daily Advertiser, General News, 10/10/2026, Maryam Sulaiman, Page 1

Four Riverina hospitals will receive more than $3 million for upgrades and replacements to their services, aiming to reduce travel for patients. [...] The funding is part of the Regional Health Minor Works Program, which will enable the Murrumbidgee Local Health District to upgrade essential infrastructure.

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Working on family plan

Daily Telegraph, General News, 10/10/2026, Lauren Ahwan, Page 84

Employer-supported fertility treatment will be commonplace within a decade, a leading healthcare company says, as reproduction and family planning move beyond personal health matters to become key workplace wellbeing concerns. [...] While Medicare subsidies cover the cost of screening for three specific conditions, Dr Prestipino, who works in Merck's fertility team as a senior medical science liaison, said she wanted a more complete picture before starting a family.

Also reported by: *Herald Sun (Melbourne)*, *Adelaide Advertiser (Adelaide)*, *Northern Territory News (Darwin)*, *The Courier Mail (Online)*

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New figures show ambulance ramping only marginally better under LNP government

ABC Online, General News, 09/10/2026, Janelle Miles

Queues of long-wait ambulance patients outside many of Queensland's major hospital emergency departments have barely budged in the last two years. The latest Queensland Health performance data for August shows statewide ambulance ramping is sitting at 42 per cent across Queensland's 26 top public hospital emergency departments (ED).

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State's pharmacists given powers to ‘resupply' MHT without a script — GPs not happy

Australian Doctor, General News, 09/10/2026, Jamie Thannoo

Victoria will be the first state to allow its pharmacist prescribers to resupply menopausal hormone therapy to women without a doctor's script. The move is being rolled out under the State Government's Chemist Care Now program, which allows pharmacists to write and supply S4 scripts — from oral contraceptives to medications for mild plaque psoriasis.

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$20m Batemans Bay health centre nears opening amid ED closure fight

Adelaide Now, General News, 09/10/2026, Tom McGann

A multi million-dollar South Coast health centre is one step closer to opening its doors, as concerns

mount over the planned closure of a regional centre's emergency department. Construction of the purpose-built Batemans Bay Community Health facility is complete, with the centre expected to open by Christmas as part of a major overhaul of healthcare across the Eurobodalla.

Also reported by: *The Mercury (Online)*, *The Courier Mail (Online)*, *Northern Territory News (Online)*

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Guild calls for scrutiny of profit-driven healthcare models following veteran care concerns

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 09/10/2026

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia is calling on the Federal Government to examine whether Australia's healthcare regulations are keeping pace with the growth of vertically integrated healthcare models, following recent media reports highlighting serious questions about the treatment of veterans within parts of the healthcare system. The Guild is concerned that this issue extends beyond a single provider and highlights broader concerns about high-volume telehealth prescribing models.

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POPULATION HEALTH

It's eggsponential growth for Aussies

Daily Telegraph, General News, 10/10/2026, Page 23

Australians are eating more than twice as many eggs as three decades ago. [...] Now, the Heart Foundation no longer sets a limit on the number of eggs healthy Australians can eat, provided they are enjoyed as part of a heart-healthy eating pattern.

Also reported by: *Herald Sun (Melbourne)*, *Courier Mail (Brisbane)*, *Adelaide Advertiser (Adelaide)*, *Northern Territory News (Darwin)*, *Hobart Mercury (Hobart)*, *Canberra Times (Online)*

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Post-Covid diagnosis destroys teen's hopes

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 10/10/2026, Evangeline Polymeneas, Page 20

Teenager Max Peruzzi was forced to miss a semester of school this year, debilitated by shocking and unpredictable symptoms he said were brought on by Covid. [...] Adelaide University research fellow and CEO of the Australian POTS Foundation, Marie-Claire Seeley, said a study showed the quality of life for someone diagnosed with POTS can be "worse than people with chronic kidney failure, chronic heart disease, chronic respiratory disease (or) metastatic cancers".

Also reported by: *The Courier Mail (Online)*, *Adelaide Now (Online)*, *Northern Territory News (Online)*, *The Mercury (Online)*

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She's one in 28 million

Daily Telegraph, Weekend, 10/10/2026, Kaitlyn Hudson-O'Farrell, Page 1

There is no one in Australia like Valentina Ruggeri. [...] So rare is her condition, she is the only person in Australia to have received the diagnosis, and one of just a few hundred around the world.

Also reported by: *Daily Telegraph Australia (Online)*

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Antibiotics for acute appendicitis linked to increased risk of colorectal cancer

Australian Doctor, General News, 09/10/2026, Louise Goodwin

Appendicectomy was associated with a 58% lower relative risk of colorectal cancer than antibiotics for acute appendicitis after accounting for individual risk factors, new research suggests. Around 24,000 emergency appendicectomies of minor complexity were performed in 2024-25, making it the most common emergency procedure in Australia.

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VAD for dementia patients — Andrew Denton wants us to look to the Dutch. This is how their system works…

Australian Doctor, General News, 09/10/2026, Ciara Seccombe

Two years ago, AusDoc examined one of the most divisive and ethically vexed issues in medicine. This week, Andrew Denton said Australia must consider expanding voluntary assisted dying access to dementia patients.

Also reported by: Australian Doctor (Online)

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Exercise helps beat pain

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 09/10/2026

New research from Adelaide University has found that exercise could be one of the most effective ways to help reduce acute and chronic pain across a wide range of conditions, and more effective than common pain relief medications. The team analysed 157 systematic reviews involving 2,736 randomised controlled trials and over 220,000 participants, and found that exercise can significantly reduce musculoskeletal, neurological, inflammatory, and cancer-related pain.

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Bringing digital diabetes care to Ky

Shepparton News Online, General News, 09/10/2026, Louie Cina

Wouldn't it be great if you could manage your chronic health condition without having to hop on a train to Melbourne just to see a specialist? It might seem fanciful, but researchers at La Trobe University are trying to make it a reality for those living with type two diabetes in and around Kyabram — and they need your help.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Student wins top award

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 10/10/2026, Matilda McDermott, Page 4

A passionate mental health support volunteer has been named the 2026 Study Adelaide international student of the year for her advocacy in the field. Flinders University psychology student Hildy Tran, 20, from Vietnam, was awarded the title.

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Health care for women requires a broad focus

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 10/10/2026, Rosa Griffith, Page 8

The Goldfields Women's Health Centre says mental health is an essential part of women's health care delivery, offering counselling for sexual assault, unplanned pregnancy, perinatal parenting and other general issues. Chief executive Brooke Jennings spoke to the Kalgoorlie Miner during WA Mental Health Week, highlighting how the centre was breaking down financial and social barriers for local women.

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Challenges rising for region's youth

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 10/10/2026, Rosa Griffith, Page 11

Some of the Goldfields' most important youth, substance abuse and domestic violence counselling services are offered through Hope Community Services, which operates the local headspace and the Mara Pirni Healing Place. [...] The Goldfields-Esperance region historically records the highest rate of youth suicide across the State, according to research from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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High-fat, low-carb keto diet to be tested as a bipolar treatment

The Australian, General News, 09/10/2026, Rhys Blakely

Ten years ago the Scottish researcher Iain Campbell set out to lose weight. He cut back sharply on carbohydrates and followed a version of the high-fat Atkins diet.[...] About 2.2 per cent of the Australian population over 16 may be affected by bipolar disorder in a 12-month period, according to the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics research.

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IMMUNISATION

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Use Future Fund to pay down our debt

AFR Weekend, Companies and Markets, 10/10/2026, Christopher Joye, Page 25

The Future Fund is overfunded by more than $150 billion, and should be used to repay debt. Australia's professional political class has pulled off a remarkable trick.

Also reported by: Australian Financial Review (Online)

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Stem cells' space flight

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 10/10/2026, Page 21

Human stem cells from Adelaide University's Centre for Cancer Biology have travelled to the edge of space and back as part of a landmark mission for Australian cancer research. [...] Researchers will now analyse the cells to investigate how they responded to microgravity and whether the changes could provide new insights into cancer progression and early detection.

Also reported by: Hobart Mercury (Hobart)

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'Trojan horse' cancer weapon

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 10/10/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 30

A world-first treatment that could stop an aggressive form of breast cancer from lethally travelling to the brain is being developed by Australian researchers. The biological "Trojan horse" would be used to treat Triple Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC), which accounts for up to 20 per cent of all breast cancer cases and frequently affects young women.

Also reported by: Geelong Advertiser (Online)

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Labor senator breaks ranks with Chalmers as R&D revolt builds

Australian Financial Review, General News, 09/10/2026, Ronald Mizen

Fund managers have begun shelving plans for Australian biotech investment over fears Labor's proposed research tax incentive changes will strip tens of millions of dollars in cash flow from promising start-ups.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 09/10/2026, Melissa Downes & Joel Dry

A world-first solution to potentially treat one of the most aggressive types of breast cancer is being developed by Queensland researchers, who recently received a $500,000 grant from the National Breast Cancer Foundation in a collaboration between QIMR Berghofer and Mater. If the human clinical trials are successful, the treatment would be the first effective therapy of its kind for breast cancer that spreads to the brain and could be used to treat other forms of the disease.

Also reported by: Channel 9 (Adelaide), Channel 9 (Melbourne), Channel 9 (Sydney), Channel 9 (Perth)

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

New Kimberley screening tool aims to catch eating disorders earlier

West Australian, General News, 09/10/2026, Phoebe Solon

A new eating disorder screening tool developed with Aboriginal communities is being launched in the Kimberley to help identify concerns among young people earlier. Feelings About My Body And Eating is the first culturally grounded screening tool of its kind in Australia, designed specifically for Aboriginal people aged 12-24.

Read More

Pacific leaders call for stronger health systems as climate risks grow

National Indigenous Times, General News, 09/10/2026, Joseph Guenzler

Pacific community leaders have set out six climate and health priorities ahead of COP31, calling for funding to reach grassroots communities and action to protect health, culture and ancestral lands. [...] Climate impacts are affecting safe water, food, sanitation, housing and livelihoods across the region, with consequences for maternal and child health, mental health and connections to culture and place.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Treated on 'cold, hard ED floor'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 10/10/2026, Sam Lowe, Page 12

A 71-year-old ex-nurse says she received treatment for a chronic disease while lying on the floor of a hospital emergency department because there were no beds available. Ginny Chalmer was diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease earlier this year and has regularly visited the Noarlunga Hospital with reduced oxygen levels and breathing difficulties.

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Woman left on emergency department floor after four-hour wait at Adelaide's Noarlunga hospital

7News.com.au, General News, 09/10/2026, Kimberley Pratt

A 71-year-old woman says she spent four hours on the floor of a busy Adelaide emergency department after being deemed "fit to sit" despite struggling to breathe. Ginny Chalmer was taken by ambulance to Noarlunga Hospital last Wednesday after a virus exacerbated an existing lung condition.

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SA Health apologises to Adelaide woman treated on waiting room floor of Noarlunga Hospital

ABC Online, General News, 09/10/2026, Will Hunter

A woman has detailed how she spent four hours on the "cold floor" of an Adelaide public hospital while seeking treatment for a lung condition, calling her experience "totally wrong". Ginny Chalmer, 71, lives with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, a condition which causes shortness of breath and impacts her oxygen levels.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 09/10/2026, Brenton Ragless

The SA Opposition has slammed the SA Government for the treatment of a patient at Noarlunga Hospital. Ginny Chalmer says she spent four hours lying on the floor of the emergency department on Wednesday when there were no beds available.

Similar coverage reported by: Channel 7 (Adelaide), Channel 10 (Adelaide)

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 09/10/2026, Rory Mcclaren

Interview with SA Shadow Health Minister Jack Batty. Batty says it's unacceptable that patients are spending hours lying on a hospital floor, and it's a proof that the hospital system is under pressure. He also states that there was a point this week where every single metropolitan emergency department was operating under Code White at the same time.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 09/10/2026, Rory Mcclaren

Interview with Royal Australasian College for Emergency Medicine SA Chair Dr Dan Haustead. Haustead says they have seen an unusual increase in presentations of walk-in patients, and they are not entirely sure about its cause. He notes that emergency departments across SA have been under pressure due to increased demand and bed blocking.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

How hospitals and unis normalised wage theft

The Saturday Paper, General News, 10/10/2026, Hayden Stephens, Page 6

Australia's hospitals and universities do very different work, but they share a growing problem: they routinely fail to recognise the hours worked by the people who keep them running. For decades, junior doctors have worked well beyond their rostered hours to treat patients, complete clinical notes, prepare handovers, attend compulsory training and perform the necessary paperwork that follows a demanding shift.

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Ambos under siege

Northern Territory News, General News, 10/10/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 1

Reported 'unconscious' teen patients beating up paramedics with their own equipment, crew barricading themselves in homes and staff unexpectedly finding themselves at the end of a weapon health staff are certainly at the "pointy end" of erupting violence in the NT. In the last year, the Northern Territory's road ambulance service in Darwin has reported 107 incidents of assaults against staff and more than 90 in Alice Springs since January.

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Nurse says safer parking options needed for Royal Hobart Hospital staff

ABC Online, General News, 09/10/2026, Clancy Balen

A Hobart-based nurse who was chased by a group of young men while she walked to her car after work says a lack of parking options in the city continues to put health workers at risk. The incident occurred on Monday night when Audrey McAllister had just finished her shift at the Royal Hobart Hospital.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

‘No sentence other than imprisonment is appropriate'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 09/10/2026, Nicholas O’Donoghue

PBS fraudster's barrister says a jail sentence is the only option, but stresses client's pocketing of $5.1 million of taxpayer funds was not sophisticated. Ferrari-loving pharmacist, Ben Huynh, "has lost his career, his reputation and his standing in the community" over his efforts to defraud the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), his barrister says.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Two men charged with alleged $3m Medicare, NDIS rorts

Newcastle Herald, General News, 10/10/2026, Sarah Spina-Matthews & Catherine Bouris, Page 27

Two men have been charged with defrauding the government out of a combined $3.3 million. One man, accused of impersonating government officials in a $1.5 million Medicare rort, was arrested in a house in Emu Plains, west of Sydney.

Also reported by: Canberra Times (Online), West Australian (Online), Yahoo! News Australia (Online)

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Medicare trans surgery funding push

Weekend Australian, General News, 10/10/2026, Rachel Baxendale, Page 9

Taxpayers could foot the bill for more than 30 types of gender reassignment surgery under an Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons application being considered by a federal government agency, which argues the procedures can be "life-saving". [...] Under the ASPS proposal, new Medicare item numbers would cover procedures on adults diagnosed with gender incongruence including hysterectomy and removal of ovaries, removal of testes and penis, mastectomy, breast enhancement, phalloplasty, construction of a "neovagina", facial feminisation and reduction of the Adam's apple.

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Man charged with impersonating Services Australia staff

The Mandarin, General News, 09/10/2026, Dan Holmes

A 41-year-old man has been charged with allegedly defrauding Medicare of $1.5 million. Authorities allege the man impersonated Services Australia staff to obtain information from medical practitioners and used such information to submit fraudulent Medicare claims.

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Veterans sue Australian government over sharing of medical data

ABC Online, General News, 09/10/2026, George Yankovich

A class action has been launched against the federal government over allegations of "mass and routine sharing" of veterans' medical records over 20 years. [..] Their DVA healthcare card payments — equivalent to Medicare data — were periodically sent to UniSA, including their name, address, accepted medical conditions and treatments.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

'Evil' dentist jailed for sexually abusing three women

Daily Telegraph, General News, 10/10/2026, Steve Zemek, Page 13

A Sydney dentist who sexually abused three women under the "ruse" of "skin checks" and "massages" has been jailed for at least three years after a judge branded him "evil". Maged Fouad Farag, 62, on Friday stood inside Sydney's Downing Centre District Court as he was taken away by Corrective Services officers after being jailed for his abuse of three young women, aged between 19 and 25, over five years.

Also reported by: The Australian (Online), Daily Telegraph Australia (Online), West Australian (Online), NEWS.com.au (Online), Yahoo! News Australia (Online)

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Doctors 'in thrall of pharma freebies'

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 10/10/2026, Rachel Rasker, Page 24

Money and meals given to doctors by pharmaceutical companies increased inappropriate prescribing, leaving patients with drugs that were more expensive, that had fewer benefits or were not clinically necessary, a major global review has found. [...] Royal Australian College of General Practitioners president Dr Michael Wright said the review raised legitimate concerns about the influence of commercial relationships on prescribing behaviour but he said Australia had protections in place under the medical code of conduct.

Also reported by: Sydney Morning Herald (Online)

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Nurse is taken off duty

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 10/10/2026, Alex Treacy, Page 15

A respected clinical nurse consultant at Gold Coast Health, who is currently suspended, has pleaded guilty to dozens of charges after she was busted stealing pain medication from her workplace. [...] She was also staring down the barrel of future proceedings by health regulator AHPRA.

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New footage shows moment Perth ‘paramedic' allegedly caused head-on crash

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 09/10/2026, Hannah Murphy

New footage of a head-on crash allegedly caused by a Perth 'paramedic' shows the man behind the wheel sounding his horn, crossing double-white lines with unauthorised lights and sirens activated moments before he ploughs into a car coming in the opposite direction. [...] Dunn is not registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency as a paramedic, which is a protected title.

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Hospital staffer accused of sexually harassing nurse kept anonymous over suicide risk

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 09/10/2026, Vanda Carson

A hospital emergency department staffer accused of sexually harassing a nurse can't be named publicly due to a risk of self-harm, a tribunal has heard. Nurse Victoria Hay alleges in the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission that she has been victimised at work by the man and that Queensland Health is liable for his sexual harassment.

Also reported by: The Courier Mail (Online), Adelaide Now (Online), Northern Territory News (Online), The Mercury (Online)

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Geelong GP Dr Shafiul Milky found not guilty of raping patient during pap smear

The Mercury, General News, 09/10/2026, Mark Murray

A Geelong GP accused of raping a patient during a routine pap smear has been found not guilty after a jury was told it had to decide between two starkly different accounts of what happened during the procedure. [...] The Crown also noted the complainant had contacted the medical regulator, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), after the alleged assault to confirm the doctor’s registration — a step Ms Caruso argued was consistent with a genuine complaint rather than fabrication.

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Former RACP president banned for 12 months for inappropriate touching of female doctors

Australian Doctor, General News, 09/10/2026, Heather Saxena

In two cases the touching was for a sexual purpose, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal said. A former president of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians who inappropriately touched female interns and registrars has been banned from applying for registration for 12 months.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Dead scientist's mother disputes test tube story

The Saturday Age, International News, 10/10/2026, Antonia Langford & Alexandra Snow, Page 26

The mother of a Russian scientist who died in a suspected plague leak has challenged reports that her daughter was infected after breaking a test tube containing plague bacteria. [...] The World Health Organisation has demanded that Russia answer questions about reports of a second, unconfirmed case of plague in Siberia, and supply more information about the death of Shipilova.

Also reported by: Sydney Morning Herald (Sydney)

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Plague talk

Daily Telegraph, General News, 10/10/2026, Sophie Elsworth, Page 74

The outbreak of pneumonic plague in Russia that left two people dead is "strange" and there is serious cause for concern but not panic, leading chemical experts say. [...] The last known case of plague in Australia, according to the Australian Centre for Disease Control, was more than a century ago.

Also reported by: Adelaide Advertiser (Adelaide), Hobart Mercury (Hobart)

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Russia denies second case linked to Siberian plague lab

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 10/10/2026, Page 15

Russia's public health watchdog denies that a lab worker who died in Siberia had spread infection to another person, as global concerns swirl about suspected pneumonic plague. Rospotrebnadzor has said the lab worker at a plague research institute in Irkutsk in south-eastern Siberia died of pneumonia of unknown origin.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

The wellness space race

AFR Weekend, Life and Leisure, 10/10/2026, Brook Turner, Page 1

In the waning days of a pre-pandemic world, Tal Silberman spotted opportunity on the high, windy hill of Bondi Junction, six kilometres east of Sydney's CBD.

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Thousands queue online for GLP-1 pill

AFR Weekend, General News, 10/10/2026, Michael Smith, Page 3

More than 10,000 Australians have rushed to join an online wait-list for new weight-loss pills expected to arrive by Christmas, signalling a surge in demand for oral versions of blockbuster drugs such as Wegovy and Mounjaro.

Also reported by: Australian Financial Review (Online)

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ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 09/10/2026, Saskia Mabin

Interview with Western Sydney University Professor of Immunology and Allergy Constance Katelaris. Katelaris says andrographis is a herb used in Chinese and Indian herbal medicine for centuries, and she also states that it's a common ingredient in over-the-counter supplements for boosting the immune system. She states that the Therapeutic Goods Administration has received increasing reports of adverse reactions to andrographis, primarily near-fatal and fatal anaphylaxis, and it has now decided to delist the herb.

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