

Tuesday, 13th 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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Australian (page 1)** reports that Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said that $630m in pay rises for hundreds of thousands of health, disability and community services workers would help retain existing workers and make the sector a more attractive career path to build a stronger workforce.
- **The Australian (page 1)** reports that the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia has criticised a decision by the Federal Government to award its contract funding prostate cancer nurses to the McGrath Foundation. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler referred questions on the matter to the special envoy for men's health, Dan Repacholi, who said the announcement was made 10 months before the contract's expiry to ensure an orderly transition.
- **The Sydney Morning Herald (page 1)** reports that experts are warning that the nation's health system is unprepared for the growing number of older patients arriving in emergency departments, with state and territory health leaders meeting with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler last month to demand urgent investment in aged care to ease pressure on hospitals and funding for short-term stopgap increase to home care packages.

- **Pulse+IT** reports that the redesign of the My Aged Care website has won a 2026 Good Design Award, with Federal Department of Health, Disability and Ageing assistant secretary for navigation and access Aimee Chambers saying the redesign was intended to make information easier to find and understand, adding, "Through close collaboration between Liquid and the Department, we transformed complex reform requirements into a simpler, more accessible digital experience that supports informed decision-making and greater choice and control."
- **The Medical Republic** reports that the Federal Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has published its review of MBS health assessment services from December 2025, making 18 recommendations for reform that include replacing separate assessments for menopause and perimenopause, chronic disease risk, type 2 diabetes risk and heart health with a single time-tiered mid-life assessment.
- **The West Australian (page 3)** reports that research involving the Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing has revealed that by 2050 there will be 24.7 million new dementia cases globally each year, up from today's figure of about 11.4 million, with the research also finding higher rates of dementia in women than men.

MINISTER BUTLER

No end to ALP spend: taxpayers on hook for slew of new pay hikes

The Australian, General News, 13/10/2026, Ewin Hannan, Page 1

Taxpayers will fund $630m in pay rises for hundreds of thousands of health, disability and community services workers, just months after the Albanese government funded a second round of $3.6bn in wage increases for childcare workers. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the extra funding would help retain existing workers and make the sector a more attractive career path to build a stronger workforce.

Also reported by: The Australian (Online)

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Cancer cash brawl

The Australian, General News, 13/10/2026, Penny Timms, Page 1

A legal stoush is brewing between the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia and the government after the charity lost its contract funding prostate cancer nurses to the foundation that runs breast cancer nursing. [...] Questions to Health Minister Mark Butler were referred to the special envoy for men's health, Dan Repacholi, who said the announcement was made 10 months before the contract's expiry to ensure an orderly transition of nurses, patients and health services.

Also reported by: The Australian (Online)

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Hospitals 'not ready' for ageing population

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/10/2026, Rachel Rasker and Kate Aubusson, Page 1

Australia's health system is unprepared for the growing number of older patients arriving in emergency departments as elderly and frail patients are left in hospital corridors to deteriorate as they wait for a bed, emergency physicians warn. [...] Last month, state and territory health leaders met Health Minister Mark Butler to demand urgent investment in aged care to ease pressure on hospitals, including a short-term stopgap funding increase to home care packages.

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Report card is painfully grim for Jim

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 13/10/2026, Jade Gailberger, Page 14

It's been five months since Treasurer Jim Chalmers handed down his fourth federal budget. It was full of controversial changes and has sparked a number of backflips in the months since. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler remains steadfast that changes to the tobacco excise are not required, pointing to its increased investment in enforcement measures.

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Albanese government invests $630m to support care sector pay rises

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 12/10/2026, Nathan Schmidt

The federal government will splash $630m on pay rises for more than 460,000 workers following a landmark ruling by the Fair Work Commission. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the changes would also help retain workers by making the industry a "more attractive career path".

Also reported by: News24 Australia (Online), The Mercury (Online), News24 Australia (Online), The Mercury (Online), Perth Now (Online), West Australian (Online), Manjimup-Bridgetown Times (Online)

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Federal budget scorecard reveals 13 major policy failures plaguing Labor government five months on

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 12/10/2026, Jessica Wang

Five months on from Treasurer Jim Chalmers' fourth federal budget, a damning scorecard has graded the Albanese government's performance across 13 key policy areas. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler remains steadfast that changes to the tobacco excise are not required, pointing to its increased investment in enforcement measures.

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People living longer makes ailing health system sicker

Canberra Times, General News, 13/10/2026, Will Nicholas

Eight hours is a critical window for hospitals. For every 72 people who wait in emergency departments longer than that, one will die. [...] Australia needs to be building an aged care facility every three days for the next 20 years to keep up with demand, according to Health Minister Mark Butler, with older Australians tipped to comprise up to a quarter of the population by 2066.

Also reported by: Yass Tribune (Online), Perth Now (Online), The North West Star (Online), Maitland Mercury (Online), Macleay Argus (Online), Corowa Free Press (Online), Braidwood Times (Online), Port Stephens Examiner (Online)

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Impact of health rebate cut will soar, health department says

The Australian, General News, 12/10/2026, Greg Brown

Analysis from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing shows the widely claimed government figure that only 44,000 Australians will dump private health insurance under the policy is set to blow out to 78,000 just people just a year later. Health Minister Mark Butler's own department has forecast the number of older Australians dumping health insurance under Labor's rebate cut will be nearly double the figure the government regularly quotes by the end of the decade.

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Number of older Australians expected to ditch private health over proposed changes will soar to 78,000 by 2030

ABC Online, General News, 12/10/2026, Stephanie Dalzell

Nearly 80,000 older Australians are expected to dump their private health cover by the end of the decade as a result of the federal government's controversial proposed changes. The latest estimate is nearly double the 44,000 figure repeatedly cited by the federal government in defence of the policy. [...] The Coalition said Health Minister Mark Butler had consistently used the smaller figure to defend the policy.

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Families take the fight for faster juvenile arthritis diagnosis to Parliament House

BioPharmaDispatch, General News, 12/10/2026

Health Minister Mark Butler said, "Earlier recognition and diagnosis can make an important difference for children living with juvenile arthritis, helping them access the specialist care and treatment they need sooner."

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The $40 cigarette: has Australia's tobacco tax gone too far?

Cainz, General News, 12/10/2026, Dhriti Budhwar

Melbourne is often celebrated as one of the world's most liveable cities. Less celebrated is its position at the top of the Oasis Index, which measures the cost of five beers and two packs of cigarettes in cities around the world. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler argues that even without any excise tax, illegal tobacco would still cost less.

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A funny limp turns into giant steps against cancer

HealthTimes, General News, 12/10/2026

At first, Kelly Hennessy thought her daughter Mileah was just trying to mimic her beloved older cousin with her "weird, long-legged skip". Mileah was an energetic, advanced little girl who loved being outdoors and spending time with her close-knit family, including her cousin who had been performing a similarly unusual skip. [...] "It will help bring world-class international CAR-T clinical trials closer to home for Australian children and young people with cancer," Health Minister Mark Butler said in a statement.

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Private health exodus forecast as almost 80,000 retirees tipped to dump cover

News24 Australia, General News, 12/10/2026

Tens of thousands of Aussie retirees could drop their private health cover by 2030, according to new health department data. [...] The Coalition has accused Health Minister Mark Butler of consistently using the smaller 44,000-person figure to defend the policy scope.

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Government gives $630m funding boost to organisations hit by gender-equality wage rise

nine.com.au, General News, 12/10/2026

The federal government has announced it will give a $630 million boost to organisations operating in the woman-dominated health, disability and community service sectors to help them meet the Fair Work Commission's wage rise. [...] "Health, disability and community workers provide critical services to help Australians in time of need and they deserve to be paid fairly for their work," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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ABC News, ABC News Hour, 12/10/2026, Joe O'Brien

Nearly 80,000 older Australians are expected to dump their private health cover by the end of the decade as a result of the Federal Government's decision to cut private health insurance rebates. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler previously stated that about 44,000 people are expected to dump their cover, but a new Health Department analysis released under Freedom of Information laws says otherwise.

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2SM, 18:00 News, 12/10/2026

Up to 78,000 older Australians may have to drop their private health insurance if the over 65s rebate is dumped. Shadow Health Minister Anne Ruston says that's nearly double the 44,000 figure made public by Health Minister Mark Butler.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 12/10/2026, Thomas Oriti

Nearly 80,000 older Australians are expected to dump their private health cover by the end of the decade as a result of the Federal Government's decision to cut private health insurance rebates. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler previously stated that about 44,000 people are expected to dump

their cover, but a new Health Department analysis released under Freedom of Information laws says otherwise.

Also reported by: ABC NewsRadio (Sydney), ABC Radio Adelaide (Adelaide)

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Back to Top

MINISTER MCALLISTER

Concerns about automated Medicare compliance 'foolish'

The Medical Republic, General News, 12/10/2026, Holly Payne

As the Senate moves to pass legislation allowing Medicare to automate administrative processes related to practice incentive payments, Greens Senator Jordon Steele-John warns about the risks of algorithmic decision-making. [...] Minister for disability and the NDIS, Senator Jenny McAllister, repeatedly refuted this idea – going so far as to call Mr Steele-John's argument "foolish".

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Back to Top

MINISTER RAE

Stolen Generations redress should not come at a cost to aged care

National Indigenous Times, General News, 12/10/2026, Dechlan Brennan

Stolen Generations survivors would have their redress payments exempt from means testing across the aged care sector under an amendment to be introduced by the Greens this week. [...] We're establishing a permanent Commissioner to help close that gap, and we're listening to community to inform how we do it," Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said at the time.

Read More

Back to Top

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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Back to Top

ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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Back to Top

SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

Support for prostate cancer nurses

Emerald Today, General News, 12/10/2026

In many regional hospitals, a Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA) prostate cancer specialist nurse is the one health professional dedicated to prostate cancer whom men and their families can contact through diagnosis, treatment and the years that follow. [...] Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi stressed that Commonwealth funding for prostate cancer specialist nurses isn't ending.

Read More

Back to Top

DEPARTMENT

Impact of health rebate cut will soar, health department says

The Australian, General News, 12/10/2026, Greg Brown

Analysis from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing shows the widely claimed government figure that only 44,000 Australians will dump private health insurance under the policy is set to blow out to 78,000 just people just a year later. Health Minister Mark Butler's own department has forecast the number of older Australians dumping health insurance under Labor's rebate cut will be nearly double the figure the government regularly quotes by the end of the decade.

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‘A priority crisis': cohealth hires former minister's top adviser

WA Today, General News, 12/10/2026, Gemma Grant and Grant McArthur

A senior government staffer was hired by the embattled community health provider, cohealth, months after representing the state government in key meetings to decide the not-for-profit's governance and financial lifelines. [...] A spokesperson from the federal Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said cohealth recruitment and employment decisions were a matter for the board.

Also reported by: Sydney Morning Herald (Online), Brisbane Times (Online), The Age (Online)

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Number of older Australians expected to ditch private health over proposed changes will soar to 78,000 by 2030

MSN Australia, General News, 12/10/2026, Stephanie Dalzell

Nearly 80,000 older Australians are expected to dump their private health cover by the end of the decade as a result of the federal government's controversial proposed changes. The latest estimate is nearly double the 44,000 figure repeatedly cited by the federal government in defence of the policy.

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My Aged Care website wins design award

Pulse+IT, General News, 12/10/2026

The Australian Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and digital consultancy Liquid Interactive have won a 2026 Good Design Award for the redesign of the My Aged Care website, which has introduced personalised navigation, provider comparison tools and improved access to aged care information.

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Government quietly releases 10-month-old Medicare review

The Medical Republic, General News, 12/10/2026, Cate Swannell

A long-delayed review of Medicare health assessments has called for a single mid-life health check. The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has published a review of MBS health assessment services dated December 2025, almost 10 months after it was completed.

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News24, Early First Edition, 12/10/2026, Julia Bradley

A debate over tax reform is exposing divisions within the federal opposition. Former Treasurer Josh Frydenberg has raised the prospect of changes to the GST as part of broad economic reforms.

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Outback Radio 2WEB, Outback Mornings, 12/10/2026, Rod Corfe

Interview with Paroo Shire Council Mayor Suzette Beresford. Beresford says the Federal Department

of Health, Disability and Ageing will be holding an Aged Care Community Forum at the council office from 1:00 to 3:00 in the afternoon. She states that they are calling on any members of the community to attend the meeting.

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Back to Top

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Aussie dementia doubles

West Australian, General News, 13/10/2026, Page 3

Thanks to an ageing global population, Australian researchers estimate that by 2050, there will be 24.7 million new dementia cases globally each year, up from today's figure of about 11.4 million. The research, involving the Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing, also found higher rates of dementia in women than men, which the researchers say can't be fully explained by the fact that women tend to live longer than men.

Also reported by: Cairns Post (Cairns), Toowoomba Chronicle (Toowoomba), Hobart Mercury (Hobart)

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Community saves respite centre

Canberra Times, General News, 13/10/2026, Peter Jean, Page 7

Being appointed Senior Australian of the Year in 2019 created a challenge for retired Canberra paediatrician Sue Packer. Between speaking and advocacy commitments that are part of the senior Australian role, Dr Packer was helping to care for her sister, Pru Ingham, who was recovering from a fall.

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Dementia cases expected to soar to 'scary' highs, women will face more risk, study reveals

ABC Online, General News, 13/10/2026, Paige Cockburn

By 2050 an estimated 24.7 million people will be diagnosed with dementia each year and women will be disproportionately affected, according to a landmark new study. The research found approximately 11.4 million people developed dementia globally in 2023 and that by 2050 that figure will double and demand for care will explode.

Read More

‘Neglected': $18 billion health crisis gripping Aussies

Adelaide Now, General News, 12/10/2026, Naomi Kaplan

A top researcher has warned Australia's aged care system could collapse under the dementia crisis without urgent intervention. Professor Henry Brodaty, leading dementia expert and the 2026 Senior Australian of the Year, says without an immediate government step-up, Australia will fail to care for its elderly.

Also reported by: NEWS.com.au (Online), The Courier Mail (Online)

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‘A mum to everyone': Berrigan's Irene turns 100

Shepparton News Online, General News, 12/10/2026, Abby Green

Feisty, blunt, upbeat and a mum to everyone — that's how daughter Ingrid and granddaughter Martina describe Berrigan's 100-year-old Irene Visbergs Bredelis. Irene celebrated her 100th birthday on Saturday, October 10 at Uniting Berrigan Residential Aged Care with family, friends and staff, enjoying her favourite black forest cake.

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Labor warns Tasmania health system at breaking point with 97,000

patients waiting for care

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 12/10/2026, Sue Bailey

Labor says nearly one in six Tasmanians are waiting for medical treatment - but the government attributes the delays to increased demand and people failing to attend appointments at outpatient clinics. Labor health spokeswoman Sarah Lovell said more than 97,000 Tasmanians were waiting for care across outpatient, elective surgery and oral health lists, up about 10 per cent in a year.

Also reported by: The Mercury (Online), Cairns Post (Online)

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Workforce shortages are a nationwide issue

Hotel Management, General News, 01/10/2026, James Goodwin, Page 24

The national board meetings of Accommodation Australia are a rare chance to get hotel leaders from across the nation together in one room. It is a great opportunity for me to sit across the table and hear the range of issues our members are grappling with.

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Back to Top

DISABILITY AND CARERS

Inside Labor's $88b tax overhaul

Australian Financial Review, General News, 13/10/2026, John Kehoe, Page 1

Treasurer Jim Chalmers' proposal for the country's biggest tax shake-up in a quarter-century was a politically rushed timetable, developed in secret with limited consultation and riddled with unforeseen consequences. The process also required repeated p...

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Dr Jim didn't budget on five months' hard labour post-birth

The Australian, General News, 13/10/2026, Dennis Shanahan, Page 1

Jim Chalmers won't have a bar of it but his 2026 budget is a political failure and, perilously for Labor, it's an economic failure as well. The hit on Labor's support after a budget full of broken promises has not been rectified, the plethora of detailed legislative changes have not solved the problems created for housing and investment, and the core failures on spending and inflation appear worse by the day.

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New support for Karratha families as disability system enters period of change

West Australian, General News, 12/10/2026, Joshua Dowdall

For the first time, Karratha families raising young children with disability, developmental concerns or neurodivergence will be able to take part locally in the free ENVISAGE Families program this October. The in-person Karratha program begins October 26, 2026, with online programs scheduled throughout October and November.

Read More

Back to Top

PRIMARY CARE

US telehealth giant scraps Juniper brand to rollout new women's clinic

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 13/10/2026, David Swan, Page 26

US telehealth giant Hims & Hers Health is bringing its women's health brand, Hers, to Australia, retiring Juniper, the weight-loss service Sydney start-up Eucalyptus launched in 2021. The switch completes the company's $1.6 billion takeover of Eucalyptus earlier this year.

Also reported by: *Age (Melbourne)*

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Cannabis a catastrophe

Herald Sun, General News, 13/10/2026, Sarah Booth, Page 13

Cannabis-related hospital admissions have surged in Victoria as shocking new numbers reveal the drug's growing strain on our healthcare system. Admissions directly driven by the drug jumped by more than 49 per cent over a decade, with 7200 cases identified between 2013 and 2023 where the drug was responsible for the patients' principal diagnosis.

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Hearts safe in Red Cliffs

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 13/10/2026, Lochlainn Heley, Page 2

Red Cliffs has graduated with 199 community members trained in lifesaving skills to help restart hearta and save a lives. Red Cliffs was one of several communities participating in the 12-month Heart Safe Communities program, empowering locals with the skills for bystander intervention in a cardiac arrest.

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New course for Monash Health

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 13/10/2026, Lochlainn Heley, Page 8

Monash University is launching a new allied health course in Mildura to help the next generation of medical professionals gain easier access to their degree. The Bachelor of Allied Health is a new path for Mallee students looking to become occupational therapists, physiotherapists and podiatrists, launching in the 2027 academic year.

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Premier's ramping claim

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 13/10/2026, Paul Brescia, Page 2

Premier David Crisafulli has claimed ambulance ramping figures are at their best level in five years, despite them being worse than they were just one month ago. His bold claim came just days after News Corp revealed that the latest Queensland Health performance data showed long-wait queues outside emergency departments had barely budged in two years.

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Flinders Street health clinic set to open for vulnerable people in Melbourne's CBD

ABC Online, General News, 12/10/2026, Richard Willingham

A new health hub for people experiencing homelessness and drug addiction will "enhance the amenity" of Melbourne's streets, a senior state government minister has said. The Flinders Street Health service opposite the eponymous station will finally open its doors to the city's vulnerable today, years after the state government bought the building during COVID.

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2CC, Canberra Live, 12/10/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with RACGP President Dr Michael Wright. Delaney says the Digital Health Record in the ACT has been part of the public hospital experience for several years, but local GPs are now getting on board as well. Wright states that the Digital Health Record is a great step forward because they have been pushing for better integration between the data they collect in general practice and the information collected at hospital.

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4BC, Drive, 12/10/2026, Carla Bignasca

Interview with Australian Medical Association of Queensland President Erica Gannon. Gannon says

AMA has been calling for an independent authority to oversee the private healthcare sector since its budget submission earlier this year. She notes that about 45% of all Australians currently hold private health insurance, but with the increased cost of living, privately insured patients are finding that their cover.

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Back to Top

POPULATION HEALTH

Players' free pass on new drugs policy

The Australian, Sport, 13/10/2026, Jay Clark and Ed Bourke, Page 24

AFL players have effectively been given a free pass to take drugs, as the league's new illicit substances crackdown is yet to be implemented almost seven months after being unveiled.

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Warning of brain injury risk from sexual strangulation

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/10/2026, Wendy Tuohy, Page 10

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.

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It's going to be an intense hay fever season. Here's how to prepare your home

Age, General News, 13/10/2026, Abby Seaman, Page 11

It's that time of year again. The birds are singing, flowers are blooming, and your nose is running.

Also reported by: Sydney Morning Herald (Online), Sydney Morning Herald (Sydney)

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Key nutrient most Aussies are lacking

Courier Mail, General News, 13/10/2026, David Hannant, Page 5

From an explosion of snack bars and supplements, to even appearing on menu screens at Macca's, protein is rapidly turning into an Aussie obsession. However, a new study has shown that despite protein becoming something of a dietary buzzword, there is another key nutrient that Australians are failing to get enough of.

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Blood donor crisis plea

Herald Sun, General News, 13/10/2026, Page 5

Australia's blood supply has plunged to its lowest levelin almost a decade, placinga a "significant strain" on national inventories Australian Red Cross Lifeblood has issued plea for ar extra 16,000 donors, saying supplies of common blood type are critically low Public blood supply levels data on Monday showed stocks of AB+ had dropped so low in Victoria, some nonurgent patients may have faced delays. The need for plasma was rated as "urgent" in every state and territory.

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Aunty Coral is a stroke award finalist

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 13/10/2026, Jacob Mcmaster, Page 5

"A life means a lot, you need to save a life first," Narrabri Elder Aunty Coral Toomey said about contacting emergency services if you see someone suffering symptoms of a stroke. "Don't be afraid to contact the ambulance, care of the patient has to come first," she said.

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Fragile from birth

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 13/10/2026, Daniel Shirkie, Page 4

A mother who was told she couldn't hold her newborn baby in her arms has turned her infant son's shock diagnosis into a fight to raise awareness. Jennii Lewis spent only minutes with her son Sydney before he was raced to the neonatal intensive care unit after she noticed large patches of skin were missing from his wrists, arms and the top of his ears.

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Is there a 'cliff-like' decline at menopause? Australian experts unconvinced

ABC Online, General News, 13/10/2026, Lauren Roberts

Menopause is a natural and inevitable part of getting older for people born with ovaries. It marks the end of a woman's reproductive years, and is associated with a range of changes including bone thinning, weight gain and bladder issues.

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Fitzroy North firebombing exposes Victoria as the ‘weak link' in Australia's illegal tobacco war

NEWS.com.au, General News, 12/10/2026, Georgia Palgan

As several Melbourne buildings and a tobacco store lie smouldering from a suspected firebombing Monday morning, a damning new report reveals exactly why Victoria has become ground zero for the illegal tobacco trade. Emergency services were called to St Georges Road in Fitzroy North about 3.35am Monday after explosions ripped through a tobacco shop, engulfing it in flames and damaging neighbouring businesses.

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Should you be paid to exercise while at work? These Australian researchers think so

SBS, General News, 12/10/2026, Biwa Kwan

Physical inactivity costs Australia more than $2 billion a year, prompting a study to track health outcomes for workers. If the trial is successful, its lead author hopes that exercise while at work could be rolled out to Australian businesses and organisations. [...] Heart disease is a key health issue in Australia, with more than one million Australians aged 18 and over (6.4 per cent of the adult population) living with one or more conditions related to heart, stroke or vascular disease in 2024, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 12/10/2026, Peter Overton

Cytomegalovirus, or CMV, is a common herpes virus that is the leading cause of disability in newborns, but many pregnant women do not know it exists. Health Minister Ryan Park has announced that the NSW Government is injecting $850,000 into a hygiene awareness campaign.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 12/10/2026, Lucy Breaden

Interview with Quit Tasmania Director Abby Smith. Breaden says Quit Tasmania is expanding its access to the free quit-smoking and vaping products that it has on hand to include all Tasmanians aged 12 years and over. Smith says all Tasmanians should have access to evidence-based support when they're ready to quit.

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Back to Top

CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Access improving

Western Advocate, General News, 13/10/2026, Rachel Chamberlain, Page 1

Mental health support is now more readily available in Bathurst and Orange following the expansion of a service provider's psychology team. Veritas House has recently undergone a successful recruitment period, which has enabled the not-for-profit organisation to make more appointments available.

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Back to Top

IMMUNISATION

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Back to Top

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

IV lines research to boost the flow

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 13/10/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 6

Dangerous complications with central intravenous lines used in cancer treatments, dialysis and intensive care units are to be investigated in a new Queensland clinical trial in the hope of creating new guidelines for doctors and nurses. Led by The University of Queensland, the IVCare trial will examine central venous access devices (CVADs) in a bid to lessen infections and blood clots.

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Guild slams profit-driven healthcare models

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 12/10/2026

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has pushed for greater scrutiny of profit-driven healthcare models, urging the Federal Government to examine whether Australia's healthcare regulations are keeping pace with the growth of vertically integrated prescribing and supply of medicines.

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Back to Top

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Big Eye Theatre and The Women's Society partner for community wellness festival

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 12/10/2026, Josh Mercer

Helping support women on World Mental Health Day, The Women's Society held a wellness festival at The Gypsea Collective to support wellness and holistic ways of how women can support their mental health. Managing Director of The Women's Society Jade Nelson said that they decided to do a second wellness festival due to the success of the last event.

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Back to Top

PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Doctor warned Elizabeth Struhs would not be safe years before sect killed her by withdrawing medicine

The Guardian, General News, 12/10/2026, Andrew Messenger

A specialist child safety doctor was "stonewalled" by a child safety officer after repeatedly warning that Elizabeth Struhs would not be safe living with her mother, years before her parents allowed her to die by withdrawing lifesaving medicine, a coronial inquest has heard. Elizabeth returned to live with her parents at her family home in Toowoomba in 2019, after both of them were convicted of neglecting her.

Read More

Back to Top

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Senior medic gets ban for touching women

Border Mail, General News, 13/10/2026, Page 7

A veteran North East doctor has been banned from the profession after inappropriately touching seven junior female doctors. Dr Leslie Bolitho touched the women between 2014 and 2018, with the touching in some cases found to be for "a sexual purpose".

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Wilson's promise of 25,000 more surgeries comes with $880 million black hole

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 12/10/2026

Jess Wilson's promise to pay for a headline-grabbing health policy by winding up a state-owned investment company has punched an $880 million hole in the Coalition's election costings and created a headache likely to dog the opposition leader through to polling day. Under Wilson's SurgerySooner pledge, a Coalition government would use public funds to pay for an additional 25,000 elective surgeries in private hospitals over the next four years at no cost to patients.

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'A calling': women's work strengthens rural Australia

West Australian, General News, 12/10/2026, Stephanie Gardiner

Nicole Chiesa begged her mum to let her leave high school early, knowing she was destined for life on the land. She left school for Dalby Agricultural College in Queensland in Year 11 before working as far away from her family's Sunshine Coast beef cattle farm as possible.

Also reported by: Warrnambool Standard (Online), Ballarat Courier (Online), Daily Mail UK (Online), Northern Daily Leader (Online), Illawarra Mercury (Online), Canberra Times (Online), Newcastle Herald (Online)

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Are GP registrars happier on a salary or fee-for-service?

Australian Doctor, General News, 12/10/2026, Ciara Seccombe

When GP registrar Dr Erica Musgrove heard her State Government was going to try offering hospital salaries to doctors training in general practice, she jumped at the chance. "As a young woman hoping to start a family in the next couple of years, I thought it would be good if I could access some paid parental leave rather than having, as a trainee, no entitlements at all."

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How to find work-life balance in your medical career

Medical Journal of Australia, General News, 12/10/2026, Caroline Riches

Work–life balance in medicine isn't just a personal challenge — it's often shaped by the system itself. From long hours to training demands, doctors describe a profession where balance can be structurally hard to achieve.

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Back to Top

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Back to Top

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Back to Top

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Condom medtech eyes $10m

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 13/10/2026, Page 16

A Sydney medtech that claims to have perfected the condom, backed by the cofounder of Ozempic seller Eucalyptus, is hunting for fresh cash to slip its way into bedrooms across the globe.

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Oura defiant amid sleep-track lawsuit

The Australian, Technology, 13/10/2026, Jared Lynch, Page 20

Oura says the $US11bn wearable titan will "vigorously defend" a lawsuit about its sleep tracking as it

releases a suite of new health-focused features including tracking blood pressure and weight-loss medications as it delays a much-hyped public listing. The Finnish company has postponed plans to list on the Nasdaq, saying while demand was strong with Jennifer Aniston, Gwyneth Paltrow and Prince Harry among its avid users of tech-packed rings the IPO market remained uncertain.

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Andrographis recall: Cold and flu medicine recalled after allergic reaction spike

West Australian, General News, 12/10/2026, Katherine Kraayvanger

Popular cold-and-flu medicines containing andrographis have been recalled across Australia after the herb was linked to increasing anaphylactic reactions. [...] "Following a large increase in the number of reports of anaphylaxis in 2019, the TGA has continued to receive a sustained high number of reports of anaphylaxis associated with Andrographis-containing medicines, which is inconsistent with a listed medicine that would be considered a low-risk medicine," a TGA statement said.

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Waitlist for weight loss pill grows as Australian release nears - but millions likely to miss out

West Australian, General News, 12/10/2026, Digital Staff

Weight loss pill could arrive in Australia as thousands join waitlist Credit: 7NEWS Australia's weight loss industry is set for a major shake-up with an Ozempic -style pill moving closer to approval, as more than 10,000 people sit on a waitlist for the treatment. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is currently working through the approval process for the pill, which has already been approved in the US and the UK.

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Building a more resilient manufacturing base

Manufacturers' Monthly, General News, 01/10/2026, Page 4

Australian manufacturing is entering a period where investment in capability, technology and resilience is becoming increasingly important. Across pharmaceuticals, defence, food, medtech and heavy equipment, manufacturers are making decisions that will shape their competitiveness and the strength of Australia's industrial base.

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Waitlist for weight loss pill grows as Australian release nears - but millions likely to miss out

7News.com.au, General News, 12/10/2026

The pill is expected to be approved for use in Australia within months. Australia's weight loss industry is set for a major shake-up with an Ozempic -style pill moving closer to approval, as more than 10,000 people sit on a waitlist for the treatment. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is currently working through the approval process for the pill, which has already been approved in the US and the UK.

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ArmaForce joins Andrographis recalls

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 12/10/2026, Chris Brooker

Specialist health practitioner supplement brand BioCeuticals is recalling its ArmaForce and Clinical ImmuneForce products from the market, following a safety review of Andrographis paniculata. The move came three weeks after the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) announced its decision to remove the This content is restricted to registered users only.

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Undeclared steroids in skincare products

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 12/10/2026

Testing by US researchers has revealed that popular skincare products sold online in the US and

Australia contained undeclared ingredients, including superpotent corticosteroids that usually require a prescription. Marketed for psoriasis, eczema and hyperpigmentation, products found to contain undeclared steroids included Neoprosone creams, serums and gels, Psor Val zinc pyrithione.

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 12/10/2026, Monique Wright and Matt Shirvington

Australia's weight-loss industry is about to be changed forever with the rollout of Ozempic-style pill testing closer and closer. If the pill is approved by the TGA, demand for the weight-loss drug are expected to surge more than 40% with users able to shed the weight without the needles.

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Back to Top

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Vic weed psychosis on rise

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 13/10/2026, Page 3

Psychotic disorders from cannabis use have skyrocketed in Victoria, according to new Monash University research. Between 2013 and 2023, the rates of hospital admissions caused by cannabis and characterised by "severe mental health harms" rose a staggering 49 per cent.

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Cannabis misuse on the rise

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 12/10/2026

A rise in cannabis-related psychosis hospitalisations is sparking concern in Victoria, with new Monash University research highlighting its burden on the state's infirmaries. Cannabis-related hospital admissions have grown sharply across Victoria over the past decade, according to a study published in the monthly Addiction journal, which found admissions primarily caused.

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Back to Top

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