

Wednesday, 14th 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 Hobart Mercury** (page 1) reports that a review by the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine found that Tasmania's public hospital emergency departments were struggling to meet the needs of an ageing population, citing insufficient funding for hospitals, primary care and aged care. Health Minister Mark Butler acknowledged more work was needed to improve health and aged-care services, saying that simply adding more beds will not solve the issue. *Also reported by: Central Western Daily, ABC Online*
- **The Sydney Morning Herald** (page 1) reports that according to a confidential NSW Health briefing note, addressing the state's public mental health workforce shortfall would require an estimated $550 to $600 million annually in staffing and more than $700 million in infrastructure.
- **The Daily Telegraph** (page 2) reports the NSW Productivity and Equality Commission report found that an insufficient federal aged-care system was delaying hospital admissions for many emergency department patients and costing the state an estimated $1 billion annually.
- **The Herald Sun** (page 1) reports that a trial led by Mercy Hospital for Women and Melbourne University will examine the optimal caffeine dosage for very premature babies, which is

expected to change neonatal intensive care treatment around the world.

- **The Adelaide Advertiser** (page 4) reports that an analysis of nationwide postpartum haemorrhage data found that life-threatening bleeding after childbirth was increasing, with regional hospitals recording some of the highest rates.
- **The Adelaide Advertiser** (page 5) reports that according to the AIHW, Australians spent $290.7 billion on health goods and services in 2024-25, with hospital spending rising four per cent to $123.4 billion.
- **The Herald Sun** (page 5) reports the Australian Medical Association warned that cosmetic clinics offering AI-based skin cancer checks along with treatments such as laser and skin rejuvenation could delay diagnosis of serious cancers, saying qualified doctors should conduct assessments.
- **The West Australian** (online) reports the Federal Government will invest $630 million to support pay rises for workers in undervalued health, disability and community services, with funding directed to charities and not-for-profit organisations delivering government programs. Health Minister Mark Butler said the investment would help retain and attract staff, while Social Services Minister Tanya Plibersek said this would ensure Australians could access support during hard times.

MINISTER BUTLER

Emergency crisis looming

Hobart Mercury, General News, 14/10/2026, Rob Inglis, Page 1

Tasmania's embattled emergency departments are failing to keep up with the demands of an increasingly ageing population, as a new report confirms the state's public hospitals are lagging on a key performance metric. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler acknowledged that "we need to do better" in the aged care space but said there was "no single answer" to the issues besetting EDs.

Also reported by: Daily Telegraph Australia (Online), Herald Sun (Online), Northern Territory News (Online), The Mercury (Online), Adelaide Now (Online), The Courier Mail (Online), WEB OZ Arab Media (Online)

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'More work to do': ageing population puts pressure on hospitals

Central Western Daily, General News, 14/10/2026, Will Nicholas & Andrew Brown, Page 3

Adding more aged care beds won't be enough to help hospital emergency departments prepare for an ageing population, the federal Health Minister concedes. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said issues involved with an ageing population were hitting the hospital sector.

Also reported by: The Border Mail (Online), Bendigo Advertiser (Online), South Coast Register (Online), Canberra Times (Online), Newcastle Herald (Online)

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Surge in out-of-pocket costs driven by failing Medicare, specialist warns

The Australian, General News, 13/10/2026, Peter Sumich

While the government signals a crackdown on extreme fees, it has failed to address the lagging Medicare rebate, instead making specialists the villains. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler appeared remarkably well-versed in the detail of an otherwise routine paper and hit the media running.

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Senator David Pocock demands federal government scrap GST on exercise physiology services

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 13/10/2026, Nathan Schmidt

David Pocock has called on the government to scrap the tax on exercise physiology, the only Medicare allied health service subject to GST despite being accessed by more than one million Australians. [...]

The office of Health Minister Mark Butler referred questions to Treasury, who were contacted for comment.

Also reported by: *Herald Sun (Online)*, *The Mercury (Online)*, *The Courier Mail (Online)*, *The Australian (Online)*, *West Australian (Online)*, *NEWS.com.au (Online)*

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Payday looms for undervalued Aussie workers

West Australian, General News, 13/10/2026, Catherine Bouris

A big payout is on the cards for workers in industries found to be undervalued. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the investment would not only retain existing workers, but also make the sector more attractive to future workers, ensuring a stronger workforce in the future.

Also reported by: *Ballarat Courier (Online)*, *Illawarra Mercury (Online)*, *Newcastle Herald (Online)*, *News24 Australia (Online)*, *Nursing Review (Online)*, *WEB Newsreel (Online)*, *The New Daily (Online)*, *WEB Region Canberra (Online)*, *Region Illawarra (Online)*, *PS News (Online)*

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Health system failure as older patients present at Tasmanian emergency departments, report finds

ABC Online, General News, 13/10/2026

The Australasian College of Emergency Medicine (ACEM) has warned that Australia's health system is not equipped for the growing number of older patients presenting in emergency departments. [...] Federal Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler said the government had eased hospital pressure through increased funding, more aged care beds, expanded bulk billing and Urgent Care Clinics.

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Smart glasses are giving blind and deaf people more independence

ABC Online, General News, 13/10/2026, Erin Handley

When Chris Edwards pops on his smart glasses, his world opens up. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler previously spoke about the public's "horror" over the devices.

Also reported by: *MSN Australia (Online)*

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Rebate cut could push 78,000 older Australians out of private cover, FOI papers show

Insurance Business Australia, General News, 13/10/2026, Matthew Sellers

The federal government has spent months defending its plan to trim the private health insurance rebate for older Australians with a single number: 44,000. That is how many people aged 65 and over its published impact analysis says will give up their cover. [...] Shadow health minister Anne Ruston accused Health Minister Mark Butler of either not reading his own briefs or "deliberately misleading older Australians".

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Health rebate change raises hospital concerns

Murray Pioneer, General News, 13/10/2026

South Australia's public hospitals, including those in the Riverland, could face up to $60.2m in additional annual costs under proposed changes to private health insurance rebates for older Australians, according to modelling cited by the State Government. [...] Minister for Health and Wellbeing Blair Boyer said he had written to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler seeking assurances South Australia's public hospital system would avoid any disadvantages from the changes.

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ABC, ABC News, 13/10/2026, Jeremy Fernandez

The latest report by the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine has revealed that tens of thousands of older patients are now waiting longer than 24 hours in EDs for hospital beds, and it claims that Australia is failing to cope with its ageing population. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says

older Australians' need for good quality aged care and health services is skyrocketing, and it's a challenge for all governments.

Similar coverage reported by: ABC (Brisbane), ABC (Adelaide), ABC (Melbourne), ABC (Canberra), ABC (Hobart), Channel 10 (Sydney), Channel 10 (Melbourne), Channel 9 (Adelaide), WIN Canberra (Canberra), ABC (Darwin)

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ABC News, Mornings, 13/10/2026, Gemma Veness

The Australasian College of Emergency Medicine is warning Australia's health system is not equipped for the surging demand driven by the ageing population. It comes as the third annual State of Emergency Report revealed a growing number of older patients presenting at emergency departments and lengthy waits, becoming a common thing.

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ABC Mid North Coast, NSW Statewide Drive, 13/10/2026, Jess McGuire

The Australasian College of Emergency Medicine is warning that Australia is unprepared for its ageing population. It comes as Federal Health Minister Mark Butler highlights the Federal Government's historic healthcare investment.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, 08:00 News, 13/10/2026

The Australasian College of Emergency Medicine is warning Australia is unprepared for its ageing population. It comes as Federal Health Minister Mark Butler highlights the Federal Government's historic healthcare investment.

Also reported by: ABC News (Sydney)

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2GB, Drive, 13/10/2026, James Willis

Interview with Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia CEO Anne Savage. Maynard says the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia is calling on Federal Health Minister Mark Butler to reverse a decision to end funding for specialist nurses, and he also notes that the Federal Government's move affects 96 nursing positions that provide 150,000 patient consultations every year. Savage says it's disappointing that Butler has not yet responded to their request for a meeting, and she also states that the Federal Government is fully entitled to decide where its funding goes, but it is not entitled to give away a service that it doesn't own.

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2CC, Canberra Live, 13/10/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with former ACT Minister for Health Michael Moore. Delaney states that the recent report from the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine has suggested Australia's health system is not prepared for the growing number of older patients arriving in emergency departments. Moore says states and territories are responsible for hospitals, but Federal Health Minister Mark Butler also admitted that he has to take some of the responsibility, and he was right that states and territory ministers should work with him to resolve the issue within the system.

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GOLD 1323, 14:00 News, 13/10/2026

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler admits there is work to be done after new Australian College for Emergency Medicine research revealed that hospitals cannot support the growing influx of elderly patients. He says older Australians' need for good-quality aged care and health services is skyrocketing, and it's a challenge for the government.

Similar coverage reported by: SENQ (Brisbane), Gold 101.7 (Sydney), MIX 106.3 FM (Canberra)

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Back to Top

MINISTER MCALLISTER

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

MINISTER RAE

Lay off cuts to aged care funding: Haines

Mansfield Courier, General News, 14/10/2026, Page 23

Independent Member for Indi Helen Haines has backed National Seniors Australia CEO Chris Grice in urging the federal government not to cut the private health insurance rebate for older Australians. [...] "In a time when there are insufficient funds to support vulnerable older Australians, with Support at Home packages rationed, increasing numbers of older Australians awaiting Support at Home services, and thousands more stranded in public hospitals how does Aged Care Minister Sam Rae allow $1.4 billion of approved funding for aged care to be returned to Treasury as savings?" he said.

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Back to Top

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Site confirmed: kids' mental health hub

Blue Mountains Gazette, General News, 14/10/2026, Page 11

Described as a "life-changing service" by Federal Member for Macquarie Susan Templeman, a new $50.8 million government initiative is set to bring free, specialist childhood mental health care closer to the Blue Mountains. [...] Federal Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Emma McBride, and NSW Minister for Mental Health and Minister for Youth, Rose Jackson, visited the site on October 8.

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Back to Top

ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

Support for prostate cancer nurses

CQ Today, General News, 13/10/2026

The Prostate Cancer CQ Support and Awareness Group has spoken out about the Federal Government's decision to end funding for a specialist prostate cancer nursing service from 30 June 2027 and redirect it to the McGrath Foundation. [...] 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

Initiative to improve local primary healthcare

Murray Pioneer, General News, 14/10/2026, Page 18

Primary Health Network (PHN) will lead consultation with key Riverland organisations including community representatives to explore options to increase community access to GPs, nursing and allied health services. This consultation, undertaken by Larter Consulting, is part of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's Health Workforce Program.

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A single ‘midlife' health assessment could soon replace four MBS items, including the Heart Health Check

Australian Doctor, General News, 13/10/2026

Four existing MBS health assessment items should be replaced with a single midlife assessment to reduce duplication and confusion, according to a review by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. Uptake of the current assessments was found to be low.

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The Zap: latest health and aged care news, plus key consultations now open

Croakey, General News, 13/10/2026, Melissa Sweet

Governments are urged “to formally recognise severe and enduring mental illness as a distinct policy priority”, and to push back against efforts to undermine effective tobacco control policies, The Zap reports this week. [...] On 7 October, I asked the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DHDA) what was going on.

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Insurance rebate cut could leave 78,000 fewer insured, FOI reveals

Health Services Daily, General News, 13/10/2026, Caitlin Wright

The government is still using an estimate of 44,000 fewer privately insured Australians under its rebate changes, but DoHDA modelling shows a much bigger number over subsequent years.

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My QuitBuddy has won a 2026 Australian Good Design Award for Digital Design – Apps and Software

Talking HealthTech, General News, 13/10/2026

Created by Miroma Project Factory (MPF) with the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, the My QuitBuddy app has been designed to extend support beyond traditional health settings and into the moments when people are navigating cravings, setbacks and recommitment. It is a challenge that sits at the heart of much of digital health: healthcare does not only happen when someone is in front of a clinician.

Read More

Back to Top

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Seniors could save thousands under care fee changes

Sydney Morning Herald, Money, 14/10/2026, Rachel Lane, Page 25

After waiting about a month for an aged care assessment, and potentially another eight months or more for their Support at Home program funding to begin, it defies logic that one in three older Australians are stopping or reducing their home care. Sadly, the co-contributions have been forcing some seniors to choose between the care they need and other essentials.

Also reported by: Age (Melbourne)

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Hospitals dealt sick aged care disgrace

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/10/2026, James O'Doherty, Page 2

The Albanese government's failure to keep up with demand in the aged-care system is delaying hospital admissions for almost half of people who present at emergency departments and putting stranded elderly patients at grave risk of hospital-acquired complications all while costing taxpayers an extra $lbn a year. Those are the findings from a scathing NSW Productivity and Equality Commission report which warns that failing to address the "stranded patients" crisis could, in 10 years, see 7000 hospital beds being taken up by older patients that cannot be discharged because they have nowhere else to go.

Also reported by: Daily Telegraph Australia (Online), The Mercury (Online), Adelaide Now (Online), The Courier Mail (Online)

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Finger-pointing won't fix State's ailing health system

West Australian, General News, 14/10/2026, Jessica Page, Page 13

Boomers, we have a problem. It's not you, it's us. As a whole, our politicians have failed to prepare Australia's hospitals for your impending arrival.

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Seniors want to be cool too

West Australian, General News, 14/10/2026, Page 36

Australia is not building appropriate homes for its ageing population, with half of all newly built homes over the five years to 2021 including four or more bedrooms. New research by realestate.com.au, in conjunction with GemLife, shows 35 per cent of the population will be aged 55 by 2050, up from 29 per cent now.

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Downsizing key to unlocking housing supply as over-55s hold millions of spare bedrooms

NEWS.com.au, General News, 14/10/2026, Aleisha Dawson

Millions of older Australians are living in huge homes with spare bedrooms sitting empty – and a new report says unlocking them could transform the housing market. The realestate.com.au GemLife Downsizing Australia 2026 report, released today, analyses the housing market and key barriers and motivations influencing downsizers across the country.

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Australia's largest operator shelves 760 aged care beds

The Weekly Source, General News, 13/10/2026, Caroline Egan

Opal HealthCare, which has more than 150 aged care homes across Australia, is weighing up it future pipeline against viability and investment thresholds and has put 760 aged care places on hold. "In the current environment these developments don't meet the investment threshold," a spokesperson told The Weekly SOURCE.

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Govt grant brings rural aged care home to life

The Weekly Source, General News, 13/10/2026, Caroline Egan

Whiddon has started work on a $26 million aged care extension in regional NSW. The Not For Profit operator has begun laying the foundations for a 58-bed extension to Narraburra Lodge in Temora, more than 400km south-west of Sydney.

Read More

Back to Top

DISABILITY AND CARERS

My autistic son said no, here's why I didn't listen

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/10/2026, Richard Amos, Page 12

In a back lane in Randwick one Sunday afternoon, an old Ukrainian lady sits in the window of her flat and cries out to me: "You are a very, very bad man". In my defence, I was only trying to teach Fred to ride a bike.

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Why a disabled HSC student had to sue the exam authority days before year 12 exams

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 13/10/2026, Madeleine Keck

Just days before he sat his first exam, a smart and diligent HSC student with “severe” disabilities found himself locked in an eleventh-hour legal fight for extra reading and writing time. The student, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was twice turned away by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA), leaving him no choice but to take his case to the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

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

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Former boxing champion Troy O'Meley hit with 10-year aged care and NDIS bans

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 13/10/2026, Julie Cross

A disgraced former Australian boxing legend has been barred from working with vulnerable Australians in aged care and the NDIS. Troy Trevor O’Meley, the 2020 Australian Super Welterweight champion, was handed back-to-back 10-year bans from both the aged care and the NDIS watchdogs.

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

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Thriving Kids; phase one elements

Freedom2Live, General News, 13/10/2026, Heidi Bain

Thriving Kids’ initial phase is two weeks into its national rollout, and the government aims to highlight how parents and families can connect with the program during this time. Designed to expand early intervention information and foundational supports for children aged eight and under who have developmental delays or low-to-moderate autism support needs, the full range of supports will be progressively established ahead of full implementation on 1 January 2028.

Read More

Back to Top

PRIMARY CARE

“Time to dive in,” says Guild

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 13/10/2026

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Victoria Branch is calling on all political parties to support autonomous prescribing by qualified pharmacists ahead of the upcoming state election.

Read More

ANZCAP prepares for its next phase

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 13/10/2026

Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) is celebrating three years since the formation of the Australian and New Zealand College of Advanced Pharmacy (ANZCAP), the only program formally recognising advanced pharmacy practice across Australia and New Zealand. ANZCAP provides pharmacy professionals at all career stages with a structured pathway to demonstrate, recognise and build on

their expertise, with more than 2,600 practitioners now recognised across 46 different specialty areas of practice.

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“I actually felt heard and understood”

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 13/10/2026

Delegates at Medadvisor's Unite conference last week ( ) heard a patient's experience firsthand as she explained how clinicians' use of Heidi's AI-enabled Scribe changed consultations. Feeling anxious in the lead up to a surgical procedure, Dani Li – who happens to work for Medadvisor – had many detailed discussions with clinicians about what to expect, what the risks were and what recovery would be like, with each consultation recorded and transcribed using Scribe.

Read More

Back to Top

POPULATION HEALTH

Loss of blood a worry in birthing

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/10/2026, Olivia Shying, Page 4

More women are suffering serious, life-threatening bleeds after giving birth, with small regional hospitals recording some of the highest rates. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, a primary post-partum haemorrhage refers to heavy bleeding within the first 24 hours of birth.

Also reported by: Herald Sun (Melbourne), Hobart Mercury (Hobart)

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Healthy share of budget

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/10/2026, Page 5

Australians spent $290.7bn, the equivalent of $10,614 per person, on health goods and services in 2024-25. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare says hospital spending in Australia reached $123.4bn during this period, up 4 per cent from the previous year, and continues to grow faster than the rest of the spending on primary healthcare and prevention.

Also reported by: Courier Mail (Brisbane), Northern Territory News (Darwin), Toowoomba Chronicle (Toowoomba)

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Smoking out illicit tobacco

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/10/2026, Aden Hill, Page 12

Illicit tobacco dealers could face up to 17 years in jail and expiation fines of $175,000 under tough new laws introduced to parliament this week. The laws, the latest in the state government's crackdown on the illicit tobacco industry, will also see Consumer and Business Services' Illicit Tobacco Taskforce able to issue medium-term closure orders of 130 days, the longest in the nation.

Also reported by: Northern Territory News (Online), The Mercury (Online), The Courier Mail (Online), Daily Telegraph Australia (Online)

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Vape laws all puff

West Australian, General News, 14/10/2026, Charlton Hart, Page 11

Dodgy smoke shops peddling illegal cigarettes and vapes won't face the threat of evictions until next year with the Cook Government failing to deliver its second round of tough laws on time. Health Minister Meredith Hammat said on Tuesday the additional tranche of sweeping reforms to stamp out the black market won't be ready to put to Parliament before the Christmas break as promised.

Also reported by: West Australian (Online)

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New NT laws introduce $9700 fines and two-year jail terms for drink and drug drivers

Northern Territory News, General News, 13/10/2026, Fia Walsh

Drink and drug drivers will face up to two years behind bars under new laws targeting the Northern Territory's deadly road toll. The Drink and Drug Driving and Hooning Bill passed into law on Tuesday, following unanimous support from the cross-party legislative scrutiny committee.

Also reported by: The Mercury (Online), The Courier Mail (Online), Daily Telegraph Australia (Online)

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Thunderstorm asthma: Everything you need to know about this hidden danger

NEWS.com.au, General News, 13/10/2026, Ravisha Rajapaksha

Peak thunderstorm asthma season has begun, and people with asthma and allergies are being cautioned to be on guard. When thunderstorms collide with high pollen counts, the results can be more than just wild weather. For people with asthma or allergies, it can trigger a serious health event known as thunderstorm asthma.

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Illicit tobacco crackdown in SA to boost jail time and landlord liability

ABC Online, General News, 13/10/2026, Daniel Keane & Thomas Kelsall

Landlords whose tenants are repeatedly caught selling illegal tobacco could themselves face jail time, as part of a crackdown on the illicit trade in South Australia that would also boost financial and other penalties. Under the proposed amendments to cigarette and retail laws, illicit tobacco dealers could be jailed for up to 17 years and anyone caught in possession of large commercial quantities of the products fined up to $21 million.

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Free nicotine patches on offer for Tasmanians quitting smoking, vaping

ABC Online, General News, 13/10/2026, Monty Jacka

A program offering free nicotine patches, as well as gum or lozenges, to Tasmanians trying to quit smoking or vaping has been expanded to cover anyone aged 12 or over. The monthly package, valued up to $100, will be available to people who reach out to QuitTas for support and who do not have serious complicating health conditions.

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'Critical': Desperate calls for blood donations as Australia's supply reaches almost 10-year low

News24 Australia, General News, 13/10/2026, Kate Fowler

Lifeblood has made a "critical call" as blood supplies across the country reach their lowest level in almost a decade. Blood supplies across Australia have dropped 60 percent since June, reports Lifeblood on Tuesday, with levels now reaching a "critical" point.

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They moved to Australia. Years later, they developed an unexpected condition

SBS, General News, 13/10/2026, Chayada Powell

Zoe had never experienced hay fever before moving to Australia. But a few years after arriving, she began experiencing red and itchy eyes. At first, she assumed they were a reaction to her contact lenses.

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'Let's be serious': Liberals take aim at vape laws

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 13/10/2026, Chris Brooker

Australia's current pharmacy-only vape laws are fuelling organised crime, a Coalition MP says Labor is being accused of "spin" and "pretending that they're doing the right thing" when it comes to vaping products, by opposition MP Aaron Violi.

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Arming oral health professionals in the fight against vaping

Bite Magazine, General News, 13/10/2026

Oral Health Victoria, in partnership with the University of Melbourne Dental School, has launched an Australian-first online learning module, Vaping and Oral Health, to equip oral health professionals with knowledge and skills to help protect Victorians from vaping harm. The free training resource was developed to support dentists, dental specialists, oral health therapists, dental hygienists and oral health educators, to identify vaping-related oral health issues and connect patients with support to get vape-free.

Read More

Back to Top

CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

AI skin checks could be 'deadly'

Herald Sun, General News, 14/10/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 5

Cosmetic clinics are providing AI skin cancer assessment services without a qualified doctor in a new trend that has been slammed as dangerous. Australian Medical Association Queensland president Erica Gannon warned that rolling out AI cancer checks alongside laser and skin rejuvenation services could lead to delayed deadly diagnoses.

Also reported by: Courier Mail (Brisbane), Adelaide Advertiser (Adelaide)

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Andrew Denton launches new Voluntary Assisted Dying Research Fund to improve access

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 13/10/2026, Anmj Staff

A decade after launching Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) advocacy charity Go Gentle Australia at the National Press Club in Canberra, founder Andrew Denton returned to the podium last week to mark how far laws have come and, equally, that reform is far from finished. When Denton first campaigned for change in 2016, more than 50 attempts to pass VAD laws in state parliaments had failed.

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One Australian now dies every 57 minutes from upper GI cancer. These are the symptoms we all need to be aware of

Daily Mail UK, General News, 13/10/2026, Shania O'Brien

Eva Casey was in the best shape of her life when she began experiencing a stabbing pain beneath her right ribcage. The 36-year-old dental assistant was living in Perth , exercising with her CrossFit community every day and planning her wedding when she first noticed something was wrong.

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‘Early detection saves lives': North Queensland specialist backs five-minute breast cancer risk tool

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 13/10/2026, Emma Cam

Women can calculate their risk of developing breast cancer in less than five minutes, as a North Queensland specialist urges the community to proactively approach their breast health ahead of Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day. The day is dedicated to raising awareness of metastatic breast cancer, which occurs when the disease spreads beyond the breast to other parts of the body, and shines a light on those living with the advanced form of the disease.

Also reported by: Townsville Bulletin (Online), The Mercury (Online), The Courier Mail (Online)

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Nurses push government on VAD telehealth reform

Nursing Review, General News, 13/10/2026, Stefanie Schultz

The Australian College of Nursing has joined calls for the federal government to amend Commonwealth law preventing healthcare practitioners from discussing voluntary assisted dying with patients via telehealth, arguing the restriction is creating unnecessary barriers to end-of-life care. In a letter to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, the College said provisions of the Criminal Code Act 1995, originally introduced to combat the promotion of suicide online, are now having unintended consequences for clinicians involved in lawful voluntary assisted dying (VAD) services.

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Better access to kids' cancer trials needed

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 13/10/2026

Australian children with cancer are not receiving the same opportunities to access clinical trials and emerging treatments as adults, according to a whitepaper arising from the National Paediatric Oncology Clinical Trial Roundtable in Jul, which has also set out practical reforms to redress the imbalance. Barriers identified include limited international industry awareness of Australia's paediatric oncology capabilities, fragmented data systems, inconsistent infrastructure between states, uncertainty about future reimbursement pathways, and age restrictions that can exclude children and adolescents from trials despite cancer characteristics making them potentially suitable candidates.

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New roadmap to tackle osteoarthritis burden

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, General News, 13/10/2026

Global rates of osteoarthritis are rising sharply, as an estimated one billion people will be living with the musculoskeletal condition that currently has no cure – an increase from 600 million people in 2023. And it is not properly integrated into service models for chronic disease, according to a new Lancet paper, which examines the burden of osteoarthritis and lays out a new health policy roadmap for ‘resilient, people-centred’ health systems.

Read More

Back to Top

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Secret $600m shortfall NSW needs for mental health system

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/10/2026, Max Maddison & Rachel Rasker, Page 1

About $600 million a year would be needed to fix the state's shortfall of frontline public mental health staff, a confidential ministerial briefing note says, a figure NSW Health warned could cause reputational damage to the Minns government if revealed. An infrastructure investment well above $700 million would also be necessary to support the expanded workforce, says departmental advice to Mental Health Minister Rose Jackson in late 2024, contained among hundreds of documents that have been released through parliament.

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Sharp rise in severe mental illness

St George & Sutherland Shire Leader, Sutherland Shire Edition, 14/10/2026, Eva Kolimar, Page 21

Mental disorders among young adults have surged dramatically in the past decade and a half - a reality doctors are witnessing in their clinics every day. Rebekah Hoffman, practice owner at Family Medical Practices in Kirrawee, Woolooware, and Kurnell, said she sees young people who are struggling with anxiety, depression or overwhelming stress each week.

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Mental health link to labour shortage

West Australian, General News, 14/10/2026, Kim Macdonald, Page 35

Worksites need a massive cultural change to improve the retention of apprentices, with hazing not only contributing to the high drop out rate but to poor mental health. National Association of Women in Construction chief executive Cathryn Greville said changes that would help attract a much-needed influx of women into trade apprenticeships would also help to retain men.

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Regional mental health woe

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 14/10/2026, Page 9

For years, a former emergency worker could not drive through the town where she was pushed out of her job without shaking uncontrollably. Responding to murders, sexual assaults and drug-related incidents in a regional area, the intense workload and "blokey" culture had finally worn her down after two decades.

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Pushing for better mental health

Navy News, General News, 01/10/2026, Jen Kidd, Page 20

Navy raised $76,984 for mental health charities in this year's PushUp Challenge, with a cheque marking the achievement presented at Navy HQ in Canberra in September. DCN RADM Darren Grogan presented the cheque on behalf of personnel, families, friends, veterans and supporters to Push-Up Challenge CEO Nicole Cikarela.

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Connection through conversation

Navy News, General News, 01/10/2026, Brooke Jones, Page 21

Defence's Mental Health and Safety Campaign encourages Navy personnel to proactively think about wellbeing and staying connected. The campaign runs from September 10 to October 31 and builds on the Push-Up Challenge in June and the Defence and R U OK?

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Busselton Pride Wellbeing Festival highlights challenges facing LGBTQIA+ community

West Australian, General News, 13/10/2026, Madelin Hayes

Busselton’s Pride Wellbeing Festival has been hailed a success by organisers, with a strong turnout for events exploring LGBTQIA+ rights, mental health and inclusion. Held across October 9-11, the free festival coincided with Mental Health Week and featured the Pink Pony Club opening party, an art exhibition and a conference covering First Nations perspectives, accessibility and more.

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How to recognise 'relatively common' perinatal anxiety and depression in dads

ABC Online, General News, 13/10/2026, Anna Chisholm

Trent Gallucci knew quite quickly after the birth of his first son in June 2021 that something felt wrong. "I just felt empty," he says.

Read More

Back to Top

IMMUNISATION

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

An unhealthy gap

The Australian, Letters, 14/10/2026, Brett Heffernan, Page 10

Health insurers demonising medical specialists on gap charges masks that the biggest out-ofpocket costs patients face are due to often hidden exclusions in their cover. Peter Sumich's opinion piece ("Butler makes bogeyman of doctors to distract from Medicare failures", 13/10) nails it.

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“Absolute Disaster”: Why 80,000 older Australians are set to dump private health insurance

4BC, General News, 13/10/2026, Jason Matthews

A controversial federal government rebate change is projected to force nearly 80,000 older Australians to drop their private health cover, while a further 200,000 may downgrade their policies. Industry experts warn that forcing low-income pensioners onto public hospital waiting lists will cause an "absolute disaster" for an already overburdened healthcare system.

Read More

Back to Top

HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

From 'a graveyard' to 93 per cent biotech return

The Australian, Business News, 14/10/2026, David Rogers, Page 19

Biotech investing isn't for the faint-hearted, but deep scientific knowledge and investing skill is paying off for HB Biotechnology with a 93 per cent annual return in the year to June 30. Clinical trials fail more often than they succeed, and even promising drugs can be felled late in the piece by a disappointing trial result, wiping out a company's value overnight.

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Sacked professor loses case after women's cells used in mice project

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/10/2026, Liam Mannix, Page 12

The research seemed so promising. Under a microscope, the scientists could see cancerous cells being "completely eradicated" by a cannabis extract.

Also reported by: Age (Melbourne)

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Bubs' caffeine boost

Herald Sun, General News, 14/10/2026, Sarah Booth, Page 1

Australia's coffee capital is set to lead a world-first caffeine trial for premature babies, a development expected to change neonatal intensive care treatment across the globe. The life-changing benefits of caffeine for premature babies is well established, but guidance on the best dosage for these vulnerable patients differs between hospitals due to a lack of research.

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Doctors want birth trial end

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/10/2026, Aden Hill, Page 14

Regional doctors warn a timeshare birthing arrangement between two hospitals in the state's Mid-North is "unsafe" and "unsustainable" calling on Health Minister Blair Boyer to scrap an ongoing trial. Jamestown and Crystal Brook hospitals are currently participating in a trial, which sees the two facilities rotate birthing services rather than maintaining separate services.

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Women to bear heaviest burden as global dementia cases to exceed 24 million annually by 2050, new study reveals

News24 Australia, General News, 13/10/2026, Harriet Thornton

An estimated 24.7 million people will be diagnosed with dementia annually by 2050, according to a new major study. Global dementia incidences reached approximately 11.4 million cases in 2023 and that figure is predicted to more than double within the next 25 years.

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Iron deficiency anaemia in pregnancy: Is oral iron the best approach?

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, General News, 13/10/2026

A greater role for intravenous (IV) iron in the treatment of iron deficiency anaemia (IDA) in pregnancy may be warranted, according to a new study that examined both delivery methods. In a meta-analysis of almost 12,000 pregnant women, United States' researchers found IV iron treatment of women with diagnosed IDA is associated with higher maternal haemoglobin and maternal ferritin at delivery, compared to treatment with oral iron.

Read More

Back to Top

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

YiSSA residents moved

Northern Territory News, General News, 14/10/2026, Zizi Averill, Page 11

The remaining 100 people in the 300 bed YiSSA short-stay emergency accommodation facility at Batten Road Marrara have been bussed to Batchelor. The residents, which included parents, children and the frail, will be housed in the NT Government's new shortterm facility 100km south of Darwin.

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Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services marks 40 years of health service to region

West Australian, General News, 13/10/2026, Georgia Campion

A northern WA Aboriginal medical service has marked four decades of service delivering primary and mental health care and support across the Kimberley region. Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services began as a co-operative in 1986 between the Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service and the East Kimberley Aboriginal Service, with collaborative efforts from representatives from Halls Creek and Fitzroy Crossing.

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Inside the new community health centre that's just been finished at Warrawong

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 13/10/2026, Natalie Croxon

After more than a year of construction work, a new community health centre brings together several services under the one roof is now standing in Warrawong. Construction of the , located on the old Port Kembla Hospital site, has finished and the new facility is now undergoing its final fit-out, testing, commissioning and readiness procedures before it opens in early November.

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Leadership shake-up at The Healing Foundation

National Indigenous Times, General News, 13/10/2026, Dechlan Brennan

Respected Northern Territory community leader Dr John Paterson will become Chair of The Healing Foundation from next month, guiding the organisation's next chapter of advocacy, healing and action for Stolen Generations survivors, their families and communities. Dr Paterson, a leading advocate for Aboriginal health and social change in the Northern Territory for more than 40 years, is the long-time

former CEO of the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT. He will serve alongside incoming Deputy Chair Kristy Masella.

Read More

Back to Top

PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Ashford wards revamp

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/10/2026, Talara McHugh, Page 19

Ashford Hospital could see temporary disruptions to bed capacity under a proposed redevelopment of its medical and maternity wards next year. The project, still in its early stages, would see the hospital's medical ward, Mitcham Ward which has 30 beds, redeveloped first followed by West Torrens Ward, which has 20 beds and accommodates maternity services.

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

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Patients in EDs for more than 24 hours

Canberra Times, General News, 14/10/2026, Peter Jean, Page 7

It shouldn't be happening in Australian hospitals at all, according to emergency physician Sam Scanlan. Each year, hundreds of sick and injured people are stuck in Canberra public emergency departments for more than 24-hours, usually due to a lack of available beds in hospital wards.

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Dialysis unit, maternity upgrades funded in NSW health package

Nursing Review, General News, 13/10/2026, Stefanie Schultz

Regional health services across NSW will share in a $12 million infrastructure package, with funding directed towards projects that improve access to care, expand maternity services, and reduce the need for patients to travel long distances for treatment. The Minns government’s Regional Health Minor Works Program will fund 17 projects across eight local health districts over the next two years, supporting upgrades to hospitals, community health facilities and multipurpose services.

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Is Australia prepared to cope with its 'modern-day success story'?

SBS, General News, 13/10/2026, Arielle Richards

Australians are living longer and the healthcare system is increasingly unable to cope, according to a new national report on the state of emergency departments (EDs). The Australasian College of Emergency Medicine's (ACEM) third annual report notes that while Australia's ageing population is a "modern-day success story", the nation is not sufficiently prepared for the influx of elderly people into EDs.

Read More

Back to Top

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Champions revealed: see the full list of 'remarkable' and courageous

faces tackling huge challenges

Daily Liberal, General News, 13/10/2026, Ciara Bastow

Health professionals, community organisations and services working to improve health outcomes across Western and Far West NSW have been named finalists in the inaugural Western NSW Primary Health Excellence Awards. Organised by the Western NSW Primary Health Network (WNSW PHN), the awards recognise excellence, innovation, leadership and long-term service across the region's primary healthcare sector.

Read More

SBS, World News Australia, 13/10/2026, Janice Petersen

The Federal Government will invest $630m to boost wages for more than 460,000 health, disability, and community service workers. The investment comes after the Fair Work Commission found that these industries have been undervalued.

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Back to Top

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Tooth be told, it's free: Carroll

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 14/10/2026, Olivia Conder, Page 1

Geelong residents facing a 12month dental waiting list are being promised access to free care via a public clinic if Labor is re-elected at the November 28 state election. Premier Ben Carroll announced on Tuesday at Barwon Health's Norlane hub that Geelong would receive one of 10 free public dental clinics across Victoria as part of a $230m election commitment aimed at easing cost-ofliving pressures and reducing long dental waiting times.

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

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Pharmacists call for more home medicine checks as mix-ups hospitalise thousands

7News.com.au, General News, 13/10/2026, Jennifer Bechwati

Nearly two million Australians take five or more medicines on a regular basis, with older people most affected by the growing problem of medication management. Pharmacists are now calling for more Medicare-covered home checks to catch dangerous mix-ups before patients end up in hospital.

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More than 30 types of gender reassignment surgery could be funded by Aussie taxpayers at a cost of up to $80,000 each

Daily Mail UK, General News, 13/10/2026, Nicholas Comino

Australian taxpayers could soon help cover the cost of more than 30 types of gender reassignment surgery under a proposal to expand Medicare rebates for procedures that patients currently pay for largely out of their own pockets. Some of the procedures can cost tens of thousands of dollars, with vaginoplasty costing up to $60,000, while facial feminisation surgery can cost up to $80,000.

Read More

Back to Top

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Nurse faked checklist

Courier Mail, General News, 14/10/2026, Vanda Carson, Page 18

A Queensland nurse spent hours glued to her mobile phone, snacking or "appearing to sleep" instead of checking on up to a dozen vulnerable patients during night shift, a tribunal has heard. Janette Adams did not contest that she knowingly and dishonestly fabricated that she had undertaken visual observations of patients over three nights in the mental health unit at the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service in June 2023.

Also reported by: Cairns Post (Cairns), Daily Telegraph Australia (Online), Northern Territory News (Online), The Mercury (Online)

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'End of line' for surgeon

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 14/10/2026, Craig Dunlop, Page 9

An orthopedic surgeon who told a nurse he would "hunt you down and piss in your mouth" might never return to work after a disciplinary tribunal cancelled his medical registration. [...] Dr Proper responded by changing his job title on professional networking site LinkedIn to "nobody" and saying the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), needed to be "held accountable" for the supposed deaths of doctors it investigated.

Also reported by: Daily Mail UK (Online), Daily Telegraph Australia (Online), Northern Territory News (Online), Adelaide Now (Online), The Courier Mail (Online)

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Doctor banned for prescribing medication to patient, then buying it back

ABC Online, General News, 13/10/2026

A doctor who prescribed a vulnerable patient addictive pain medication and bought it back off them for his own use has been banned from practising for a year, a tribunal has ruled. South Australian GP Richard Taverner, 43, also prescribed drugs in the names of his relatives for his own personal use over several months in 2018 and 2019 and failed to accurately record his consultations with the patient.

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South Korean company cancels cosmetic surgery event after ABC raises questions

ABC Online, General News, 13/10/2026

A South Korean cosmetic surgery company has cancelled a Sydney event where prospective patients were due to meet Korean doctors, after questions were raised by the ABC. The two-day, appointment-only event was advertised by South Korean company Restory Plastic Surgery, featuring two doctors who are not registered to practise in Australia.

Read More

Back to Top

AUSTRALIAN CDC

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Back to Top

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

More Andrographis products recalled

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 13/10/2026

The TGA has advised that three more Andrographis products have been recalled: BioCeuticals ArmaForce, BioCeuticals Clinical ImmuneForce, and Faulding Immune Combat.

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Urgent recall issued for immune system supplements including Bioceuticals

7News.com.au, General News, 13/10/2026, Freddy Pawle

An urgent recall alert has been issued over fears immune system supplements could cause a fatal allergic reaction. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) issued the alert on Thursday after receiving a high number of anaphylaxis reports for supplements containing Andrographis.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 13/10/2026, Angela Cox and Mark Ferguson

Nearly two million Australians take five or more medicines regularly, with older people most affected. Pharmacists are now calling for more Medicare-covered home checks to catch dangerous mix-ups before patients end up in hospital.

Also reported by: Channel 7 (Melbourne), Channel 7 (Brisbane)

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Back to Top

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Increase in hospital admissions linked to cannabis-related psychosis

Nursing Review, General News, 13/10/2026, Stefanie Schultz

Hospital admissions linked to cannabis-related psychosis have increased sharply in Victoria over the past decade, with new research highlighting growing mental health harms and rising pressure on the state's healthcare system. The Monash University study found hospital admissions where cannabis-related harm was the primary reason for treatment increased by 49 per cent between 2013-14 and 2022-23.

Also reported by: Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (Online), Yahoo! News Australia (Online)

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We wrote about the cocaine mums of suburban Australia. The reaction said it all.

Mamamia, General News, 13/10/2026, Stacey Hicks

The comments exploded. The shares were diabolical. When Mamamia published an article titled 'The cocaine mums of suburban Australia' last week, it went off with readers.

Read More

Back to Top

FOOD STANDARDS

Watchdog cracks it with dozen bad eggs

Age, General News, 14/10/2026, Elias Visontay, Page 1

The competition watchdog is taking Australia's largest egg supplier to court for allegedly engaging in cartel conduct with a raft of other producers, accusing them of manipulating the market for at least six years and potentially driving up prices for consumers. Yesterday, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) launched legal action in the federal court against Sunny Queen, the country's largest producer which supplies about a third of all eggs to retailers and has warehouses in all mainland states, as well as two companies that jointly own it Doug Hall Poultry and McLean Farms.

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Seafood labelling 'offers choice'

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 13/10/2026, Camille Smith, Page 12

The seafood industry's peak body is celebrating following the July 1 implementation of the government's new seafood country-of-origin labelling laws for the hospitality sector. The new rules make it mandatory for hospitality businesses that serve seafood for immediate consumption to indicate whether it is Australian, imported or mixed origin, both in stores and online.

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Nationals lobby federal government to ban pineapple imports amid Queensland biosecurity fears

The Courier Mail, General News, 14/10/2026, Ellen Ransley

Queensland’s $80m pineapple industry would be put at risk if Indian and Indonesian fruit is allowed to be imported, the federal government has been warned. Ahead of Yeppoon’s annual Pinefest this weekend, the Nationals have written to all Labor MPs and sent them fresh pineapple juice in a bid to preserve Queensland industry.

Also reported by: Northern Territory News (Online), Toowoomba Chronicle (Online), Daily Telegraph Australia (Online)

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Back to Top

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Back to Top

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