

Thursday, 15th October 2026

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

LINKS

Click here to view full print articles in this report

Click here to view front pages of today's newspapers

Audio Briefing

Audio Briefing Transcript

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Age (page 1)** reports that the Coalition, Greens, One Nation and several independent senators have joined forces to block Labor's bill to scrap the higher private health insurance rebate for Australians over 65, arguing it could unfairly burden low-income and fixed-income pensioners. Health Minister Mark Butler has vowed to reintroduce the legislation, which was intended to save $3 billion for aged care. *Also reported by: Daily Telegraph, ABC Online, The Guardian*
- **The Age (page 6)** reports that a major report by the National Rural Health Alliance has found that the healthcare spending gap between metropolitan and rural Australia expanded by nearly $2.7 billion over two years, reaching $9.23 billion. Advocates argue that Medicare's traditional fee-for-service model is failing rural areas and that initiatives like Medicare Urgent Care Clinics have limited reach in regional electorates.
- **Australian Doctor** reports that Private Healthcare Australia has rejected a proposal from two cross-benchers that would establish an independent regulator to oversee the private health system, with CEO Dr Rachel David saying insurers were already subject to sufficient scrutiny

from groups such as the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority, the ACCC and the federal Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

- **ABC Online** reports that aged care residents could face extra bills for everyday essentials, including televisions, phone access and wi-fi, under new government reforms that would allow providers to charge for additional services despite Aged Care Minister Sam Rae in March criticising providers for charging high fees for televisions during trials of the scheme, describing access to a TV as a "basic human right". *Also reported by: OverSixty*
- **The Age (page 1)** reports that the Victorian Labor government has announced a $30 million commitment to make abortion care completely free for Victorian women, eliminating out-of-pocket expenses that currently reach up to $1,000 even after Medicare rebates. The policy aims to address a gap in regional healthcare, as many women live in areas with limited access to both surgical and medication-based abortion. *Also reported by: Herald Sun*
- **Adelaide Advertiser (page 17)** reports that a new study by Flinders University and Black Dog Institute has revealed that GPs report, on average, patients are waiting nearly two months for psychologists and four months for psychiatrists, with doctors calling wait times of a year for specialist mental health care for teenagers "simply unacceptable".

MINISTER BUTLER

Senate sinks $3b health rebate cut

Australian Financial Review, General News, 15/10/2026, Michael Read, Page 2

The Coalition and the Greens have teamed up to blow a $3 billion hole in the budget by rejecting Labor's plan to scrap the higher private health insurance rebate for over-65s, but Health Minister Mark Butler has vowed to immediately revive the [...]

Read Plain Text Read More

Sting in the PM's tale

The Australian, General News, 15/10/2026, Greg Brown and Rosie Lewis, Page 1

Anthony Albanese has drastically watered down his boast of being personally responsible for reversing the tax office's credit card ban as he denied undercutting Jim Chalmers, with Labor MPs privately complaining that internal morale is at its lowest level since being swept into government more than four years ago. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler vowed to reintroduce the privatehealth insurance legislation into parliament on Thursday, with the government needing to take a revenue hit by exempting pensioners from the policy to have any chance of it passing parliament.

Also reported by: The Australian (Online)

Read Plain Text Read More

Coalition, Greens sink $3 billion aged care plan

Age, General News, 15/10/2026, Nick Newling, Page 1

The Coalition, the Greens and One Nation have teamed up in the Senate to scrap a bill that would have dumped private health insurance rebates for people over 65, infuriating the Albanese government, which had planned to use the $3 billion in savings on aged care. Health Minister Mark Butler vowed to reintroduce identical legislation today, as he singled out new Greens leader David Shoebridge for being obstructive.

Also reported by: Sydney Morning Herald (Sydney)

Read Plain Text Read More

'Appalling': Rural health funding gap blows out to $9.2b

Age, General News, 15/10/2026, Rob Harris, Page 6

The gulf between city and country healthcare has widened sharply in just two years, with millions of rural Australians facing worsening funding shortfalls, chronic doctor shortages and poorer health outcomes. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler defended the government's record, pointing to an $8.5 billion Medicare package and a further $617 million to train more doctors and nurses.

Also reported by: *Sydney Morning Herald (Sydney)*, *Sydney Morning Herald (Sydney)*, *Brisbane Times (Online)*, *WA Today (Online)*

Read Plain Text Read More

Labor embarrassed as Senate rejects aged-care changes

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/10/2026, Nathan Schmidt, Page 3

Anthony Albanese's plan to slug millions of older Australians with higher private health insurance bills has been torpedoed in a stunning Senate revolt, with the Coalition joining forces with Senator Jacqui Lambie, the Greens and crossbenchers to block the reforms. [...] But Health Minister Mark Butler blasted the Senate ambush as an "absolute travesty", accusing his opponents of political grandstanding at the expense of aged-care reform and vowing to bring the legislation back today.

Read Plain Text Read More

Labor vows to reintroduce health insurance reforms

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/10/2026, Nathan Schmidt, Page 7

The Coalition has teamed up with firebrand Tasmanian senator Jacqui Lambie, the Greens, and the crossbench to defeat Labor's reforms to private health insurance for older Australians, which opponents say would have left them hundreds of dollars more out of pocket. [...] However, Health Minister Mark Butler, speaking moments later, said the defeat was "an absolute travesty" and vowed to reintroduce the Bill on Thursday.

Also reported by: *Albany Advertiser (Online)*, *Augusta-Margaret River Times (Online)*, *Braidwood Times (Online)*, *Broome Advertiser (Online)*, *Cairns Post (Online)*, *Countryman (Online)*, *Daily Telegraph Australia (Online)*, *Geraldton Guardian (Online)*, *Kalgoorlie Miner (Online)*, *Manjimup-Bridgetown Times (Online)*, *Narrogin Observer (Online)*, *News24 Australia (Online)*, *Northern Territory News (Online)*, *Perth Now (Online)*, *Pilbara News (Online)*, *South Western Times (Online)*, *The Australian (Online)*, *The Courier Mail (Online)*, *The Mercury (Online)*, *Toowoomba Chronicle (Online)*, *Townsville Bulletin (Online)*

Read Plain Text Read More

New MND treatment brings PBS support to eligible patients

Condobolin Argus, General News, 14/10/2026, Melissa Blewitt, Page 6

Australians living with a rare genetic form of motor neurone disease (MND) will have access to a new subsidised treatment from 1 October, providing another treatment option for eligible patients in Condobolin and across the Lachlan Shire. [...] Federal Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler said the new listing would provide another treatment option for people living with MND.

Read Plain Text Read More

People living longer makes ailing health system sicker

CQ Today, General News, 14/10/2026, Will Nicholas, Page 36

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.

Read Plain Text Read More

Controversial private health changes effectively thrown out of parliament as government vows to try again

ABC Online, General News, 14/10/2026, Stephanie Dalzell

Controversial private health insurance changes affecting older Australians are now on life support, after the legislation was effectively thrown out of parliament by the Coalition and crossbench. The proposal would wind back the rebate Australians aged 65 and over receive on their private health cover from April next year, banking $3 billion over four years to be spent elsewhere in the aged care sector.

Read More

Labor's rivals block health rebate cut for pensioners

Bunbury Mail, General News, 14/10/2026, Will Nicholas

Private health insurance for older Australians will stay cheaper for now, after a plan to scale back

rebates on their premiums was thrown out. [...] "This is an absolute travesty that flies in the face of any of the members of the coalition's professed commitment to sound budget management," Health Minister Mark Butler told reporters on Wednesday shortly after the Senate threw the legislation out.

Also reported by: Country News (Online), Deniliquin Pastoral Times (Online), Eastern Riverina Chronicle (Online), MSN Australia (Online), Newcastle Herald (Online), Oberon Review (Online), riverineherald.com.au (Online), South Western Times (Online), Southern Riverina News (Online), The Armidale Express (Online), The Telegraph (Seymour) (Online), West Australian (Online)

Read More

Victory for older Australians as health insurance bill officially fails

Coly Point Observer, General News, 14/10/2026, Carla Mascarenhas

Controversial changes to the private health insurance rebate for older Australians have been blocked by the Senate after the Coalition, Greens, One Nation, and key independent crossbenchers combined to halt Labor's legislation. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler introduced the private health insurance legislation into parliament.

Read More

Livid Butler defies Senate, vows to resurrect PHI rebate bill today

Health Services Daily, General News, 15/10/2026, Cate Swannell

The health minister has vowed to reintroduce his $3bn private health insurance rebate overhaul unchanged today, despite a 38-23 Senate vote against allowing it to proceed, accusing the Greens' leadership of abandoning negotiations as a 'political stunt'. Federal health minister Mark Butler has spectacularly ignored opposition health spokeswoman Senator Anne Ruston's warning not to resurrect his controversial private health insurance rebate cuts, declaring he will reintroduce exactly the same legislation today – less than 24 hours after the Senate voted to remove it from its agenda.

Read More

Senate kills Labor's PHI rebate cut as Gallagher lashes opponents

Health Services Daily, General News, 14/10/2026, Cate Swannell

Senator Katy Gallagher accused the Greens, Independents and Coalition senators of robbing the aged care system of $3bn as the Senate vote 38-23 to stop the over 65s rebate cut. [...] She also pointed to Department of Health, Disability and Ageing modelling released under Freedom of Information, which estimated that 78,000 older Australians would drop their private health insurance by 2029-30.

Read More

Dusty achieves million-dollar dream for bush pediatrics

HealthTimes, General News, 14/10/2026

After walking more than 500km through the bush communities he's looking to serve, 12-year-old Dusty heard the very news he'd been hoping for. [...] Then on his arrival, Anthony Albanese, alongside Health Minister Mark Butler, pledged to match every dollar Dusty has raised, along with announcing a two-year extension on a funding agreement for Little Wings.

Read More

Senate shelves private health rebate cut, but Butler vows to bring it back

Insurance Business Australia, General News, 15/10/2026, Jonalyn Cueto

The Senate voted 38-23 on October 14 to remove the government's bill cutting the private health insurance rebate for Australians aged 65 and over from its agenda. Health minister Mark Butler has said he will reintroduce it.

Read More

Murraylands Medical Centre closes, leaving Tailem Bend without a GP clinic

Murray Bridge News, General News, 14/10/2026, Peri Strathearn

Efforts to find a new provider are continuing, but local authorities hope federal Health and Ageing

Minister Mark Butler will step in.

Read More

Butler in ‘very embarrassing place' after Coalition and crossbench block health rebate cut

News24 Australia, General News, 15/10/2026

Shadow Defence Minister James Paterson declares Health Minister Mark Butler is in a "very embarrassing place" after the Coalition and crossbench blocked Labor's proposed private health rebate cut for over-65s.

Also reported by: Cairns Post (Online), Townsville Bulletin (Online)

Read More

Millions dodge fresh cost of living pain as cut to older Australians’ private health rebate scrapped

nine.com.au, General News, 14/10/2026, Daniel Jeffrey

Older Australians will dodge an unwelcome cost-of-living blow after the Coalition and Greens teamed up to scrap the federal government's push to reduce the private health insurance rebate for over-65s. Health Minister Mark Butler was furious about the move from the opposition and crossbench, who combined in the Senate to discharge the government's bill from parliament on Wednesday afternoon.

Read More

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

South Western Times, General News, 14/10/2026, Jessica Page

Boomers, we have a problem. It's not you, it's us. [...] Mark Butler has said that it's up to State and Territory governments to address the professional aged-care system.

Also reported by: Midwest Times (Online), North West Telegraph (Online), Bunbury Herald (Online), West Australian (Online)

Read More

Senate throws out budget plan to remove health insurance top up for older people

The Conversation, General News, 14/10/2026, Michelle Grattan

The Senate has rejected the government's controversial budget measure to remove the higher private health insurance rebate for people 65 and older. [...] After the vote, Health Minister Mark Butler said the government would try on Thursday to bring the legislation back.

Also reported by: Yahoo! News Australia (Online)

Read More

View from The Hill: everyone is on the lookout for Albanese-Chalmers tension

The Conversation, General News, 14/10/2026, Michelle Grattan

The underlying tension between Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Treasurer Jim Chalmers is such that people read between every line for the smallest snub. [...] The most interesting development of the past few months is that Health Minister Mark Butler has not only entered the list of those to watch, but would probably be regarded by many right now as the leading contender.

Read More

Labor’s bill to cut private health insurance rebate blocked by Greens over pensioner carve-out

The Guardian, General News, 14/10/2026, Tess Ikonomou

Labor's bid to cut the private health insurance rebate for over-65s has been blocked in parliament, with the Greens insisting they will withhold support unless pensioners receive a carve-out from the new rules. [...] The health minister, Mark Butler, said the government planned to reintroduce the same bill to parliament on Thursday.

Read More

Report on emergency departments finds Tasmania vulnerable amid surging numbers of older patients

The Mercury, General News, 14/10/2026, Rob Inglis

Tasmanian emergency departments are under increasing pressure due to surging presentations from older patients, with the median age of the state's population only continuing to rise. [...] 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.

Read More

Senate puts $3BN for aged care at risk

The Weekly Source, General News, 14/10/2026, Caroline Egan

The Senate has blocked the Albanese Government's planned cuts to private health insurance rebates for Australians aged 65 and over. [...] Mark Butler should take the hint.

Read More

Labor vows fight after bill ‘dust binned'

Yahoo! News Australia, General News, 14/10/2026

The Coalition has teamed up with firebrand Tasmanian senator Jacqui Lambie, the Greens, and the crossbench to defeat Labor's reforms to private health insurance for older Australians, which opponents say would have left them hundreds of dollars more out of pocket. [...] However, Health Minister Mark Butler, speaking moments later, said the defeat was "an absolute travesty" and vowed to reintroduce the Bill on Thursday.

Read More

Packed emergency departments leave older patients waiting longer

Your Life Choices, General News, 14/10/2026, Abegail Abrugar

Spending a night on a hard chair under harsh lights, in pain, is nobody's idea of care Yet for a growing number of older Australians, that is exactly how a hospital visit now unfolds. [...] Federal Health minister Mark Butler said state and territory governments were responsible for improving the health system.

Read More

Channel 7, Seven News, 14/10/2026, Tim McMillan and Angela Tsun

News to him from Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry boss Andrew McKellar. We had an announcement. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler taking a big swipe at the Greens for not even debating the changes before ditching them, vowing to reintroduce the bill tomorrow to debate possibly exempting pensioners, which the Greens had been demanding.

Play Now

Triple M Hobart, 11:00 News, 14/10/2026

A new Australasian College for Emergency Medicine report confirms Tasmanian emergency departments are struggling to meet the healthcare needs of an aging population. State and federal leaders are trading blame over the crisis, with Premier Jeremy Rockliff demanding federal investment in primary care while Health Minister Mark Butler points to a $25b national hospital funding agreement. The strain on the system was highlighted by the death of a Hobart man whose family was forced to drive him to the hospital due to an unavailable ambulance.

Play Now

ABC Radio Perth, Drive, 14/10/2026, Oliver Peterson

Interview with Chris Grice, CEO, National Seniors Australia. Grice welcomes the Coalition and the Greens' joint rejection of the proposed federal changes to private health insurance rebates for over-65s. Peterson notes Federal Health Minister Mark Butler was arguing that the change would have

made the rebates for all Australians fairer and free up much-needed funds for other aged care initiatives.

Play Now

SBS Radio 1, SBS Vietnamese, 14/10/2026, Compere

Các quý vị đang nghe SBS tiếng Việt, bây giờ thì chúng ta sẽ cùng Lê Tâm đến với thị trường việc làm. Các chuyên gia kỳ vọng rằng việc tăng lương cho người lao động trong các lĩnh vực y tế, hỗ trợ người khuyết tật và dịch vụ cộng đồng cũng sẽ là một bước tiến nhằm thu hẹp khoảng cách về thu nhập giữa nam và nữ tại Úc. [...] Bộ trưởng Y tế Liên bang Mark Butler cho biết đây là một quyết định đúng đắn,

Play Now

Back to Top

MINISTER MCALLISTER

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

MINISTER RAE

New aged care fees spark concern

ABC Online, General News, 14/10/2026, Andy Park

Aged care providers are charging thousands of dollars extra per year for residents to watch free-to-air TV. It's one of many new charges made possible by new Federal government rules. Sam Rae, Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Elizabeth Tosti, Daughter Anne Connolly, Reporter Aged care providers are charging thousands of dollars extra per year for residents to watch free-to-air TV.

Read More

'Stranded patients' in NSW hospitals prompts call for change from productivity commissioner

ABC Online, General News, 14/10/2026

New South Wales must think outside the box to stop the number of "stranded" aged care patients in hospitals from spiralling out of control, the state's productivity commissioner says. [...] Federal Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae's office has been contacted for comment.

Read More

Shock over new charges for aged care residents

ABC Online, General News, 14/10/2026, Anne Connolly

Under government reforms to the sector, providers can now charge new residents for services that were previously included.

Read More

Aged care residents face bills for TVs, hot breakfasts and soft drinks under new fees

ABC Online, General News, 14/10/2026, Anne Connolly

Patricia Massa has lived in her inner west Sydney nursing home for the past nine years. The 88-year-old has advanced dementia, but there's one thing that still brings her joy: settling into her room to watch old movies. [...] In March, Aged Care Minister Sam Rae criticised providers for charging high fees for TVs in trials being conducted, saying having access to a TV was a "basic human right".

Read More

Aged care residents face new charges for everyday essentials

OverSixty, General News, 14/10/2026

Aged care residents could face extra bills for everyday essentials, including televisions, phone access and wi-fi, under new government reforms allowing providers to charge for additional services. [...] In March, Aged Care Minister Sam Rae criticised providers for charging high fees for televisions during trials of the scheme, describing access to a TV as a "basic human right".

Read More

ABC NewsRadio, Drive, 14/10/2026, Dijana Damjanovic

Report by Anne Connolly. Providers are introducing additional out-of-pocket charges for previously free amenities under new fee structures in Australian residential aged care. While Aged Care Minister Sam Rae initially declared television access to be a basic human right, subsequent guidelines allow providers to apply these fees to residents who entered care after November 1.

Similar coverage reported by: ABC NewsRadio (Sydney), ABC Radio Sydney (Sydney)

Play Now

Back to Top

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

New national guidance to strengthen health system climate resilience

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 14/10/2026, Anmj Staff

The Australian Centre for Disease Control has released new national guidance, local data and practical tools to help health system organisations assess and manage climate-related risks and undertake adaptation planning. [...] The CDC's new resources, launched yesterday by the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Rebecca White MP, at the Climate and Health Alliance Leaders Summit at Parliament House, include a manual, local climate and health data, and practical planning templates.

Read More

Over 50 health leaders warn australia cannot protect people from climate change without tackling fossil fuels

AZoCleantech, General News, 14/10/2026

Health leaders from across Australia and the Pacific are warning that preparing hospitals and healthcare services for climate change will not be enough to protect people's health unless governments urgently phase oufossil fuels. . [...] The guidance, launched by Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Rebecca White, is designed to help health services manage risks including extreme heat, floods and disruptions to essential healthcare.

Read More

Back to Top

SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

Support for prostate nurses

CQ Today, General News, 14/10/2026, Matthew Pearce, Page 4

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 Plain Text Read More

Back to Top

DEPARTMENT

Free planning sessions for older residents

Dimboola Banner, General News, 14/10/2026, Page 3

Hindmarsh Shire Council has partnered with Seniors Rights Victoria and the Federal Government to deliver free 'Planning Ahead' sessions covering enduring powers of attorney, medical treatment decisionmaking and advance care planning. [...] Liz Martin will attend on behalf of the Aged Care Division of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to provide information about the Aged Care Act.

Read Plain Text Read More

More than just a mealour journey to Hillston & Goolgowi

Hillston Ivanhoe Spectator, General News, 14/10/2026, Page 1

In 2026, Griffith Meals on Wheels was approached by Department of Health, Disability & Ageing with an opportunity to help provide a meal service to people living in Carrathool Shire. At Griffith Meals on Wheels, supporting people to remain living independently Continued page 3.

Read Plain Text Read More

Parents put their own wellbeing last

Murray Valley Standard, General News, 15/10/2026, Page 8

Just one in 10 Australian parents rate their emotional wellbeing as "very good", while cost-of-living pressures are forcing some families to cut back on mental health support, new survey data from the Triple PPositive Parenting Program has found. [...] Delivery of the Triple P Positive Parenting Program to parents and carers of children in Australia is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing under the Parenting Education and Support Program.

Read Plain Text Read More

Controversial private health changes effectively thrown out of parliament as government vows to try again

ABC Online, General News, 14/10/2026, Stephanie Dalzell

Controversial private health insurance changes affecting older Australians are now on life support, after the legislation was effectively thrown out of parliament by the Coalition and crossbench. The proposal would wind back the rebate Australians aged 65 and over receive on their private health cover from April next year, banking $3 billion over four years to be spent elsewhere in the aged care sector.

Read More

Doctors and MPs call for independent authority to monitor ‘murky' private health system

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/10/2026, Jamie Thannoo

Two crossbenchers are pushing for an independent regulator to oversee the private health system, which they say would act as a "referee" to keep insurer arrangements in check. [...] CEO Dr Rachel David said insurers were already subject to sufficient scrutiny from groups such as the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority, the ACCC and the federal Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

Read More

Senate kills Labor's PHI rebate cut as Gallagher lashes opponents

Health Services Daily, General News, 14/10/2026, Cate Swannell

Senator Katy Gallagher accused the Greens, Independents and Coalition senators of robbing the aged care system of $3bn as the Senate vote 38-23 to stop the over 65s rebate cut. [...] She also pointed to Department of Health, Disability and Ageing modelling released under Freedom of Information, which estimated that 78,000 older Australians would drop their private health insurance by 2029-30.

Read More

Little change in carer wellbeing new data shows

Medianet, General News, 15/10/2026

Carers Australia is concerned that pressures from NDIS changes will contribute to poorer wellbeing for unpaid carers 63 per cent of carers feel disconnected from their community [...] The Survey is supported by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

Read More

Department risks locking in outdated private health care by overlooking nurses

Medianet, General News, 14/10/2026

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) has submitted a joint response to a government consultation on private health reforms, arguing that nurses and midwives — who make up 54% of Australia's national health workforce — have been largely overlooked in the consultation paper despite their critical role in healthcare delivery. [...] Nurses' essential role in health service delivery must be better incorporated into the private healthcare system if it is to be a contemporary, high-quality and sustainable part of Australia's healthcare landscape, says the Australian College of Nursing (ACN), in a joint submission with the Australian College of Midwives to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's consultation on private health reforms.

Read More

Before Healthcare Goes AI-First, It Must Get Data-First

Pulse+IT, General News, 14/10/2026

Healthcare organisations across Australia are being encouraged to become "AI-first". With workforce shortages, rising patient demand and mounting pressures on budgets, it is easy to see why. [...] A report by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, Safe and Responsible Artificial Intelligence in Health Care , states that unmanaged data and consent risks need to be managed across the entire AI life cycle.

Read More

Expo shines a caring light on heroes of the sandwich generation

South Gippsland Sentinel-Times, General News, 14/10/2026, Bruce Wardley

Carers across the Bass Coast and South Gippsland were recognised as unpaid heroes at the 2026 Carer Expo held at Berninneit as part of the Bass Coast Seniors Festival. Gill Troy from Inverloch enjoyed the 2026 Carer Expo at Berninneit in Cowes held as part of the Bass Coast Seniors Festival. [...] National Carers Week is an initiative of Carers Australia, funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, and coordinated with the assistance and participation of the National Carer Network.

Read More

Labor’s bill to cut private health insurance rebate blocked by Greens over pensioner carve-out

The Guardian, General News, 14/10/2026, Tess Ikonomou

Labor's bid to cut the private health insurance rebate for over-65s has been blocked in parliament, with the Greens insisting they will withhold support unless pensioners receive a carve-out from the new rules. [...] The health minister, Mark Butler, said the government planned to reintroduce the same bill to parliament on Thursday.

Read More

APSC catalogues last year's redundancies

The Mandarin, General News, 14/10/2026, Dan Holmes

Redundancies accounted for a small but growing share of the public servants who left their jobs last year. More than 1,300 public servants took redundancies last year, according to the latest APS employment data.

Read More

Back to Top

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Alternative not reality

Burnie Advocate, General News, 14/10/2026, Matt Maloney, Page 1

Tasmania's leading hospitality lobby has conceded its preferred alternative to a mandatory pre-commitment poker machine gaming card does not exist anywhere outside of a manufacturer's showroom. Hospitality Tasmania was one of the main opposing voices to the proposed card, which set daily default loss limits, and the government scrapped it in January.

Read Plain Text Read More

Revised aged care plans lodged after overhaul of design

Newcastle Herald, General News, 15/10/2026, Josh Leeson, Page 5

A 100-bed aged care facility that was approved eight years ago by Lake Macquarie City Council has submitted a new modified development application to potentially get construction under way. The Salvation Army plans to build the aged care facility at 121 Portland Drive in Cameron Park, on a 2.7-hectare site that borders a residential estate and Cameron Park Plaza shopping centre.

Read Plain Text Read More

Melbourne scientists grow mini-brains from patient blood to fight rare childhood dementia

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

Australian researchers are growing "mini-brains" from patients' blood cells in the race to find answers to a rare childhood dementia believed to develop in pregnancy. In a Melbourne laboratory of the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, scientists are growing tiny models of the developing human brain so they can trace the mysteries of Alexander disease, a devastating neurological condition that can rob children and adults of their abilities.

Read More

How a rule change could save aged care users thousands

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/10/2026, Rachel Lane

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.

Read More

Moving into a granny flat on a handshake a 'dangerous thing to do': lawyer

The Senior, General News, 14/10/2026, Phoebe Loomes

As more Australians move into granny flats , experts are warning that relocating with a just a handshake agreement can leave older people at risk homelessness if something goes wrong While the majority of people living in granny flats do so with no formal arrangement in place, Larisa Kapur, senior associate in wills and estates and aged care from Atwood Marshall Lawyers, warns this is a "really dangerous thing to do".

Read More

“Cannot wait”: NSW’s $7.2M response to aged care bed block

The Weekly Source, General News, 14/10/2026, Caroline Egan

An allied health pilot will support up to 330 older people a year as the State steps further into the gap between hospital discharge and Commonwealth-funded aged care. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park says his Government "cannot wait for the Commonwealth" as growing aged care delays consume hospital capacity.

Read More

News24, AM Agenda, 14/10/2026, Laura Jayes

Interview with New South Wales Productivity Commissioner Peter Achterstraat. Achterstraat discusses a new report on AM Agenda warning that acute hospital bed-blocking could escalate from 1,100 to over 7,000 patients within a decade. He explains that elderly patients recovering from minor injuries remain stranded in hospital beds for up to 150 nights due to a severe shortage of Commonwealth aged care placements and home support services. Costing over $1,000 per night in hospital versus a fraction of that in aged care, Achterstraat urges federal and state governments to address this funding disconnect to prevent public hospitals from running out of capacity for elective surgeries.

Play Now

News24, AM Agenda, 14/10/2026, Laura Jayes

Interview with New South Wales Health Minister Ryan Park. Park announces a $28m state investment to provide home-based care services and alleviate severe hospital bed-blocking caused by Commonwealth aged care delays. He notes over 1,100 older patients currently occupy NSW public hospital beds while awaiting aged care or NDIS placements, effectively taking the capacity of two Sydney hospitals offline. He urges the Federal Government to step up funding for aged care packages and beds to prevent public emergency departments from functioning as quasi-aged care facilities.

Play Now

SBS News In Depth, Podcast, 13/10/2026, Unspecified

Older Australians are likely to drop their private health insurance cover due to planned changes. Figures from the Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing revealed that private health premiums have been bolstered by an average of 4.4% back in April.

Play Now

2GB, Afternoons, 14/10/2026, Michael McLaren

Interview with Peter Achterstraat, New South Wales Productivity and Equality Commissioner. Achterstraat discusses a new report warning that stranded older patients in state hospital beds could swell to 7,000 within eight years. He notes that 1,100 elderly patients who are ready for discharge remain stuck in acute hospital beds costing over $1,000 a night because there are no available aged care beds or home care services. He calls for a smarter balance of regulatory standards and expanded in-home care to lower costs and prevent public hospitals from essentially becoming aged care facilities.

Play Now

4BC, Afternoons, 14/10/2026, Michael McLaren

Interview with New South Wales Productivity and Equality Commissioner Peter Achterstraat. Achterstraat discusses a new report warning that stranded older patients in state hospital beds could swell to 7,000 within eight years. Achterstraat notes that 1,100 elderly patients who are ready for discharge remain stuck in acute hospital beds costing over $1,000 a night because there are no available aged care beds or home care services. He calls for a smarter balance of regulatory standards and expanded in-home care to lower costs and prevent public hospitals from essentially becoming aged care facilities.

Play Now

ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 14/10/2026, Loretta Ryan and Craig Zonca

Interview with Craig Gear, CEO, Older Persons Advocacy Network. Gear points out that things that they want to become normalised in in-home care packages are TVs and Wi-Fi, which will serve as a

connection to older people's mobile phones. He states that he would like those things to be defined more as a basic guarantee for older people they can expect in aged care.

Play Now

Back to Top

DISABILITY AND CARERS

NDIS assessment creator warns participants will be ‘guinea pigs' under unverified new tool

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 14/10/2026, Julie Cross

A whistleblower has warned participants will be treated as "guinea pigs", the government's new tool isn't ready — and disabled Australians will pay the price.

Also reported by: Herald Sun (Melbourne), Cairns Post (Online), The Courier Mail (Online), Toowoomba Chronicle (Online)

Read More

My autistic son said no, but I didn't listen to him. That doesn't make me a bad dad

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 14/10/2026, Richard Amos

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."

Read More

NDIS operator Sunnyfield strikes Fair Work agreement over $5.4m employee wage error

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 14/10/2026, Harrison Finlay

Nsw disability provider Sunnyfield has struck a deal with the Fair Work Ombudsman after underpaying more than 1,700 workers a combined $5.43 million in wages and superannuation. A leading NSW disability service provider has signed a deal with workplace regulators to avoid a court battle after underpaying more than $5 million in wages, superannuation, and interest to staff.

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

Read More

Back to Top

PRIMARY CARE

Free abortions in bid to end 'postcode lottery'

Age, General News, 15/10/2026, Wendy Tuohy and Melissa Cunningham, Page 1

Abortion care will be free for Victorian women under a re-elected Labor government and those needing to travel to access it will have their expenses reimbursed. The Carroll government will today promise to invest $30 million over four years to remove the out-ofpocket cost of abortion care, which can be up to $1000 even after Medicare rebates.

Read Plain Text Read More

Doctor contributed to child's death: coroner

Age, General News, 15/10/2026, Tara Cosoleto, Page 4

An eight-year-old girl could have been saved if an emergency department doctor had realised the urgency of escalating her care to intensive care clinicians, a coroner has found. Amrita Varshini Lanka's parents nodded and wiped away tears as Victoria's deputy state coroner Paresa Spanos handed down her findings yesterday.

Read Plain Text Read More

We'll pay for abortions

Herald Sun, General News, 15/10/2026, Ryan Bourke, Page 1

Ben Carroll has vowed to make abortions free for Victorian women, committing up to $1000 per procedure in a $30m spending blitz Labor hopes will wedge Opposition Leader Jess Wilson on reproductive rights. Under the proposed expansion of the abortion regime, taxpayers would cover out-ofpocket costs including some travel and accommodation for regional women, while the time frame for accessing medical abortions would be extended under a re-elected aborgovernment.

Read Plain Text Read More

Doctor should have saved her

Herald Sun, General News, 15/10/2026, Ashley Argoon, Page 16

Hospital staff could have saved the life of a little girl with a rare heart condition but a doctor dismissed her critical test results because "he did not think (she) looked very unwell", a coroner has found. Amrita Lanka, 8, died from lymphocytic myocarditis, an inflammation of the heart muscle, 21 hours after her admission to Monash Children's Hospital in April 2022.

Read Plain Text Read More

AMA in call for ambo action

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/10/2026, David Killick, Page 3

The death of a man whose family had to drive him to hospital because of a long wait for an ambulance after two triple-0 calls was a foreseeable "political failure", the Australian Medical Association says. The man reportedly died on Saturday after his family drove him to the hospital's emergency department following multiple attempts to have an ambulance respond.

Read Plain Text Read More

Deal or no deal

Northern Territory News, General News, 15/10/2026, Camden Smith, Page 1

More than a year since Healthscope closed Darwin Private Hospital's maternity ward, the CLP Government will mandate that any future operator delivers a maternity ward. Expected to be tabled in parliament next week, chief minister Lia Finocchiaro said a Private Hospitals Amendment Bill 2027 would deliver "an iron-clad" commitment to "bring back choice for Territory mothers and families".

Read Plain Text Read More

Champion health professionals revealed

Central Western Daily, General News, 15/10/2026, Ciara Bastow, Page 3

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.

Also reported by: Western Advocate (Bathurst), Daily Liberal (Dubbo)

Read Plain Text Read More

Barwon health chief leads in salary race

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 15/10/2026, Ashleigh Gleeson, Page 7

Barwon Health's chief executive is one of the highest-paid health executives in the state. That's according to a major analysis of more than 60 hospital boss salaries across the nation.

Read Plain Text Read More

Labor pledges to provide free abortion care if it's re-elected in Victoria next month

ABC Online, General News, 14/10/2026, Richard Willingham

The state would provide free abortion care to Victorian women if Premier Ben Carroll is re-elected, with a politically charged plan to provide better care for women in regional and rural communities. Abortion

is legal in Victoria up to 24 weeks, but debate about its future has emerged as an issue for some voters this election, with One Nation Victorian leader Warren Pickering in 2022 saying the party wanted to reduce the gestation period for an abortion to 12 weeks.

Read More

Junior doctor's care contributed to death of Melbourne girl Amrita Lanka, coroner finds

ABC Online, General News, 14/10/2026, Kristian Silva

The actions of a junior doctor working in a busy emergency department contributed to the death of a young girl whose life could have been saved, a Victorian coroner has found. Amrita Lanka, eight, died from myocarditis in 2022 after arriving at the paediatric emergency department of Monash Medical Centre in Melbourne's south-east

Read More

Calls to address ambulance ramping intensify following Royal Hobart Hospital death

ABC Online, General News, 14/10/2026, Steven White

The Tasmanian government is being urged to immediately address ambulance ramping in the state, following the death of a man whose family had to drive him to the Royal Hobart Hospital because no ambulances were available. Speaking on Tasmania Mornings, Secretary of the Health and Community Services Union (HACSU), Robbie Moore, explained what happened, and suggested ways to address ambulance ramping.

Read More

Haunted by fitness-to-drive assessments? Ask patients to write advance driving directives

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/10/2026, Mojdeh Kashani

Researchers say early discussions could help ease the distress of losing the right to drive. Doctors could ask patients to sign advance driving directives in an attempt to reduce the emotionally vexed issue of fitness-to-drive assessments, researchers suggest.

Read More

Guild defends Chemist Care Now

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 14/10/2026, Chris Brooker

AMA Victoria calls for moves to expand pharmacists' scope of practice to be rolled back warning the state's Chemist Care Now program is "fundamentally flawed" Moves to enable pharmacists to treat reflux and resupply menopausal hormone therapy under Victoria's Chemist Care Now program should be reverse, the state branch of the Australian Medical Association (AMA)

Read More

Pressure ramps up on new boss of health

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 15/10/2026, Kate Uren, Page 19

New SA Health chief Robyn Lindsay is facing runaway ramping hours, crippling pressure on emergency departments and blowouts for overdue elective surgery but she's confident she can drive down the pressure points during her three-year term. Ms Lindsay's appointment comes at a critical time for SA Health, with ambulance ramping hitting a new record in August of 5891 hours lost across metropolitan public hospitals.

Also reported by: *Geelong Advertiser (Online)*

Read Plain Text Read More

AMA Victoria push back on pharmacy prescribing expansion

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 14/10/2026

AMA Victoria has called on the Carroll Labor Government to reverse the latest expansion of Chemist Care Now, raising concerns about patient safety, fragmented care and conflicts of interest. The call follows the addition of reflux treatment and menopausal hormone therapy resupply to the program.

Read More

Buying surgery is a commissioning problem before it is a health policy

The Mandarin, General News, 14/10/2026, Tom Keating

The Coalition's plan to send public patients to private hospitals hinges on contract terms omitted from its announcement. Health officials should have questions.

Read More

ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 14/10/2026, Steve Austin

Interview with the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine Queensland Chair Dr Justin Thompson. Thompson discusses the findings of ACEM's State of Emergency report and outlines how emergency departments across Queensland and Australia are experiencing unprecedented strain due to an ageing population. He highlights that systemic exit block—where admitted hospital patients cannot be transferred to aged care or NDIS placements—directly drives severe access block and ambulance ramping in emergency departments.

Play Now

Back to Top

POPULATION HEALTH

NSW Health shuts down drive-through tobacconist

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/10/2026, Rory Williams, Page 14

A tobacconist allegedly selling illicit cigarettes and vapes through a fast-food-style drive-through window has been shut down by NSW Health inspectors. Joey's Mini Mart on Queen St at Campbelltown advertises its "drive-thru" on signs at the front of the store, while a rear gate opens to a driveway running alongside the property.

Read Plain Text Read More

Specialist MS care

Ballarat Courier, General News, 15/10/2026, Page 1

Grampians Health has the expertise of the only multiple sclerosis (MS) nurse practitioner working in Victoria, helping to bring specialist care "closer to home". Michelle Allan, who has more than 25 years of experience in MS care, has been appointed in the first role of its kind in the state's regions and the only dedicated position operating statewide currently. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, there were an estimated 37,800 people living with multiple sclerosis (or 140 per 100,000 population) in 2024.

Read Plain Text Read More

Beyond the grief

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 15/10/2026, Natalie Croxon, Page 1

After a long fertility journey, Victoria and Zoran Bogovac received the happy news they'd been waiting for - they were expecting a little sibling for their daughter. But within two months, the couple from Shell Cove had to embark on a series of tests and investigations that would lead them to the most difficult decision of their lives.

Read Plain Text Read More

Advice on travelling with allergies

Illawarra Mercury, Supplements, 14/10/2026, Brad Lockyer, Page 20

Spring is finally here. We're coming out of the long, cold dark of winter and the days are growing longer and warmer.

Read Plain Text Read More

Government promises travel subsidy increase for patients

Shepparton News Online, General News, 14/10/2026, Bree Harding

Patient travel and accommodation subsidies are set to increase if Labor is re-elected at next month's Victorian election. Currently, regional and rural patients travelling for care and treatment of cancer and other chronic diseases who meet criteria, are eligible for a 21-cent/km rebate on travel and a $45/night rebate on accommodation.

Read More

3AW, Drive, 14/10/2026, Jacqui Felgate

Interview with University of Queensland Associate Professor Phong Thai. Thai discusses wastewater analysis methodology and illicit tobacco trends. He explains that while wastewater testing directly measures population-level nicotine consumption rather than individual smoker counts, comparing total consumption against official Australian Taxation Office sales data reveals that illicit tobacco and unregulated vapes make up approximately 50 percent of the total market.

Play Now

FIVEAA, Afternoons, 14/10/2026, Leith Forrest

Interview with Red Tree Foundation General Manager Rachel Thompson. Thompson discusses community support, grief, and early childhood loss ahead of International Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day. Highlighting that approximately one in four pregnancies ends in miscarriage and one in 135 in stillbirth, she outlines the foundation's free bereavement counselling services and detailed the upcoming Wave of Light Remembrance Walk at Veale Gardens in Adelaide.

Play Now

FIVEAA, Afternoons, 14/10/2026, Leith Forrest

Panel discussion with SA Death Festival founder and event manager India Wallace and Pure Land Home Hospice board chair Catherine Ooi. Ooi and Wallace promote the third annual SA Death Festival. The free, family-friendly community event aims to demystify end-of-life care, dying, and grief through workshops, interfaith panel discussions, and market stalls. Uy also details the holistic end-of-life support services provided across South Australia by Pure Land Home Hospice.

Continuing interview on: FIVEAA (Adelaide)

Play Now

Back to Top

CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

New type 2 diabetes guidelines favour GLP-1 drugs for children who fail metformin

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/10/2026, Ciara Seccombe

Glp-1 receptor agonist medications should be the preferred second-line therapy for children under 18 with type 2 diabetes, despite the drugs not yet being TGA approved for this age group, according to new guidelines. The guidelines, published by the Australian and New Zealand Society for Paediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes (ANZSPED), reflect growing evidence supporting newer diabetes medications for youth-onset type 2 diabetes, which progresses more rapidly than adult-onset disease.

Read More

The face sunscreen you'll want to add to your running kit

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

You've laced up your joggers, queued a motivating workout playlist and stretched your hamstrings. But let's not forget about that other important part of your running preparation – high-protection sunscreen.

Read More

What migrant women need to know about breast cancer

SBS, General News, 14/10/2026, Dima Alkaed

Dr Hawraa Al-Naqshabandi speaks about the signs women shouldn't ignore. Everyday 56 people are diagnosed with breast cancer in Australia and more than 3,300 die from the cancer every year - that's according to the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

Read More

News24, Afternoon Agenda, 14/10/2026, Tom Connell

Interview with I-MED thoracic radiologist Professor Catherine Jones. Jones discusses the Vatican's announcement regarding Pope Leo's lung adenocarcinoma diagnosis. Turning to Australian national data, she highlighted that lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer-related mortality in Australia and urged current and former smokers aged 50 to 70 to participate in the National Lung Cancer Screening program.

Play Now

ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 14/10/2026, Lara Stimpson

Interview with Breast Cancer Network Australia Director of Policy and Advocacy Vicki Durston. Durston discusses post-pandemic screening declines and body image barriers on Mix 104.9 FM Darwin. Addressing low participation rates in screening programs across Australia and the Northern Territory, Durston highlighted BCNA's Know Yourself, Feel Yourself campaign, which aims to reduce stigma, fear, and body discomfort around clinical examinations. She urges both women and men to monitor for unusual changes, stressing that early detection directly leads to significantly better health outcomes.

Play Now

2CC, Canberra Live, 14/10/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with Cancer Council ACT CEO Verity Hawkins. Marking Carers Week on 2CC's Canberra Live, Hawkins highlights the crucial yet often unrecognised contributions of unpaid cancer carers. She emphasises that family members and friends providing care frequently neglect their own physical and emotional well-being, pointing to Cancer Council ACT's free Enhance Wellbeing program as a vital peer-support initiative helping both patients and carers navigate their shared health journeys.

Play Now

4BC, Drive, 14/10/2026, Carla Bignasca

Interview with Mark Brooke, CEO, Lung Foundation Australia. Brooke discusses Pope Leo XIV's diagnosis of non-small cell lung cancer following surgical removal of his right lung's lower lobe. Highlighting Australia's National Lung Cancer Screening Program, Brooke urges the public to consult a GP if experiencing key red-flag symptoms such as persistent coughing, breathlessness, unexplained fatigue, or coughing up blood.

Play Now

Back to Top

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Teens suffer on wait list

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 15/10/2026, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 17

Doctors are sounding the alarm over wait times of a year for specialist mental health care for teenagers, labelling it as "simply unacceptable". A new study by Flinders University and Black Dog Institute reveals GPs report, on average, wait times of nearly two months for psychologists and four months for psychiatrists.

Also reported by: *Cairns Post (Cairns)*

Read Plain Text Read More

Mum calls out NSW mental health system over huge gaps

Newcastle Herald, General News, 15/10/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 8

Merewether mum Kelly Kay says revelations of a $600 million funding shortfall in mental health funding

in NSW reflects "a system that struggles to acknowledge its own failures". Mrs Kay, of Merewether, lost son Kahi Simon at age 20 to suicide, five days after he was discharged from Taree hospital's mental health inpatient unit in 2023.

Read Plain Text Read More

Revealed: The $600 million needed to fix mental health that was buried

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/10/2026, Rachel Rasker

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 released through parliament.

Read More

‘I had a mental breakdown at work and had to quit my job': Workers disappear for three months amid mental health crisis

The Courier Mail, General News, 14/10/2026, Chris Herde

Burnt out Australian workers have revealed the extreme toll work stress and bullying is taking on them - disappearing from their job for three months under mental health claims that cost nearly $50k. New research from Allianz Australia reveals mental health cases for regional employees are outpacing those in the cities as nearly three million people - more than 700,000 of which are based in the regions - consider quitting their job in the next year due to burnout and mental distress.

Read More

Junee inmate died after waiting 305 days for mental health help, coroner finds

ABC Online, General News, 14/10/2026, Jess Scully

A 305-day wait for mental health support likely contributed to the death of an inmate in his cell in a New South Wales prison, a coroner has found. Alexander Gavranic arrived at Junee Correctional Centre on June 22, 2021, and requested a mental health screening during his initial examination.

Read More

Mental health volunteer Lynne Sadler launches Walking 2gether Grief Cafe at Waikiki Dome

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 14/10/2026

Rockingham resident and mental health advocate Lynne Sadler is helping locals cope with their grief through a new support cafe. Ms Sadler recently launched Walking 2gether Grief Cafe, meeting on the fourth Wednesday of every month from 10am to 12pm at the Waikiki Dome.

Read More

Back to Top

IMMUNISATION

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 14/10/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Panel discussion with Liberal Senator Dave Sharma and Labor MP Josh Burns. Sharma and Burns debate the Senate vote where the Coalition and Greens defeated a proposed $3b reduction in private

health insurance rebates for over-65s. Sharma defends the opposition, arguing that the cuts would disproportionately impact low-income pensioners and shift more patients into the public hospital system, while MP Burns criticises the crossbench alliance for blocking a key revenue measure intended to fund aged care reforms.

Play Now

Back to Top

HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

How church ignored a worthy cry for help

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 15/10/2026, Bevan Shields, Page 3

To understand who truly owns Sydney, ignore the corporate logos on Martin Place office towers or the portfolios of commercial players such as Dexus, Mirvac and Charter Hall. Look instead to the Catholic Church, one of the harbour city's largest nongovernment property owners for more than two centuries.

Read Plain Text Read More

Back to Top

PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

How red tape is threatening to strip local mothers of the choice to birth at home

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 14/10/2026, Samantha Newsam

Your digital subscription includes access to content from all our websites in your region. Access unlimited content and the digital versions of our print editions - Today's Paper.

Read More

Back to Top

HEALTH WORKFORCE

South Australian doctors call Yorke and Northern Health Network's birthing model 'unsafe'

ABC Online, General News, 14/10/2026, Alana Calvert

Doctors have hit out at a new birthing program for hospitals in South Australia's Mid North, calling the model "unsafe" and "unsustainable". In a joint letter to the health minister, four GPs expressed "urgent concern" about changes to maternity service delivery at Jamestown and Crystal Brook hospitals, which took effect this week.

Read More

RACP to decide whether to boot out its disgraced former president, Dr Leslie Bolitho

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/10/2026, Jamie Thannoo

Associate Professor Leslie Bolitho had already surrendered his registration prior to the tribunal's decision. The Royal Australasian College of Physicians says it will decide whether its former president will be booted out of the college after he was banned from registering as a medical practitioner over inappropriate touching of female doctors under his supervision.

Read More

From war-torn Congo to Australia: The life and death of a paediatrician who saw his patients to the very end

Australian Doctor, General News, 14/10/2026, Carmel Sparke

Dr Jean Pascal Tshamala has been remembered as a positive, generous doctor who looked after his patients to the end. Dr Jean Pascal Tshamala had only a week to live but insisted on continuing to see his young patients.

Read More

Pharmacists' men's health training poor: study

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 14/10/2026, Chris Brooker

Only just shy of 12% of pharmacists believe they have had training on managing gender-related challenges engaging men in care – less than the average health worker New Australian research of 487 pharmacists, GPs, nurses and midwives and psychologists found that only 14% had received relevant training on how to effectively engage men in healthcare during their

Read More

Back to Top

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 14/10/2026, Steve Austin

South Korean cosmetic surgery company Restorey Plastic Surgery cancelled a planned Sydney appointment-only event after ABC journalist Shari Hams submitted inquiries regarding medical registration regulations to both the firm and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. The Australasian Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons expressed growing concern over rising Australian medical tourism to South Korea, warning that unregistered overseas consultations undermine local regulatory oversight. Medical professionals noted that patients experiencing post-operative complications after returning home often require urgent treatment in Australian public emergency departments, creating additional burden on local emergency health systems.

Play Now

Back to Top

AUSTRALIAN CDC

ABC Radio Hobart, Afternoons, 14/10/2026, Joel Rheinberger

Interview with Belinda Smith, presenter, ABC podcast Science Friction. Smith discusses historical and emerging disease outbreaks in Australia on ABC Radio Hobart. Highlighting how genomic analysis and PCR testing have transformed disease detection and epidemiological tracking, She notes that Victoria has emerged as a global hotspot for Buruli ulcer, with 426 cases recorded in 2025 and new detections expanding into New South Wales via mosquito vectors. The discussion also detailed historical and recent Legionnaires' disease outbreaks linked to aerosolised cooling tower systems, emphasising the critical role of frontline environmental epidemiology in preventing public health crises.

Continuing interview on: ABC Radio Hobart (Hobart)

Play Now

Back to Top

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

What is the AFL's Illicit Drugs Policy and what are the proposed changes?

ABC Online, General News, 14/10/2026

The issue of Illicit Drugs Policy (IDP) reform in the AFL remains in limbo after seven months of waiting and increasing scrutiny of the parties involved, and no clear sense of when it might be resolved. An in-principle agreement for a new policy was announced in March by the AFL in conjunction with the AFL Players Association but is yet to be implemented.

Read More

Back to Top

FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

AICIS

No relevant coverage

Back to Top

Prepared by Isentia

Subject to copyright. For internal use only.
See Copyright Terms of Use