

Australian Government
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 26 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 Herald Sun** (page 15) reports the Federal Government will expand a 12-month trial covering pharmacist consultation costs for all women seeking treatment for uncomplicated urinary tract infections and initiation or resupply of hormonal contraception. Health Minister Mark Butler and Minister for Women Katy Gallagher this shows the government's commitment to a better healthcare system for women.
- **The Australian** (page 3) reports that Tasmanian Health Minister Bridget Archer denied the Royal Hobart Hospital's accommodation of gender-affirming surgery was impacting emergency or essential

surgery, while insiders claimed gender surgery was taking resources intended for the public waiting list.

- **The Australian** (page 7) reports the AMA said the proposed federal reforms to curb excessive specialist fees could harm doctors and patients, and do not address the systemic funding issues causing high costs.
- **The Australian** (page 7) reports that disability rights advocate Elly Desmarchelier criticised Greens Senator Jordon Steele-John, who has cerebral palsy and a wheelchair user, for initially refusing to take leave as serious allegations of improper behaviour against him were being investigated. Ms Desmarchelier said there were “no exceptions” for people with disability and anyone accused of dangerous behaviour should be held accountable.
- **The Age** (page 10) reports that Victorian Premier Ben Carroll pledged to invest $750 million annually to expand Victorian emergency departments by 25 per cent if re-elected, along with hiring 1,500 additional health workers and 250 hospital beds across 12 hospitals. *Also reported by: ABC Online*
- **The Herald Sun** (page 16) reports that 150 specially trained GPs in Victoria are now able to diagnose, treat and prescribe medication for ADHD without oversight from a psychiatrist or paediatrician.
- **The Courier Mail** (page 12) reports that according to 2026 Health of the Nation report, female doctors spent an average of 21 minutes with patients, compared with 18 minutes for men, with Dr Rebekah Hoffman saying Medicare’s funding structure disadvantages female GPs by favouring shorter consultations.
- **The Hobart Mercury** (page 5) reports the Wesfarmers Health Index 2026 found Tasmania had the nation’s lowest cardio health ranking, and highest rates of obesity and high blood pressure, with a health index score of 86, up from 70 in 2025, but below the national average of 104.
- **The Guardian** (online) reports that according to the latest RACGP annual Health of the Nation report, 63 per cent of Australians are now bulk-billed for all their GP care, following the introduction of financial incentives for doctors.

Minister Butler

Mark Butler avoids Albo's golfing sand trap

Australian Financial Review, General News, 26 Oct 2026, Page 35

Health Minister Mark Butler may still trail Treasurer Jim Chalmers as the bookies' favourite to become the next Labor leader, but he wouldn't be a politician if he weren't getting his ducks in a row in case that promotion eventuates.

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UTI treatment made easier, cheaper with new trial

Herald Sun, General News, 26 Oct 2026, Jade Gailberger, Page 15

Almost 900,000 Australian women will be able to get treatment at a pharmacy for urinary tract infections and hormonal contraception next year under a new trial. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the government wanted to "make it easier for women to get care that fits into their lives".

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Also reported by: *Adelaide Advertiser*, *Courier Mail*

Ageing with dignity shouldn't be this hard

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 26 Oct 2026, Lucy Lincoln, Page 33

Imagine needing a wheelie walker to move around safely, only to wait five months for a decision. Even then, funding approval is not guaranteed. [...] Fifteen years ago, about 15,000 Australians turned 80 every year; next year, that number is likely to be 90,000, according to Mark Butler, the Federal Minister for Health and Ageing and Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

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Back to top

Minister McAllister

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Back to top

Minister Rae

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Back to top

Assistant Minister McBride

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Back to top

Assistant Minister White

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Special Envoy Repacholi

MP's men's health forum

Ipswich West Moreton Today, Internet, 25 Oct 2026

Jets Leagues Club hosted a Men's Health and Wellbeing Forum this week, aiming to keep men connected, active and engaged in their communities. Organised by Blair MP Shayne Neumann with the Australian Government's Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi, the event was attended by local residents and representatives from a range of community groups, RSL Sub Branches, sporting clubs, and support and advocacy organisations.

Continue reading

Back to top

Department

Health's multi-million dollar rebuild of cost-recovery fees is happening out of view

BioPharmaDispatch, Internet, 25 Oct 2026

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has committed significant resources to a Canberra consultancy to build a new "charging model" for assessing medicines, vaccines and medical devices for public subsidy. It has not said publicly what the model covers, what it could mean for the fees companies pay, or when stakeholders will see it.

Continue reading

Back to top

Ageing and Aged Care

Grim fairytale: Counting costs here in The Valley of the Shadow

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 26 Oct 2026, Carole Whitelock, Page 31

It was a sparkling spring day. The gardens around The Valley of the Shadow nursing home were vibrant with roses; the hanging baskets bursting with blooms, and the ornamental fountain near the elaborate dovecote sparkled enticingly.

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Making Lives Better Million: WA's vulnerable aged population given relief with $1m in free at-home nursing

West Australian, Internet, 25 Oct 2026, Fraser Williams

WA’s aged-care population who are going without basic essentials like a daily shower because they cannot afford support may be eligible for free in-home care to combat a growing crisis. Home care provider Nurse Next Door is providing $1 million of free care to vulnerable Aussies who have fallen through the cracks thanks to the Making Lives Better Million.

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Also reported by: ***Kalgoorlie Miner***

Grandparents Day: Celebrating the generations

Australian Seniors News, Internet, 25 Oct 2026, Sam Nealon

Queensland Seniors Month runs from 1 – 31 October, bringing people of all ages, cultures and abilities together to connect, share experiences and celebrate the communities we call home. Now in its 66th year, Seniors Month encourages Queenslanders to discover new interests, explore local activities and connect with programs, supports and services.

Continue reading

Back to top

Disability and Carers

Greens' base splits on senator claims

The Australian, General News, 26 Oct 2026, Paul Garvey & Sarah Ison, Page 7

Allegations of improper behaviour against senator Jordon Steele-John have opened up a divide between parts of the Greens' support base, with disability campaigners splitting with women's rights supporters and victim advocates over both the accusations and the party's response. Senator Steele-John's cerebral palsy and use of a wheelchair has made him arguably the most prominent voice in parliament on issues facing disabled Australian, at a time when there is a strong push to dramatically scale back the size of the NDIS.

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Also reported by: *The Australian*

Back to top

Primary Care

Almost two-thirds of Australians bulk-billed for all GP care amid extra incentives for doctors

The Guardian, Internet, 26 Oct 2026, Melissa Davey

The proportion of general practitioners bulk-billing all of their patients has more than doubled in a year, a report has found, after the government introduced financial incentives for doctors and practices. And almost two-thirds (63%) of Australians are now bulk-billed for all their GP care, up from 56% in both 2024 and 2025, which the report says is “likely a reflection of the federal government’s recent investment in Medicare bulk billing incentives”.

Continue reading

Back to top

Population Health

For millions, Australia is the hungry country

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 26 Oct 2026, Shane Wright, Page 7

One in three households are going hungry as the cost-of-living crisis bites, new research by one of the nation's most important charities has found, with many people reducing meal portions to make ends meet.

The research by Foodbank, to be released today, shows 3.6 million households are suffering ''food insecurity''.

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Also reported by: *Age*, *Sydney Morning Herald*

Australia's illicit tobacco trade is giving Big Tobacco a way back into politics

The New Daily, Internet, 25 Oct 2026

With the rise in illicit tobacco sales in Australia, tobacco control policy has become a headline issue. [...] But while the debate over tobacco taxation has dominated public discussion in recent times, Big Tobacco has been lobbying tirelessly behind closed doors to unravel Australia's strong public health policies.

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Wesfarmers Health Report Identifies Hidden Cardiometabolic Risks

2GB, Healthy Living, AM Radio, 25 Oct 2026, Dr Ross Walker & Ned Green

In an interview with Wesfarmers Health Chief Pharmacist Mel Gannon about the Australia's Health Index 2026 findings, Gannon highlighted that over one in ten Australians live with multiple cardiometabolic risk factors, including obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes, and smoking. She noted many risks develop without symptoms and urged people to monitor their health using free pharmacy health stations.

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Back to top

Chronic Conditions and Screening

In her 70s, Elettra had an aching back and sore legs then she started dancing

Age, General News, 26 Oct 2026, Abby Seaman, Page 16

It didn't take long for Elettra Piccoli to reap the benefits of movement. The 78-year-old Concord, NSW, resident had been curious about exercising when her Commonwealth Home Support worker suggested she start going to Dance Health Alliance, a dance program designed for seniors.

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Mum's diagnosis delay lesson for others

Canberra Times, General News, 26 Oct 2026, Peter Jean, Page 1

Alisha Henderson was surprised how long it took for her breast cancer to be diagnosed. After finding a lump in one of her breasts, the Canberra woman sought medical advice but initial tests didn't identify anything malicious.

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Tassie heart shocker

Hobart Mercury, General News, 26 Oct 2026, Sue Bailey, Page 1

Tasmania has the worst cardio health ranking and the highest rates of obesity and high blood pressure, a new health index shows. In the Wesfarmers Health Index 2026, Tasmania has a score of 86 improving from 70 in 2025 but below the Australian score of 104.

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Also reported by: *Hobart Mercury*, *The Mercury*, *Daily Telegraph Australia*, *Townsville Bulletin*, *Geelong Advertiser*, *Northern Territory News*, *Cairns Post*, *The Courier Mail*, *Adelaide Now*, *Toowoomba Chronicle*, *Gold Coast Bulletin*

A distressing state of health

Hobart Mercury, Editorials, 26 Oct 2026, Page 14

The latest health snapshot of Tasmanians from the Westfarmers Australian Health Index report once again confirms our lamentable status as the country's most sickly state. The Northern Territory is not contained in the survey, but Tasmania ranks at the bottom among the remaining seven states and territories.

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Record $30 million in grants to fuel motor neurone disease research after Neale Daniher's death

7News.com.au, Internet, 25 Oct 2026, Nick McCallum

Researchers across the country have received a welcome boost in the battle against motor neurone disease. The legacy of AFL icon and former Australian of the Year Neale Daniher — who died in May after living with the debilitating condition for 13 years — will continue to live on following a record-breaking funding round from Fight MND, the organisation he co-founded in 2014.

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Millions of Australians hit by hay fever as spring brings 'perfect storm' for symptoms

7News.com.au, Internet, 25 Oct 2026, Aimee Edwards

More than six million Australians already battling hay fever are bracing as an early start to spring pollen season threatens to make symptoms even worse. Hay fever now affects one in four Australians, up from one in five in 2018, with a combination of wet weather and relatively mild winter creating ideal conditions for plants and grasses to flourish.

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Access to Free Breast Screening in Australia

2GB, Healthy Living, AM Radio, 25 Oct 2026, Dr Ross Walker & Ned Green

In an interview, a speaker explained that women aged 40 and over can access free mammograms in Australia without a GP referral. While routine invitations target those aged 50 to 74, about 5200 women under 50 are diagnosed annually, and they are advised to monitor changes, check family cancer history, and adopt healthy lifestyle habits.

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Also reported by: *2GB*

Back to top

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

Doctors free to treat ADHD

Herald Sun, General News, 26 Oct 2026, Sarah Booth, Page 16

Dozens of GPs can diagnose and treat ADHD from today, under a major overhaul to Victorian mental health care. Patients can be assessed by 150 GPs across the state for the neurodevelopmental condition and prescribed ADHD medication without a psychiatrists' or paediatricians oversight under the new reforms.

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Also reported by: *Geelong Advertiser*

Healthy choice for teenagers

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 26 Oct 2026, Page 7

The food choices teenagers make could have mplications beyond their physical health. The University of Sydney researchers linked eating and consuming sugar to the later emergence of depression and anxiety symptoms.

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Mental health's 'big gap'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 26 Oct 2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

A shortage of psychiatrists in the Hunter is leaving mentally ill people on modest incomes without help, particularly those stuck in the "missing middle" of the mental health system. The situation is putting more pressure on hospital beds, amid the continuing crisis in the region's mental health system.

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‘Terrified': Mum's emotional journey after six miscarriages in six years

Adelaide Now, Internet, 25 Oct 2026, Emma Kirk

After years of heartbreak, a mum who "miraculously" fell pregnant after deciding to stop trying has revealed the one thing she wishes she had done sooner. Gidget Foundation CEO Arabella Gibson says it is "so important" to raise awareness of perinatal depression and anxiety.

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Also reported by: *West Australian*, *Kalgoorlie Miner*, *NEWS.com.au*, *Northern Territory News*, *Townsville Bulletin*, *Geelong Advertiser*

‘Security blanket': How lollipops can be used to help ease anxiety

Northern Territory News, Internet, 25 Oct 2026, Emma Kirk

In any given week, almost every patient who sits down with psychotherapist Hope Rosenberg is dealing with stress, anxiety or both. People are feeling overwhelmed by a culture of relentless expectations around success, appearance, productivity and self-improvement — and the result is rising stress and anxiety.

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Also reported by: *NEWS.com.au*, *Yahoo! News Australia*, *Kalgoorlie Miner*, *Adelaide Now*, *West Australian*, *Geelong Advertiser*, *Townsville Bulletin*

Haines tribute speeches to open parliament, but Labor mustn't overlook broader causes of boiling anger

The Guardian, Internet, 26 Oct 2026, Josh Butler

Federal parliament will commence on Monday morning with speeches paying tribute to Helen Haines. [...] Respected mental health expert Prof Patrick McGorry wrote online the surge in abuse of MPs was connected to "the threadbare state of state mental health systems which must be completely rebuilt", adding "we can't jail this away".

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'Cannot save every patient': Gold Coast Health chief details complex psychiatric care realities

Gold Coast Bulletin, Internet, 25 Oct 2026, Ron Calvert

We have all seen news reports that raise deeply confronting questions about mental health care in our community. They make for difficult reading.

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Also reported by: *Toowoomba Chronicle*, *Daily Telegraph Australia*, *Cairns Post*, *Townsville Bulletin*, *Adelaide Now*, *Northern Territory News*, *Geelong Advertiser*, *The Courier Mail*, *The Mercury*

AFP chief addresses mental health concerns after alleged attack on Helen Haines

SBS, Internet, 25 Oct 2026, Josie Harvey

Australia's federal police chief has acknowledged gaps in regional mental health care, as investigators continue to probe the motive behind the alleged attack on independent MP Helen Haines. Appearing on ABC's Insiders on Sunday, Australian Federal Police commissioner Krissy Barrett said determining a motive would continue to be the "primary focus" of the investigation.

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'Set and forget': Is Australia's healthcare system failing us?

SBS, Internet, 25 Oct 2026, Charis Chang

A growing health divide is leaving some Australians behind. Could it also be reshaping the political landscape? As Australians process the aftermath of the alleged attack on independent Indi MP Helen Haines , attention has again turned to whether gaps in the health system may have contributed to the circumstances surrounding the incident.

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Aussie man walks away from 17 years in city after regional wake-up call: 'I couldn't continue'

Yahoo! News Australia, Internet, 25 Oct 2026, Joe Attanasio

Rory Forbes-Lange has worked as a photographer for almost two decades, with his job taking him to over 45 countries in that time. [...] Research released by Suicide Prevention Australia in March found 61 per cent of workers surveyed identified heavy workloads and burnout among the leading contributors to work-related stress.

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Calls for National Mental Health Observatory

3AW, Weekend Mornings, AM Radio, 25 Oct 2026, Darren James

Interview with Australian Society of Psychiatrists Executive Director Dr Pramudie Gunaratne, about systemic crises in mental health care. Gunaratna states that services suffer from inconsistent standards and resourcing issues, leaving patients without adequate support. She also says they are currently speaking with the Federal Government to establish a national Mental Health Observatory to identify service gaps across the country.

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Back to top

Immunisation

Measles vax rates tumble

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 26 Oct 2026, Page 18

Routine vaccine program disruptions and underresourced health systems are driving a global decline in child measles vaccination rates post Covid-19. University of Queensland researchers examined measles cases, deaths and vaccine gaps in children under 5 across 204 countries and territories from 1990 to 2023, finding estimated cases rose 40 per cent from 11.1 million in 2019 to 15.6 million in 2023.

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Back to top

Health Systems Strategies

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Health Economics & Research

$67K to fight off diseases

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 26 Oct 2026, Zachary Probert, Page 4

Health research in Toowoomba has received major support in grants, with $67,000 awarded to vital causes. The Toowoomba Hospital Foundation, in partnership with the Pure Land Learning College Research Grants Program, awarded the funds to seven research projects as part of the 2026 round.

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Also reported by: *Cairns Post*, *Toowoomba Chronicle*, *Townsville Bulletin*, *The Courier Mail*

Tasmanian dementia researchers look to gardening to improve quality of life

ABC Online, Internet, 25 Oct 2026

Peter Maloney lives with dementia, but in recent times he has felt a positive change in himself. "I suppose rather than focusing on what's gone, my mind has shifted to what's there," Mr Maloney said.

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Personalised mRNA Vaccine Cuts Melanoma Recurrence

2GB, Healthy Living, AM Radio, 25 Oct 2026, Dr Ross Walker & Ned Green

A large phase three trial led by Professor Georgina Long from the Melanoma Institute of Australia has found that a personalised mRNA cancer vaccine reduced the risk of recurrence or death by 42 per cent. Conducted in Sydney on over 1100 high-risk melanoma patients, the trial combined the custom vaccine with standard immunotherapy drug Keytruda.

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Back to top

First Nations Health

New recruitment pathway to support Aboriginal nurses and midwives in WA

National Indigenous Times, Internet, 25 Oct 2026, Jackson Clark

A new recruitment initiative has been introduced in Western Australia to help more Aboriginal nurses and midwives enter the public health workforce; the WA government's Aboriginal Application Pathway. The program is designed to make it easier for graduates to secure their first nursing or midwifery positions while receiving support as they begin their careers.

Continue reading

Back to top

Public Hospital and Health Reform

Hospital gender surgery pay row over 'two-tier' operating system

The Australian, General News, 26 Oct 2026, Rachel Baxendale, Page 3

Nurses are to be paid double time to assist with "gender-affirming" surgery in Tasmania's largest public hospital, while those assisting with emergency surgery in the same hospital on the same day receive 25 per cent less pay. Tasmania's Health Department and Health Minister Bridget Archer have denied the Royal Hobart Hospital's move to accommodate gender-related elective procedures is having any impact on emergency or essential surgery.

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Also reported by: *The Australian*

Premier bets on hospital beds to save Labor's future

Age, General News, 26 Oct 2026, Patrick Hatch & Bridget McArthur, Page 10

Premier Ben Carroll has launched his re-election campaign in earnest by promising to spend $750 million a year to fund 250 more emergency department beds at 12 hospitals across the state. Dodging torrential rain in North Melbourne and dogged by dire opinion polls that show Labor heading for defeat on November 28, Carroll boarded his election campaign bus for the first time yesterday and fired the starting pistol on a five-week campaign.

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Also reported by: *The Australian*, *ABC Online*, *Sydney Morning Herald*

Solutions not found in emergency departments

Age, Letters, 26 Oct 2026, Page 20

The Victorian Government's $1.5 billion promise to expand emergency departments to reduce waiting times is like trying to fix a blocked sink by installing a bigger sink. It might provide temporary relief, but it doesn't address the blockage.

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Labor reveals plans to slash ED waiting times

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 26 Oct 2026, Luke Griffiths, Page 4

Wait times at Geelong hospital's emergency department are being targeted by the Labor government as it looks to improve the outcomes at a dozen facilities across the state. Premier Ben Carroll will visit Geelong on Sunday morning to announce a $1.5bn statewide plan to hire 1500 more health workers half of whom would be nurses and deliver an extra 250 ED beds across the 12 sites.

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Also reported by: *Daily Telegraph Australia*, *Geelong Advertiser*, *Cairns Post*, *Townsville Bulletin*, *The Courier Mail*, *The Mercury*, *Gold Coast Bulletin*, *Adelaide Now*, *Toowoomba Chronicle*, *Northern Territory News*

Labor wheels out $1.5b hospital pledge in pre-election road trip

Central Western Daily, General News, 26 Oct 2026, Nick Wilson & Allanah Sciberras, Page 7

The wheels are turning on an incumbent state government's election campaign as it uses its first stop to pitch itself as the party of public healthcare. Victorian Premier Ben Carroll hit the road yesterday aboard Labor's campaign bus for the first official day of electioneering ahead of the November 28 state poll.

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Also reported by: *Daily Liberal*, *Western Advocate*, *Bendigo Advertiser*, *Launceston Examiner*, *Border Mail*, *Ballarat Courier*, *Northern Daily Leader*, *Warrnambool Standard*

Inside the storm: On the front line of Victoria's stretched emergency departments

Sydney Morning Herald, Internet, 25 Oct 2026, Melissa Cunningham

It has just gone 6pm when the barefoot man stumbles into the brightly lit hospital. He is erratic, groaning and dishevelled with a wild, dark beard. There is dirt all over his ankles and feet and blood dripping from his right hand.

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Tasmania launches urgent triple-0 crackdown amid investigation into fatal ambulance delay

The Mercury, Internet, 25 Oct 2026, Alison Foletta

Health Minister Bridget Archer has pushed a new campaign urging the public to keep triple-0 calls for emergencies only, while insisting it is inappropriate to speculate on the death of a man who suffered fatal delays waiting for an ambulance. On Sunday, Ms Archer announced a public education campaign asking Tasmanians to keep triple-0 calls for emergencies only and this measure was not in response to the death of a Tasmanian man in Hobart.

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Also reported by: *Daily Telegraph Australia*, *Cairns Post*, *Townsville Bulletin*, *Geelong Advertiser*, *Northern Territory News*, *The Courier Mail*, *Adelaide Now*, *Gold Coast Bulletin*

Back to top

Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Health Workforce

Premier Announces Healthcare Funding and Nurse Support

3AW, Weekend Mornings, AM Radio, 25 Oct 2026, Darren James

Interview with Victoria Premier Ben Carroll, about healthcare funding and medical staffing. He announces that more than $1.5b will go towards the public health system, aiming to cut emergency department wait times by up to 20% by adding 750 nurses, cubicles, and beds. He also notes that they have given a 28.4% pay rise for Victorian nurses.

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Back to top

Technology Assessment and Access

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Medicare Benefits and Digital Health

Fees crackdown 'could leave patients worse off'

The Australian, General News, 26 Oct 2026, Penny Timms, Page 7

Australia's peak medical association warns that doctors and patients could end up worse off under proposed reforms designed to rein in excessive specialist fees because what's on the table does not address the problems fuelling high healthcare costs. The Australian Medical Association acknowledges price gouging is a problem and results in patients being slugged excessive charges, eroding public trust, but it does not think the problem is widespread.

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Medicare's 'misogyny'

Courier Mail, General News, 26 Oct 2026, Nicole Madigan, Page 12

Female doctors are being financially penalised for spending longer with patients under a Medicare system accused of perpetuating hidden "medical misogyny", new data reveals. The 2026 Health of the Nation report found female doctors spent an average of 21 minutes with patients, compared to 18 minutes for men.

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Also reported by: *Geelong Advertiser*, *Herald Sun*, *Adelaide Advertiser*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Hobart Mercury*, *Townsville Bulletin*

Back to top

Benefits Integrity

Cole Smith: Daughter of 63-year-old who allegedly choked by doctor on Fremantle Street breaks silence

West Australian, Internet, 25 Oct 2026, Caleb Runciman

The heartbroken daughter of the South West retiree who died after allegedly being placed in a chokehold on a Fremantle street has spoken of his final act of kindness, as her family express their shock at the accused man's return to work as a doctor. Cole Smith, 63, has been remembered as a "caring man" and "gentle soul" after he was allegedly killed by Dr Christian Jack Joseph, 26.

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Also reported by: *Kalgoorlie Miner*

Doctor who quit the UK after Peggie trans row at centre of another gender storm in Australia (and is now known as Lis!)

Daily Mail UK, Internet, 25 Oct 2026, Lorna Hughes

The transgender doctor who quit Scotland for a new job in a sun-soaked Australian coastal resort after a high-profile tribunal is at the centre of another gender row. The Scottish Mail on Sunday has learned that Dr Beth Upton, now known as Lis, has been named in an alleged incident at a New South Wales hospital where a woman patient refused treatment from the male-born medic.

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Personal trainer and dad-of-one wins case against doctor who diagnosed his bowel cancer as haemorrhoids - as judge finds delays cost him years of life

Daily Mail UK, Internet, 26 Oct 2026, Sarah Brookes

A Sydney father whose bowel cancer was mistaken for haemorrhoids has won his case against a GP after a judge found the delayed diagnosis robbed him of almost five years of life expectancy. Personal trainer Ross Peterkin, now aged in his early 40s, sued Dr Abram Tadros, alleging his cancer should have been investigated earlier after he presented with rectal bleeding, pain and other bowel symptoms in August 2022.

Continue reading

Back to top

Australian CDC

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Therapeutic Goods Administration

TGA Warns Against Unapproved Injectable Products

2GB, Healthy Living, AM Radio, 25 Oct 2026, Dr Ross Walker & Ned Green

Walker warns against buying unapproved injectable products online, noting the Therapeutic Goods Administration has raised concerns because they lack assessment for safety, quality, or effectiveness. He adds that injecting these illicit substances can cause abscesses, tissue death, and amputations, and he also states that purchasing them without a prescription is illegal.

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Back to top

Office of Drug Control

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Back to top

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Back to top

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Back to top

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