

Australian Government
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 2 November 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 listen to the audio briefing

Click here to view front pages of today's newspapers

Executive Summary

- **Australian Financial Review** (page 1) reports that staffing costs at Commonwealth agencies blew out by more than $2 billion last year, with NDIS recording the second-largest overspend at $224 million against a $1.1 billion budget.
- **The Australian** (page 7) reports that a federal government incentive has led to half of Australia's GP practices now offering full bulk-billing, with Health Minister Mark Butler stating the program is well ahead of its 2030 target. *Also reported by: Canberra Times*

- **The Age** (page 1) reports that psychiatrists are warning of rising rates of psychosis among patients taking stimulant medication to treat ADHD.
- **Herald Sun** (page 3) reports that researchers at Melbourne's Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre have identified a protein in advanced prostate cancer cells that could be targeted to expose them to the immune system.
- **Hobart Mercury** (page 3) reports that Tasmania's health department has overspent its budget by $191 million over the past year while missing almost half its clinical care targets.
- **NT News** (page 5) reports that Autism NT has pledged to provide support information to every Territory family during the rollout of the Thriving Kids program.
- **Sydney Morning Herald** (page 7) reports the NSW government has invested $450,000 in the Gotcha4Life 'Mentally Fit Schools' program to address rising childhood anxiety.
- **Hobart Mercury** (page 9) reports Australian researchers have developed a machine-learning model that uses mammogram images and a woman's age to predict her risk of cardiovascular disease, potentially creating a two-in-one screening tool.
- **West Australian** (page 10) reports that ambulance ramping at Western Australian hospitals reached record levels in October, according to data from St John WA.
- **Daily Telegraph** (page 18) reports that the aged care watchdog has banned 577 people from working in the sector, including 194 this year, with a man previously charged with murder and a childcare worker who force-fed children among those permanently excluded. *Also reported by: Herald Sun*

Minister Butler

Labor incentive sees half of Australia's GPs fully bulk bill

The Australian, General News, 02 Nov 2026, Bimini Plesser, Page 7

Half of Australia's GPs now provide full bulk billing, a year after the introduction of a federal government incentive program. More than 4000 GPs across Australia are offering bulk-billed appointments to all patients, up 1700 from this time last year, Health Minister Mark Butler announced on Sunday.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: *The Australian*

Incentives drive increase in Australia's GP bulk-billing rates

Canberra Times, General News, 02 Nov 2026, Abe Maddison, Page 4

An extra 1700 GP practices across Australia are bulk-billing following the introduction of a federal incentive program. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said for doctors and practice managers, bulk-billing was an attractive option for the first time in years.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: *Ballarat Courier*, *Illawarra Mercury*, *Bendigo Advertiser*, *Northern Daily Leader*, *Burnie Advocate*, *Daily Advertiser*, *Launceston Examiner*, *Warrnambool Standard*, *Central Western Daily*, *Western Advocate*, *Daily Liberal*

Rise in Bulk Billing General Practises

2SM, 18:00 News (Weekend), AM Radio, 01 Nov 2026

Labor has stated that its healthcare investments have made bulk billing far more attractive for doctors and practice managers, with over half of Australia's general practices now fully bulk billing. Federal Health

Minister Mark Butler credited increased government incentives for lifting the number of GP practices offering full bulk billing from 2,300 to 4,000 in a year.

Play Now

Back to top

Minister McAllister

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Minister Rae

Calls to fix 'unfair' aged care algorithm

Canberra Times, General News, 02 Nov 2026, Phoebe Loomes, Page 13

A controversial algorithm used to determine funding for people receiving aged care at home has been slammed as unfair and inconsistent by the Commonwealth Ombudsman, who said bureaucrats drafting new laws did not understand what they were doing. [...] Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae, has been contacted for comment.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: *Newcastle Herald*, *Daily Liberal*, *Western Advocate*, *Burnie Advocate*, *Daily Advertiser*, *Illawarra Mercury*, *Ballarat Courier*, *Launceston Examiner*, *Bendigo Advertiser*, *Border Mail*, *Northern Daily Leader*, *Central Western Daily*, *Warrnambool Standard*, *pittwateronlinenews.com*

Back to top

Assistant Minister McBride

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Assistant Minister White

Breast check may tell more

Hobart Mercury, General News, 02 Nov 2026, Page 9

A routine mammogram could one day do more than check for breast cancer, with Australian researchers exploring whether the same scan can also flag a woman's risk of heart disease. [...] The work was highlighted during a visit by federal Assistant Minister for Health Rebecca White to meet Associate

Professor Clare Arnott, who leads the institute's Cardiovascular Program and sits on the Ministerial Expert Panel on Women's Health.

View PDF Read full text

Back to top

Special Envoy Repacholi

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Department

Calls to fix 'unfair' aged care algorithm

Canberra Times, General News, 02 Nov 2026, Phoebe Loomes, Page 13

A controversial algorithm used to determine funding for people receiving aged care at home has been slammed as unfair and inconsistent by the Commonwealth Ombudsman, who said bureaucrats drafting new laws did not understand what they were doing. [...] Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae, has been contacted for comment.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: *Newcastle Herald*, *Daily Liberal*, *Western Advocate*, *Burnie Advocate*, *Daily Advertiser*, *Illawarra Mercury*, *Ballarat Courier*, *Launceston Examiner*, *Bendigo Advertiser*, *Border Mail*, *Northern Daily Leader*, *Central Western Daily*, *Warrnambool Standard*, *pittwateronlinenews.com*

Back to top

Ageing and Aged Care

Stay away from our elderly

Daily Telegraph, General News, 02 Nov 2026, Julie Cross, Page 18

A man who was once charged with murder, a Sydney childcare worker who force-fed kids until they vomited, a nurse who stabbed a man and a church pastor who groomed an autistic teenager are on a list of 577 people banned from working in aged care. The aged care watchdog has added 194 people to the banned list so far this year, 86 of whom received permanent bans, while 108 were banned from from one to 15 years, depending on the severity of the breach.

View PDF Read full text

Jailbird given aged care ban

Herald Sun, General News, 02 Nov 2026, Julie Cross, Page 19

A Melbourne man who pleaded not guilty to a murder charge, which was dropped after police could not prove who fired the fatal shot that killed a tradie, has been banned from working in aged care. Adam Tiba, 27, also known as Adam Zain and Adonis Zane, was banned on September 10 by the aged care watchdog.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: *Hobart Mercury*, *Northern Territory News*

Back to top

Disability and Carers

Labor's $2b staff wages overspend

Australian Financial Review, General News, 02 Nov 2026, Ronald Mizen, Page 1

Dozens of federal government departments failed to rein in staff costs last financial year, and there were more than 40 reporting blowouts totalling over $2 billion – or $5.6 million a day – cushioned by only marginal cuts to external contractors.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: *Australian Financial Review*

Autism NT will support families

Northern Territory News, General News, 02 Nov 2026, Gary Shipway, Page 5

Families of children with autism face an uncertain transition as the Thriving Kids program rolls out, with Autism NT vowing no child will be left without support information. The first phase of the Australian Government's Thriving Kids program is under way, but Autism NT has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting families, sharing clear information with the community and working constructively with government.

View PDF Read full text

Wodonga mum battles $60k NDIS cut

Border Mail, General News, 02 Nov 2026, Sophie Else, Page 5

All Wodonga resident Erica Bartlett wants to do is live a "normal, boring life". Something most people take for granted: go to work, pay her mortgage, cook dinner for her three children, and come home.

View PDF Read full text

What to know about the new Medicare developmental check for three-year-olds

ABC Online, Internet, 01 Nov 2026, Nas Campanella, Evan Young and Rhiannon Hobbins

From today, hundreds of thousands of three-year-olds across the country will have access to a new Medicare-subsidised developmental screening program. The initiative, part of the Thriving Kids program aimed at picking up some of the children to be diverted from the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), is intended to give families cheaper access to a doctor to help catch developmental concerns early.

Continue reading

New Health Checks to Curb NDIS Spending

ABC, Weekend Breakfast, TV, 01 Nov 2026, Fauziah Ibrahim & Johanna Nicholson

Three-year-olds across Australia now have access to a Medicare-subsidised health check for developmental delays under the Thriving Kids program, designed to curb NDIS spending. However, concerns have been raised that some children may face long delays accessing support, as many services will not be ready until 2028.

Play Now

Back to top

Primary Care

Labor tries to numb poll pain with dental sweetener

Canberra Times, Internet, 01 Nov 2026, Nick Wilson and Duncan Murray

A long-in-the-tooth Labor government has pledged a major upgrade to its free dental clinics plan to numb the pain of bruising pre-election polling. Victorian Premier Ben Carroll announced the move on Sunday as he took aim at his main challenger for "ducking" debates.

Continue reading

Also reported by: *The Senior*, *The Border Mail*, *Northern Daily Leader*, *Newcastle Herald*, *Daily Liberal*

Labor promises more free dental clinics for Victorians in election pitch

nine.com.au, Internet, 01 Nov 2026, Patrick Brischetto

Labor will open 20 free dental clinics if it wins re-election at this month's state election, double the number of clinics it initially promised, Victorian Premier Ben Carroll announced. Carroll had announced in August that a re-elected Labor government would open 10 public dental clinics that would offer free check-ups and dental work, like fillings, root canals and extractions, costing $230 million over three years.

Continue reading

Back to top

Population Health

More concerning fails cast doubt on sunscreen protection claims

The New Daily, Internet, 01 Nov 2026

Consumer group Choice has uncovered more concerning irregularities in the sunscreen market, with an overseas study finding more products sold in Australia failed to meet SPF claims. They include a product that Choice says isn't registered as a primary sunscreen and shouldn't be sold in Australia – but is available through popular online marketplaces.

Continue reading

Asthma Deaths Reach Ten-Year High in Australia

2GB, Healthy Living, AM Radio, 01 Nov 2026, Dr Ross Walker & Ned Green

In an interview with Asthma Australia CEO Kate Miranda, she discussed Bureau of Statistics data showing Australian asthma deaths reached 484 in 2025, heavily impacting women. Miranda warned that patients over-rely on short-acting relievers rather than preventative anti-inflammatory medications. She urged GPs to dedicate more time to reviewing management plans and exploring potential hormonal links affecting women's asthma.

Play Now

Back to top

Chronic Conditions and Screening

Glenn Miller, one last sherry, and peace

Canberra Times, General News, 02 Nov 2026, Steve Evans, Page 5

"It's been grand," were the last words of Robert Macklin. To the sound of his favourite, Glenn Miller, he looked into the eyes of his family in the sunlit bedroom of his house in Weston.

View PDF Read full text

Check saved mother's life

Daily Advertiser, General News, 02 Nov 2026, Jac Marshall, Page 1

"I'm off to get my boobs squashed." It began as a typical goodbye to her colleagues, just another afternoon as Natarsha Onley stepped out for a routine breast screen. The 56-year-old Albury mother and Murray High School deputy principal had no inkling that the next 20 minutes was going to save her life.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: ***The Border Mail***

Dementia Australia Calls for Increased Government Funding

2GB, Weekends, AM Radio, 01 Nov 2026, Luke Grant

In an interview with Dementia Australia Director of Client Services Barbara Williams, Williams discussed dementia diagnosis and support. Barbara stated that whilst the government has invested significantly in services, support, and prevention, it has not kept pace with diagnosis rates. Consequently, Dementia Australia is calling for increased recognition and funding to better assist people living with dementia, their families, and carers.

Play Now

Back to top

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

Mental fitness helps Tempe kids kick those cares away

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 02 Nov 2026, Rachel Rasker & Emily Kowal, Page 1

Children kick a Texta-covered ball around a field. The students from Tempe Public School have written their anxieties on the ball's surface: Homework. Big kids. High school.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: *Sydney Morning Herald*

Drugs for ADHD fuelling psychosis

Age, General News, 02 Nov 2026, Henrietta Cook, Page 1

A growing number of patients are developing psychosis, including paranoia and hallucinations, after taking medication to treat ADHD, psychiatrists have warned. While the drugs can be transformative for people with ADHD, psychiatrists say that stimulant medication can, in rare cases, trigger psychosis.

View PDF Read full text

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

Queensland eating disorder experts warn against online wellness economy

ABC Online, Internet, 01 Nov 2026, Madeline Grace

Kathleen McBride grew up believing a perfect body was what made a woman worthy. "I had a lot of obsessions with exercise and constantly thinking about my body and weight loss," the now-30-year-old said. At 18, she was diagnosed with bulimia.

Continue reading

Back to top

Immunisation

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Health Systems Strategies

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Health Economics & Research

Cancer breakthrough

Herald Sun, General News, 02 Nov 2026, Sarah Booth, Page 3

Research targets disease's hidden secrets Researchers investigating a deadly cancer's ability to evade treatment have discovered its secret weakness, paving the way for new therapies. The discovery offers hope to the thousands of men who will be diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer, just one-third of whom reach the five-year survival mark.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: *Daily Telegraph*, *Geelong Advertiser*, *Courier Mail*, *Adelaide Advertiser*

Back to top

First Nations Health

Ear outreach program receives new equipment

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 02 Nov 2026, Rosa Griffith, Page 3

An important regional health initiative aimed at reducing rates of chronic middle ear disease in Aboriginal and at-risk children in the Goldfields and other regions has received essential equipment upgrades through grants provided by Southern Ports. Ear Foundation Australia, which has been delivering mobile ear clinics at regional and remote communities for 13 years, purchased new tympanometers and video otoscopes for use in its South West and Goldfields-Esperance programs.

View PDF Read full text

Back to top

Public Hospital and Health Reform

Tassie health targets failure

Hobart Mercury, General News, 02 Nov 2026, Bridget Clarke, Page 3

Tasmania's health department failed nearly half of its clinical care targets over the past year and blew its operating budget by $191m while continuing to pay its top executive $735,000. It comes as nurses and midwives consider a new wage agreement and the government pursues department cuts of $700m, to be made over the next four years.

View PDF Read full text

Ambulances stuck in WAs hours of need

West Australian, General News, 02 Nov 2026, Jessica Page, Page 10

Ambulance ramping surged to record levels in October, sparking fresh scrutiny of the Cook Government's $140 million winter hospital strategy. St John WA figures reveal patients were stranded inside ambulances parked outside emergency departments for 6419 hours last month 45 per cent higher than the same period last year and just longer than the previous record in 2024.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: *West Australian*

Back to top

Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Health Workforce

No relevant coverage.

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

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Australian CDC

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Therapeutic Goods Administration

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Office of Drug Control

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Food Standards

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

AICIS

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Subject to copyright. For internal use only. See **Copyright Terms of Use**. Always review the original source before acting on the content.