

Australian Government
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 3 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 view front pages of today's newspapers

Click here to listen to the audio briefing

Executive Summary

- **Australian Financial Review** (page 1) reports Treasury's top actuary has not been provided with sufficient detail to confirm if the National Disability Insurance Agency can achieve its targeted $38.2 billion in savings.
- **Sydney Morning Herald** (page 1) reports that senior doctors are urging the NSW government to protect existing services at Newcastle Private and other hospitals ahead of Calvary Health Care's takeover of 16 Healthscope hospitals, warning Catholic restrictions could limit access to reproductive healthcare and voluntary assisted dying.

- **Sydney Morning Herald** (page 2) reports five peak medical organisations are urging the NSW Premier to freeze plans that would expand pharmacist prescribing powers for complex conditions, citing serious patient safety risks.
- **Age** (page 2) reports a new national survey has found that 69 per cent of young Australians feel guilty for relaxing, as cost of living, AI, housing affordability and mental health top the list of their greatest concerns.
- **Age** (page 2) reports that a data breach at HealthShare Victoria exposed rival medical device companies' confidential pricing during a $50 million hospital implants tender, forcing its cancellation and raising concerns about procurement oversight and potential costs to taxpayers.
- **Hobart Mercury** (page 3) reports that Tasmania recorded a decade-high 148 deaths from influenza and pneumonia in 2025, with doctors attributing the increase partly to an atypical flu season and declining vaccination rates.
- **Canberra Times** (page 6) reports that one year after the ACT legalised voluntary assisted dying, nurses who have administered the procedure report feeling pride in their work, saying that it has provided terminally ill patients with greater control over their end-of-life choices.
- **West Australian** (page 9) reports WA's Aged Care Minister Simone McGurk has linked record ambulance ramping in the state to the federal government's $1.4 billion underspend on its aged care budget. A spokesperson for Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said that the government's Aged Care Capital Assistance Program had invested over $125 million in WA projects since 2022.

Minister Butler

Treasury not buying $38b NDIS savings

Australian Financial Review, General News, 03 Nov 2026, Ronald Mizen, Page 1

The National Disability Insurance Agency has failed to convince Treasury's top actuary that it can cut $38.2 billion in costs over the next four years, casting doubt on the key savings measure ahead of a crucial budget update.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: *Australian Financial Review*

The Zap: latest health and aged care news, plus consultations not to miss

Croakey, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Melissa Sweet & Charles Maskell-Knight

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing recently released its 2025-26 annual report, and said it demonstrates an ongoing commitment to transparency and accountability. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler issued an incredible statement saying "the Government welcomes the Ombudsman's inquiry into the Single Assessment System", and repeating the standard lines about the Government "listening" to concerns and adapting the system accordingly.

Continue reading

Starting next year, you'll be able to buy UTI medication over the counter

RUSSH, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Samantha Corry

A UTI has a way of making everything else on your to-do list feel suddenly irrelevant. [...] But now, a federal initiative announced by Health Minister Mark Butler is set to make women's health care more affordable.

Continue reading

Medicare three-year-old health checks return

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Michelle Wisbey

Labelled a 'win for families', as of 1 November, GPs can offer one check per lifetime to all three-year-olds eligible for Medicare. [...] Federal Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler said the program is designed to give children the best start in life and to help parents 'have the answers they need'.

Continue reading

One year of BBPIP: More than half of practices now fully bulk bill

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Jolyon Attwooll

The Government has shared new data on the anniversary of its flagship Medicare investment, as GPs give their take on its impact – both good and bad. [...] Federal Health, Disability and Ageing Minister Mark Butler announced on Sunday that more than 4000 clinics have signed up to the Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Payment (BBPIP), which began on 1 November last year.

Continue reading

New PBS listing removes pill barrier in paediatric CF

The Limbic, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Sunalie Silva

Children with cystic fibrosis who struggle to swallow CFTR modulator tablets will now have access to a granule formulation through the PBS, removing a practical barrier treatment for younger patients. [...] "The expanded listing of Trikafta in granule form will mean thousands of young children with cystic fibrosis will find it easier to take their medicine, if they have struggled to take a pill," said Health Minister Mark Butler.

Continue reading

Bulk billing practices top 4000 in first year

The Medical Republic, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Alyssa Talakovski

Half of all general practices now exclusively bulk bill in Australia, compared to 30% one year ago, says the government. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the figures showed that bulk billing was, for the "first time in years", an "attractive option".

Continue reading

VAD telehealth reform an ‘issue of equity'

The Medical Republic, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Alyssa Talakovski

Health ministers from Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia, and the ACT are calling on federal health minister Mark Butler and attorney-general Michelle Rowland to allow telehealth for lawful VAD care. In an open letter issued last week, the ministers called for an end to the "continuing uncertainty" about practitioners' use of telehealth services for VAD discussions.

Continue reading

Ruston Criticises Butler Over Health Policies

News24, AM Agenda, TV, 02 Nov 2026, Laura Jayes

In an interview, Shadow Health & Aged Care Minister Anne Ruston criticised the government's aged care assessment algorithm and proposed private health insurance rebate changes. Ruston stated that Health Minister Mark Butler has not engaged in discussions regarding the rebate legislation blocked by the

Senate, arguing the policy shifts costs onto pensioners and overburdened public hospitals without delivering real taxpayer savings.

Play Now

Patrick McGorry on Mental Health Care Needs

2SM, 05:00 News, AM Radio, 02 Nov 2026

In an interview with Professor Patrick McGorry, youth mental health professor at the University of Melbourne, McGorry called for expanded community and residential mental health services across regional and urban Australia. He noted that Health Minister Mark Butler is engaged with mental health, but emphasised that Butler requires support from the Prime Minister, colleagues, and the public.

Play Now

Back to top

Minister McAllister

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Minister Rae

Ramping shame! We're not to blame

West Australian, General News, 03 Nov 2026, Jessica Page, Page 9

WA Aged Care Minister Simone McGurk has blasted Canberra's "astounding and, frankly, outrageous" short-changing of aged care after ambulance ramping outside the State's hospitals reached record levels. [...] "Bringing new residential aged-care beds online takes time, and we're not wasting a moment," a spokesperson for Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: ***West Australian***

Aged care is not fixed: ANMF launches national aged care campaign, 'Australia needs care you can can count on'

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Ben Appleton, Page 32

Aged care nurses and care workers from across Australia gathered at Parliament House in Canberra last month for the launch of the ANMF's new national aged care campaign calling on the federal government to deliver further reforms to address the deepening crisis facing the sector. [...] At the campaign launch at Parliament House, aged care nurses and care workers met with politicians, including Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae, sharing what conditions are really like on the ground and why further reform cannot wait.

View PDF Read full text

Back to top

Assistant Minister McBride

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Assistant Minister White

‘Incredibly promising': Australian researchers say routine mammograms could soon predict heart disease risk

Women's Agenda, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Madeline Hislop

Women attending a routine mammogram could one day also have their risk for cardiovascular disease assessed, as Australian researchers work to develop a new two-in-one screening tool. [...] Assistant Minister for Health, Rebecca White visited The George Institute last week to learn more about the research.

Continue reading

Two-in-One Screening Test for Women

Channel 7, Seven News, TV, 02 Nov 2026, Peter Mitchell

Australian scientists are developing a two-in-one test using artificial intelligence on routine mammograms to detect both breast cancer and heart disease risk. The George Institute for Global Health's Professor Clare Arnott analysed 50,000 scans to create an algorithm predicting cardiovascular risk. Assistant Minister Rebecca White stated she will consider next steps to help detect women's risk earlier.

Play Now

Back to top

Special Envoy Repacholi

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Department

Five-star rating for aged care excellence

Bairnsdale Advertiser, Internet, 02 Nov 2026

A commitment to personalised care and the dedication of staff has seen Lewington House at Omeo District Health build on last year's success, achieving a five out of five star rating for residential aged care, as

issued by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. The 14-bed residential aged care facility continues to demonstrate that exceptional care can be delivered in small regional communities, with its latest results reflecting ongoing improvements and a strong commitment to residents and their families.

Continue reading

The Zap: latest health and aged care news, plus consultations not to miss

Croakey, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Melissa Sweet & Charles Maskell-Knight

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing recently released its 2025-26 annual report, and said it demonstrates an ongoing commitment to transparency and accountability. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler issued an incredible statement saying "the Government welcomes the Ombudsman's inquiry into the Single Assessment System", and repeating the standard lines about the Government "listening" to concerns and adapting the system accordingly.

Continue reading

Govt report confirms Support at Home earnings are falling

The Weekly Source, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Caroline Egan

Weeks after StewartBrown showed the home care sector had drifted into the red for the first time, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has reported a contraction in margins. In Q4 2025-26, 32% of Support at Home operators were unprofitable, according to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's Quarterly Financial Snapshot (QFS) - a 7.3 percentage point (pp) increase on the previous year.

Continue reading

Diabetes scheme registrations fall as health department points to GLP-1 use

BioPharmaDispatch, Internet, 02 Nov 2026

The number of Australians registered with the National Diabetes Services Scheme fell in 2025-26, and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has named the growing use of GLP-1 medicines as one reason.

Continue reading

Back to top

Ageing and Aged Care

Aged care not all doom and gloom

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 03 Nov 2026, Alex Lynch, Page 10

Mildura is about 550kms from Melbourne, more than 1000kms from Sydney and almost 400kms from Adelaide. Recently, it hosted the Tri-State Regional Aged Care Forum, run by Federal Member for Mallee Anne Webster and the Shadow Minister for Regional Health, and facilitated by Dr Nick Coatsworth.

View PDF Read full text

'Asset-rich' Aussies could struggle to afford aged care: study

Burnie Advocate, General News, 03 Nov 2026, Duncan Murray, Page 6

A growing number of older Australians need government-subsidised aged care and social welfare despite being deemed asset-rich. A study has revealed nine in 10 older Australians applying for government-supported aged care rely on social welfare payments.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: *Northern Daily Leader*, *Kalgoorlie Miner*, *West Australian*, *Shepparton News Online*, *Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser*, *Warrnambool Standard*, *Daily Mail UK*, *Daily Liberal*, *The Border Mail*, *Bathurst Western Advocate*, *Illawarra Mercury*, *The Senior*, *Ballarat Courier*, *Canberra Times*, *Newcastle Herald*, *The New Daily*, *Bendigo Advertiser*

Aged care

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Annie Butler Anmf Secretary, Page 1

The ANMF's new 'Aged Care Pulse Check The Real Impact of Reforms' survey heard from more than 3,550 registered nurses, enrolled nurses and care workers. It found serious systemic problems persist, including poor staffing ratios, rising workplace violence, and lack of transparency over billions of dollars in taxpayer funding meant for residents' care.

View PDF Read full text

100-year-old Cliff is still living in his own home. Here's how he did it

The Senior, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Phoebe Loomes

Cliff Jackson spent his career at the forefront of Australia's aviation industry. At 100, he is part of a growing cohort of older Australians who are rejecting traditional aged care, instead choosing to grow old in their own homes.

Continue reading

Monday Briefing: Automated decision-making in aged care

The Mandarin, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Joshua Gliddon

A Commonwealth ombud report found major aged care framework flaws, including over-reliance on automated decisions and poor explainability. The intersection of automated governance and human-centred policy delivery is at a critical point following an investigation by the Commonwealth Ombudsman into the national aged care framework.

Continue reading

Aged Care Act Assessed One Year On

2CC, Breakfast, AM Radio, 02 Nov 2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

In an interview with Dr Samantha Clune, senior research fellow at the Lincoln Centre for Research on Ageing, the 1997 Aged Care Act's replacement was evaluated one year after its introduction. Dr Clune highlighted workforce shortages as a barrier to accessing in-home care packages, whilst noting nurse-designed care models are currently delivering very positive outcomes.

Play Now

Anne Ruston Criticises Government Over Aged Care

4BC, Breakfast, AM Radio, 02 Nov 2026, Jason Matthews

Interview with Anne Ruston, Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care, about delays and unspent funding in Australia's aged care system. Ruston stated the government is rationing care and leaving $1.4 billion

unspent while over 106,000 people wait for support. She also criticised an automated assessment algorithm, saying it causes harm and lacks human override.

Play Now

Similar items:

Anne Ruston Criticises Government Over Aged Care

4BC, Drive, AM Radio, 02 Nov 2026, 2:28 pm, Carla Bignasca

Aged Care Reforms and Package Funding Updates

4BC, Drive, AM Radio, 02 Nov 2026, Carla Bignasca

Interview with Chris Grice, CEO of National Seniors Australia, about the federal government's aged care reforms. Grice noted that nearly 83,000 extra packages have been funded and wait times for high-needs home care dropped to 30 days. However, he urged the release of more packages and highlighted ongoing hospital bed block and residential care shortages.

Play Now

Interview continues on: *4BC*

Back to top

Disability and Carers

NDIS changes cause concern

Sunraysia Daily, Internet, 02 Nov 2026

Concerns have been raised for regional NDIS participants following two major changes to the scheme. From 1 October 2026, two NDIS funding streams were reset, with changes applied to participants' plans after they are created, reassessed or renewed.

Continue reading

Documentary gives rare glimpse into Colin Farrell's challenges and hopes for disabled son

The New Daily, Internet, 02 Nov 2026

Actor Colin Farrell has offered a rare and touching glimpse into his private family life, and the challenges faced by his eldest son James, in a new documentary. [...] Along the way it also documents the actor's experiences, hopes and fears for his son – sentiments echoed by many families facing the federal government's NDIS cuts.

Continue reading

Scale of Labor's public service staffing blowout revealed as agencies exceed budgets by $5.6million a day

Daily Mail UK, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Nicholas Comino

Some of the Albanese government's largest departments exceeded their staffing budgets by a combined $5.6 million a day last financial year. [...] The National Disability Insurance Agency exceeded its staffing

budget by $224.6million, while the Department of Climate Change , Energy, the Environment and Water overshot forecasts by $197.6 million.

Continue reading

Back to top

Primary Care

Medicos urge Minns to put halt on new powers for pharmacy prescriptions

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 03 Nov 2026, Clair Weaver, Page 2

Surgeons, physicians and GPs have made an urgent joint appeal to Premier Chris Minns to freeze plans to give pharmacists new prescribing powers to treat complex conditions. In a letter, five peak medical organisations say they hold serious safety concerns about the expansion of autonomous pharmacist prescribing for ear infections, wound care, hypertension and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

View PDF Read full text

Labor promises free dental clinic for Shepp

Shepparton News, General News, 03 Nov 2026, Ashley Darling, Page 8

Victorian Labor has announced that it would open a free dental clinic in Shepparton if returned to government at the upcoming state election. The clinic would be open late on weekdays and provide free check-ups, fillings, root canals and extractions.

View PDF Read full text

Urgent Care Clinic in demand

Cairns Post, General News, 03 Nov 2026, Page 3

More than 12,500 people have bypassed the emergency department and walked through the doors of the Cairns North Medicare Urgent Care Clinic in seven months. The Mount Milman Drive clinic in Smithfield has seen about 400 patients a week, or about 60 people a day, since it opened in March this year.

View PDF Read full text

Skip the line

Cairns Post, General News, 03 Nov 2026, Page 12

There are few places less appealing than a hospital emergency waiting room on a Sunday arvo. [...] The Cairns North Medicare Urgent Care Clinic in Smithfield has just unwrapped a fresh makeover.

View PDF Read full text

Kids' free health check

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 03 Nov 2026, Page 5

A new Medicare health check for three-year-olds is now available, as part of the Australian government's rollout of its Thriving Kids initiative. The Medicare Healthy Kids health check was recommended by the

Thriving Kids Advisory Group to support interventions prior to children starting primary school and help them to achieve their potential when they do start school.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: *Cairns Post*

Street Side Medics Expands Mobile Healthcare to Adelaide

FIVEAA, Afternoons, AM Radio, 02 Nov 2026, Leith Forrest

Interview with Nic Brown, CEO of Street Side Medics, about launching a mobile clinic in Adelaide with South Australian government funding. The service will operate on Wednesday afternoons at Adelaide City Salvos to provide vulnerable and homeless people access to GPs and medical treatment as bulk-billing rates decline. Patients will be treated regardless of whether they hold a Medicare card.

Play Now

Interview continues on: *FIVEAA*

Back to top

Population Health

More Australian girls and women receiving hospital care for endometriosis

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Page 5

The rate of endometriosis hospitalisations has increased by 23% (from 145 to 180 hospitalisations per 100,000) over the past decade. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's (AIHW) Endometriosis hospital procedures report provides new insights into surgical procedures commonly used to treat the condition.

View PDF Read full text

The vitamins you may be wasting your money on, and the foods to eat instead

Sydney Morning Herald, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Ardyn Bernoth

Nutrition expert and Deakin University Professor Welma Stonehouse was asked by her brother for her opinion on a dietary powder for his cholesterol and liver that he had purchased online. "I looked at the packet carefully and thought it was a waste of money, as it was unlikely to do much for either his liver or cholesterol," says the former president of the Nutrition Society of Australia.

Continue reading

McDonald's testing revamped menu amid explosion of weight loss drugs - weeks after Diet Coke was brought back to Aussie stores

Daily Mail UK, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Ashley Nickel

The world's most recognisable fast-food chain is exploring adapting its menu to cater to the rise of GLP-1 users. [...] GLP-1 medications have boomed in the United States with about one in ten people using a form of the weight-loss drug, and they are on the rise in Australia

Continue reading

Back to top

Chronic Conditions and Screening

What it's like to administer lethal liquid

Canberra Times, General News, 03 Nov 2026, Steve Evans, Page 6

Kate Reed has administered the bitter liquid which ends life numerous times in the first year of legal voluntary assisted dying in the ACT. She is reluctant to say on just how many occasions beyond "less than 10," but admits she has been involved in assessments of patients with terminal illnesses seeking a way out countless more times.

View PDF Read full text

'It's pretty cool': Brave Jen joins chemo drug trial

Shepparton News, General News, 03 Nov 2026, Bhavya Vemulapalli, Page 1

When Jen Scott was handed her breast cancer diagnosis, she said the paperwork read "like another language". So, before she rang her 83-year-old mum, she took a photo of it and put it through ChatGPT.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: *Shepparton News Online*

Routine check saved a mother's life

Border Mail, General News, 03 Nov 2026, Jac Marshall, Page 5

"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.

View PDF Read full text

Drug for rare condition now on the PBS

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 03 Nov 2026, Natalie Croxon, Page 8

It was when Alison Byrnes returned from hiking the Kokoda Track in 2024 that a friend noticed something was different about her eye. "One of my friends had noticed that my eye was a little bit strange," the federal member for Cunningham said.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: *Illawarra Mercury*

As cancer treatments become more effective, we must ask: what is life like for the people who receive them?

The Guardian, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Ranjana Srivastava

Two decades ago, a dear friend called me in a trembling voice. Was there hope for his young nephew, whose cancer had spread to the brain? Sadly, "no", I said. But today, for such patients, there are options that were unimaginable back then.

Continue reading

Why young Aussie woman Annaliese, 26, is choosing to end her life after years of suffering - as she moves thousands with her story: 'I don't think I can do another six months'

Daily Mail UK, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Shania O'Brien

At just 26, Annaliese Holland is preparing for the possibility of ending her own life through voluntary assisted dying (VAD) after spending more than half her life battling a rare neurological disorder. The South Australian woman has been approved for VAD after years of painful medical complications, repeated infections and treatments that have left her body increasingly fragile.

Continue reading

Back to top

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

For Generation Z, relaxation can seem like hard work

Age, General News, 03 Nov 2026, Tori Malek, Page 2

More than two-thirds of young people are struggling to unwind and feel an increasing sense of uncertainty around the future of artificial intelligence, while the cost of living remains the number one concern for Australians aged 18 to 24, according to a new national survey. The annual Gen Z Wellbeing Index, released last month, found that 69 per cent of young Australians feel guilty for relaxing, citing worries around wasting time or feeling they should be doing something deemed to be productive instead.

View PDF Read full text

Family turns grief into a police lifeline

Canberra Times, General News, 03 Nov 2026, Zac Braxton-Smith, Page 7

The first sign that something was wrong was the sound of many car doors closing outside their house. [...] About 6000 to 8000 police officers across Australia likely suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, because of repeated exposure to violence, suffering, abuse and other distress.

View PDF Read full text

The anxiety of being a new mum

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 03 Nov 2026, Kiara Angelini, Page 12

A mum has spoken up about the "debilitating anxiety" she battled throughout her pregnancy and the first six months of motherhood, as she was consumed by the fear she might accidentally harm or drop her baby. Justine Mabey said she developed "really obsessive" thoughts during pregnancy, including an overwhelming compulsion to wash fruit and vegetables.

View PDF Read full text

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

Earlier social media use linked to poorer adolescent mental health

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Page 4

The age children first use social media may matter more to adolescent mental health than simply whether they have an account, new Australian research suggests. UNSW Sydney researchers surveyed 365 Australian adolescents aged 1015 and a parent of each child in the six weeks before Australia's social media ban took effect in December 2025.

View PDF Read full text

Who owns the record?

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Page 27

A mental health nurse sits down with a new patient for an initial assessment. A laptop on the desk is already recording and transcribing the conversation. The patient has been told, in passing, that the service uses a system to help with notes.

View PDF Read full text

ADHD, Psychosis and Treatment mentioned on Seven News at 18:32

Channel 7, Seven News, TV, 02 Nov 2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli & Will Goodings

Medical experts are warning a growing number of patients taking stimulant medication to treat ADHD are developing psychosis. with symptoms including hallucinations and paranoia. Patients who take the medication without supervision or who take more than prescribed are at high risk.

Play Now

Emotional Openness Key to Men's Mental Health

Radio National, Life Matters, AM Radio, 02 Nov 2026, Tegan Taylor

In an interview with Movember's Zac Seidler and Wednesday Waffle creator Zachary Perez about men's mental health, Seidler stated that Australian men must flex underused emotional muscles to overcome loneliness and isolation. He explained that embracing authenticity, physical touch, and affection helps break through awkwardness. He added that suicide is driven by silence and disconnection, making mutual support between friends vital for wellbeing.

Play Now

Movember Launches Mental Health Initiative in Outback

2GB, Mornings, AM Radio, 02 Nov 2026, Mark Levy

In an interview with Charlene Brennan, country director at Movember, discussion focused on the charity's mental health and suicide prevention work, including carving a 180-metre moustache into the red dirt at Mount Gibbs Station in Broken Hill as an SOS signal. Brennan noted regional suicide rates are twice as high, highlighting $17.6m dedicated to Indigenous Australian communities.

Play Now

Rising Anxiety Diagnoses Among Australian Children

2GB, Breakfast, AM Radio, 02 Nov 2026, Ben Fordham

In an interview with Sydney psychiatrist Dr Tanveer Ahmed about rising anxiety among children, he warned against over-medicalising the issue as the average age for a first diagnosis falls to 11. A survey of 700 primary school principals found over 80% consider anxiety significant in their schools. Ahmed also addressed risks linked to ADHD medication use.

Play Now

Headstart Fundraises for Men's Mental Health

3AW, Afternoons, AM Radio, 02 Nov 2026, Tony Moclair

In an interview with Nick Irving, founder of Headstart, he discussed running to raise funds for Movember to support men's mental health. Headstart aims to raise $25,000 by running one kilometre for every $100 donated. Irving explained that the organisation provides mentoring and counselling to over 120 young males across Victoria to assist with daily living and housing.

Play Now

GP Training to Diagnose ADHD Raises Concerns

ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, AM Radio, 02 Nov 2026, Hamish Macdonald

In an interview with Doctor Norman Swan from What's That Rash and the Health Report about rising ADHD diagnoses, he discussed 300 GPs completing training to diagnose the condition. Swan noted diagnosing ADHD requires lengthy consultations that GPs are not remunerated for, amid medical fraternity tensions and concerns over inappropriate prescribing risks.

Play Now

Back to top

Immunisation

Free RSV vaccine available during pregnancy

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Page 49

A free vaccine to help protect babies against Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is available for eligible pregnant women in Australia. RSV is a common virus that affects the airways and lungs and can lead to serious respiratory illnesses in newborns and infants, such as bronchiolitis and pneumonia.

View PDF Read full text

Protecting the vulnerable

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Megan Haggan

Vaccination rates are falling among those most at risk from vaccine-preventable diseases. So who are these vulnerable population groups, and what can pharmacy do to reverse these trends?

Continue reading

Back to top

Health Systems Strategies

Fears over Catholic influence in hospital

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 03 Nov 2026, Rachel Rasker, Page 1

Senior doctors at a NSW hospital have demanded the government intervene before an imminent takeover by a Catholic provider they fear will lead to widespread service cuts for cancer patients and expectant mothers. Calvary Health Care will take over 16 hospitals nationwide by the end of this month after the financial collapse of Healthscope, including four in Sydney and two in the Hunter.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: *Sydney Morning Herald*

Back to top

Health Economics & Research

Data breach sinks $50m hospital tender

Age, General News, 03 Nov 2026, Clay Lucas, Page 2

For five months, one global medical device company had an open window into its rivals' confidential pricing, in one of the largest bidding processes run by Victoria's health system every few years. Nobody noticed.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: *Sydney Morning Herald*

Back to top

First Nations Health

"My journey needs round": Lessons learnt from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander palliative care initiative

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Gage Brewer & Zena Bonney, Page 22

As a specialist palliative care nurse practitioner candidate, I attended a monthly aged care residents' meeting alongside Zena our Aboriginal Cultural Advisor to discuss how our palliative care service can support the residents' end-of-life care needs. One Elder quietly stated, "we want to be listened to when we finish up".

View PDF Read full text

Children's ear diseases outreach program receives new equipment

West Australian, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Rosa Griffith

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.

Continue reading

Also reported by: *Kalgoorlie Miner*

Queensland University of Technology alumni honoured for creating safer healthcare for mob

National Indigenous Times, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Joseph Guenzler

Torres Strait Islander nurse, health leader and academic Dr Ali Drummond has been recognised at the 2026 Queensland University of Technology Outstanding Alumni Awards for his work strengthening the Indigenous nursing and midwifery workforce. Dr Drummond, a Meriam and Erubam man of Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait) and a Wuthathi man from Far North Queensland, was honoured at a ceremony held at QUT's Gardens Point campus in Brisbane on October 29.

Continue reading

Vic Labor promise community-led healing centre if elected

National Indigenous Times, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Dechlan Brennan

Victorian Labor has committed to funding an on-Country healing centre in line with a recommendation from the state's mental health system Royal Commission. Appearing at a pre-election community event hosted by the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO), Health Minister Ingrid Stitt said the government would fund the centre if re-elected at the end of the month.

Continue reading

Calls for Holistic Public Health Child Protection

ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, FM Radio, 02 Nov 2026, Lara Stimpson

Interview with Dr Jacynta Krakouer, Aboriginal Strategy and Engagement Lead at the Australian Centre for Child Protection, about the Webb-Shanahan review into the Northern Territory child protection system. Krakouer called for a holistic public health response and greater investment in Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and allied family services, warning that current resourcing shortages leave children and families falling through cracks.

Play Now

Back to top

Public Hospital and Health Reform

Parking lot

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 03 Nov 2026, Page 16

When 18 ambulances are parked outside Townsville University Hospital with nowhere to go, leaving just three crews to cover emergencies for a city of our size, the alarm bells are deafening. The footage shared last week of our ambulances banked up outside the Emergency Department is a frightening sight for any local resident.

View PDF Read full text

'I wasn't listened to': mothers detail birth trauma

Canberra Times, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Farid Farid

Going through nearly 30 hours of excruciating labour with her first born, Nadine cried out to nurses and doctors for an epidural or a caesarean but her pleas fell on deaf ears. After the pain worsened, jeopardising the baby's survival, she was quickly wheeled in for an emergency C-section.

Continue reading

Also reported by: *West Australian*, *The Senior*, *Shepparton News Online*, *Ballarat Courier*, *The Border Mail*, *Illawarra Mercury*, *Northern Daily Leader*, *Bathurst Western Advocate*, *Warrnambool Standard*, *Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser*, *Daily Liberal*, *Newcastle Herald*

Back to top

Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Health Workforce

More than a workforce

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Natalie Dragon, Page 0

Australia's health and aged care systems increasingly rely on migrant nurses, midwives and carers to fill critical workforce gaps. Yet many continue to face barriers to recognition, career progression and belonging.

View PDF Read full text

Supporting menopause in nursing and midwifery

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Astrid S Tiefholz Rnm, Page 30

The Australian nursing and midwifery workforce is at a critical juncture. As our healthcare system faces ever increasing demand, we are simultaneously at risk of losing our most experienced clinicians to a natural biological transition that has long been shrouded in silence: menopause.

View PDF Read full text

Nurses, teachers and tradies still in short supply despite easing worker shortages across Australia

7News.com.au, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Lauren Thomson

Australia's worker shortage crisis is showing signs of easing, but employers are still struggling to fill hundreds of critical roles including tradies, teachers, nurses and childcare workers. [...] Health-related professions featured prominently among occupations where shortages have lingered for years.

Continue reading

Parties split on GP payroll tax at Victorian health debate

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Michelle Wisbey

Victorian Health Minister Ingrid Stitt has ruled out a full payroll tax exemption for general practice, despite renewed calls from the RACGP and AMA during the state's first major health election debate. The position leaves Labor at odds with the Coalition, Greens and One Nation, all of which expressed support for some form of exemption or relief for GP practices.

Continue reading

HACSU Rejects Tasmanian Government Pay Offer

ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, AM Radio, 02 Nov 2026, Leon Compton

Interview with Robbie Moore, Secretary of the Health and Community Services Union, about the Tasmanian Government's pay offer of 8.25 per cent over three years for nurses. Moore stated the offer represents a pay cut well below inflation that fails to address severe recruitment and retention issues. He confirmed the union will ballot members, who are expected to reject it.

Play Now

Tasmanian Nurses Union Responds to Pay Offer

ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, AM Radio, 02 Nov 2026, Tracey Strong

Interview with Emily Shepherd from the Nurse Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmania about the state government's 8.25 per cent pay offer to health professionals. Shepherd stated members have mixed feelings, welcoming commitments on ratios and breaks but expressing concern over wages. She warned uncompetitive pay will prompt staff to move interstate, increasing reliance on agency nurses.

Play Now

Back to top

Technology Assessment and Access

Calls to Freeze PBS Prescription Prices

2CC, Breakfast, AM Radio, 02 Nov 2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Simon Blacker, President of the ACT branch of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, about new YouGov polling showing strong public support to freeze or lower maximum Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme prescription prices. Blacker called on the government to freeze general prescription co-payments at $25 until 2030 to ensure medicines remain affordable amid rising cost-of-living pressures.

Play Now

Back to top

Medicare Benefits and Digital Health

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Benefits Integrity

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Australian CDC

Decade high flu death number

Hobart Mercury, General News, 03 Nov 2026, Rob Inglis, Page 3

Tasmania recorded a decade-high number of influenza and pneumonia deaths in 2025, attributed in part to an "atypical" flu season that saw nearly 150 people die from the respiratory diseases. The latest annual causes of death data, published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics last Tuesday, showed that flu and pneumonia had entered the top 10 leading causes of death in Tasmania for the first time since 2019, with the infections claiming 148 lives.

View PDF Read full text

Targeting hepatitis C elimination

Australian Doctor, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Alex Thompson

Australia has made major progress on hepatitis C and remains committed to eliminating it as a public health threat by 2030. Stigma and competing life priorities remain key barriers to hepatitis C testing, treatment and follow-up.

Continue reading

Late Flu Surge Hits New South Wales

Channel 9, Nine News, TV, 02 Nov 2026, Peter Overton

New South Wales has experienced a late surge in influenza infections, according to news reports. More than 15,300 cases were recorded across the state last month. The figures represent the highest October case numbers documented in the past decade.

Play Now

ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, AM Radio, 02 Nov 2026, Ross Solly

New data shows COVID-19 caused more deaths than influenza and RSV in 2024 and 25 in all jurisdictions except the ACT and Northern Territory. So far in 2026, COVID deaths exceed flu deaths in most jurisdictions, while the ACT has recorded five COVID deaths compared with seven from flu and the NT none.

Play Now

Back to top

Therapeutic Goods Administration

Heidi Health goes to war with rival GP software giant over AI plans

Australian Financial Review, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Emma Rapaport

A bitter turf war between two of the country's biggest health technology businesses is threatening the rollout of an artificial intelligence-powered platform that is a key part of Heidi Health's growth plans.

Continue reading

Some AI scribes may be devices

Pharmacy Daily, Internet, 02 Nov 2026

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has been taking a closer look at digital scribes to determine whether they may meet the definition of a medical device, with many products likely crossing that line. Features that analyse clinical information, identify relevant findings and produce recommendations or other outputs that could influence diagnosis or treatment – as many of these AI products do – would generally be regulated as medical devices.

Continue reading

Unapproved nicotine gum warning

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Ajp Staff

Consumers are being urged not to use unregistered nicotine chewing gum, following enforcement action by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). The regulator warned that consumers "cannot be confident" that the products "contain the ingredients or amount of nicotine stated This content is restricted to registered users only.

Continue reading

Also reported by: ***Pharmacy Daily***

Inside Richard Norton's final hours: How the actor kept peptide treatment secret from his closest mate before sudden collapse - and the search for answers at his funeral

Daily Mail UK, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Jonica Bray

Fresh details have emerged about the peptide-related death of actor and martial arts legend Richard Norton, who collapsed in front of his devoted wife of 32 years. [...] Mr Ryan found the fatal reaction followed Norton's use of the peptides at doses exceeding those prescribed and recommended that the Therapeutic Goods Administration consider whether further restrictions should be imposed on substances such as CJC1295 and ipamorelin.

Continue reading

Supporting MedTech Innovation in Australia: The Role of the Therapeutic Goods Administration

Medical Journal of Australia, Internet, 02 Nov 2026

Australia has recognised strengths in MedTech, yet pivotal trials and first approvals (including for Australian-origin devices) often occur offshore. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is well-

positioned to further support local innovation while maintaining confidence in the medical devices approved for use by shifting effort earlier in development.

Continue reading

Support Urged for Weight Loss Medications

3AW, Mornings, AM Radio, 02 Nov 2026, Tom Elliott

Interview with CEO of AUSactive Ken Griffin about weight loss medications such as Ozempic. Griffin stated people using these drugs should be supported rather than dismissed as taking an easy route. He noted the medicines are not on the PBS and warned that patients need weight-bearing exercise and nutritional support to prevent muscle loss and weaker bones.

Play Now

Young Australian starts awareness campaign on nitrous oxide abuse

Daily Mail UK, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Kylie Stevens

A young Aussie whose nitrous oxide addiction saw him sell his clothes on the street and triggered a drug-induced psychosis is warning others about its dangers after a rapid spiral that saw him hit rock bottom. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is considering strict proposals to re-classify non-therapeutic nitrous oxide, which could see larger tanks imported from overseas being intercepted by customs.

Continue reading

Back to top

Office of Drug Control

Sydney did it first. Should the ACT open its own safe-injecting facilities to reduce drug harm?

Canberra Times, Internet, 02 Nov 2026, Jasper Lindell

For more than 30 years, they have gathered to remember. At an emotionally charged ceremony, people whose lives have been cut unnecessarily short by drugs are remembered in Canberra by the family and friends who loved and miss them.

Continue reading

Back to top

Food Standards

Social media sushi risk

Herald Sun, General News, 03 Nov 2026, Page 16

Ahead of Australian Food Safety Week, from 7 to 14 November, new research shows 60 per cent of Aussies consume raw fish or seafood, and 17 per cent do at least once a week, and not all of it is considered safe.

The Food Safety Information Council research showed that 68 per cent of those surveyed usually bought their raw fish dishes from a sushi bar, 40 per cent from a cafe or restaurant and 32 per cent pre-made from a supermarket or fishmonger.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: *Cairns Post*

Back to top

AICIS

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

isentia

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