

Australian Government
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 4 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

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Executive Summary

- **The Australian** (page 7) and **Australian Financial Review** (page 3) lead coverage reporting that the TGA has approved a daily oral version of Novo Nordisk's Wegovy for weight management and reducing cardiovascular risks, although its Australian release date and price remain unclear. *Also reported by: ABC Online, The West Australian, NEWS.com.au*
- The **Canberra Times** (page 6) reports that Finance Minister Katy Gallagher is considering savings across government ahead of next month's budget update but defended spending on Medicare urgent care clinics, GP bulk-billing incentives and cheaper PBS medicines.

- **Pharmacy Daily** (page 2) reports that the PBS has expanded access to Trikafta granules for children aged six to 11 with cystic fibrosis, with Health Minister Mark Butler saying the new formulation will make the medicine easier for young children to take.
- The **Courier Mail** (page 4) reports that $517 million allocated to residential aged care went unspent last year because increased demand for home care slowed growth in residential care occupancy, health department officials told a Senate estimates hearing. *Also reported by: The Weekly Source*
- The **Adelaide Advertiser** (page 4) reports that federal investigators have conducted 26 raids across Australia as part of investigations into alleged welfare and NDIS fraud worth up to $235 million, with an NDIA employee charged over the alleged unauthorised disclosure of participant records.
- The **Hobart Mercury** (page 13) reports that the Federal Government will give Tasmania $4.5 million to strengthen enforcement against illicit tobacco and vaping products, with Customs Assistant Minister Julian Hill saying the funding will support compliance, intelligence sharing and the seizure and disposal of illegal goods.
- The **National Indigenous Times** (online) reports that the Federal Government has committed to closing the eye health gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Australians by 2035, with Fred Hollows Foundation chief executive Ross Piper calling for sustained investment and Indigenous leadership.
- The **Courier Mail** (page 2) reports that the Together Queensland union has asked Health Minister Tim Nicholls to intervene over Mater's planned closure of pathology services, saying workers have not been given adequate redeployment opportunities with the new provider. *Also reported by: The Guardian*
- **7News.com.au** reports that Coca-Cola Europacific Partners Australia has recalled five Pump bottled water products over a faulty sipper that could become dislodged and pose a choking hazard, with Food Standards Australia New Zealand warning consumers not to drink affected products.
- **The Australian** (online) reports on the significant disparity in federal research funding, with dementia allocated $39.7 million in 2025 compared to $186 million for cancer, despite being Australia's leading cause of death.

Minister Butler

Wegovy diet drug now sold as a pill

The Australian, General News, 04 Nov 2026, Penny Timms, Page 7

Australia's drug regulator has approved an oral version of a popular weight-loss injectable medication in a move expected to rapidly transform obesity care and improve patient access. [...] None of the many approved GLP-1 medications is subsidised for weight loss in Australia despite efforts to make that happen and the Health Minister saying they "must" be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for some people.

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Also reported by: *The Australian*

New PBS listing for cystic fibrosis

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 03 Nov 2026, Page 2

Children with cystic fibrosis now have access to a new treatment option, through an expanded PBS listing of elexacaftor, tezacaftor and ivacaftor, and ivacaftor (Trikafta, Vertex) to allow eligible children aged six to 11 years living with cystic fibrosis who weigh less than 30 kg to access a granule form of the medicine. "The expanded listing of Trikafta in granule form will mean thousands of young children with cystic fibrosis will

find it easier take their medicine, if they have struggled to take a pill," explained Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler.

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Also reported by: *Pharmacy Daily*

Ed's note: fighting for your rights

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Desiree Savage, Page 3

As this issue goes to print, the state of how older Australians are being treated is still far from ideal. Health Minister Mark Butler is continuing to push a plan to downgrade health insurance rebates for over 65s, despite it being thrown out of the Senate mid-October.

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Also reported by: *The Senior - QLD*, *The Senior - SA*, *The Senior - TAS*, *The Senior - VIC*, *The Senior - WA*

Voters blame Labor for high inflation

Capital Brief, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Matthew Franklin, Katina Curtis & Zac de Silva

New polling shows nearly half of Australians believe the Albanese government has stoked inflation through excessive spending. [...] The government has resisted quantifying how much the three-month delay to NDIS reforms reduced its planned $37.8 billion in savings, but Health Minister Mark Butler has repeatedly put the figure at a couple of hundred million dollars.

Continue reading

On private health insurance, it's well past time for some real reform

Croakey, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Charles Maskell-Knight

Private health insurance has been in the news a lot recently, as lobby groups representing insurers and older people persuaded the Senate to drop legislation implementing the Government's budget decision to align the premium rebate paid to people aged 65 and over with the rebate paid to younger people on the same income. [...] Within a day, Health Minister Mark Butler reintroduced the same legislation in the House.

Continue reading

Queensland Health Minister Criticises Mark Butler

Radio National, 12:00 News, AM Radio, 03 Nov 2026

Queensland's health minister has called on the federal government to address Medicare rebates following 400 pathology job cuts at Brisbane's Mater Health over the next 18 months. Tim Nicholls stated that federal counterpart Mark Butler has repeatedly failed to tackle the growing funding gap impacting hospitals and patient care, despite being confronted at meetings over the past year.

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Queensland Health Minister Urges Federal Funding Boost

ABC Gold Coast, Drive, FM Radio, 03 Nov 2026, Bern Young

Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls has demanded that the federal government increase Medicare rebates following major job cuts in Brisbane. Private provider Mater Health will outsource pathology

services, cutting 400 staff over 18 months due to inadequate Commonwealth funding. Nicholls stated that his federal counterpart, Mark Butler, has repeatedly failed to address the issue.

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Minister McAllister

NT News Territory Leader of the Year brought to you by Sitzler 2026 finalists

Daily Telegraph Australia, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Melanie Plane

From titans of business to those who are just starting out 32 incredible finalists have been selected for the 2026 NT News Territory Leader of the Year awards. [...] He took his findings to a Senate committee, the National Disability Summit, and NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister and Commissioner Louise Glanville and the Commonwealth has since announced new measures for remote communities.

Continue reading

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

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Minister Rae

'Waiting for people to die'

The Senior - QLD, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Phoebe Loomes, Page 17

A carer has called on the federal government to ditch a controversial algorithm which determines funding levels for older people receiving aged care at home, saying the system has left her feeling "helpless and angry". [...] McCabe has launched a petition (details below) urging Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae to scrap its algorithm-based assessment process and reinstate medically qualified professionals to make and oversee funding assessments.

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Also reported by: *The Senior - NSW*, *The Senior - SA*, *The Senior - TAS*, *The Senior - VIC*

Fixing aged care: There is still more to do

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Alana Ginniva, Page 6

One of the things I value most about my role is hearing directly from members. [...] Members met with the Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, the Hon Sam Rae, as well as health advisers and parliamentary representatives, to share their firsthand experiences of working in aged care and the challenges that remain despite recent reforms.

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Assistant Minister McBride

No relevant coverage.

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Assistant Minister White

Women's health concerns persist – advocates call for action

Nursing Review, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Stefanie Schultz

The first public hearing of the Senate's Select Committee on Women's Health has reignited concerns that women's experiences of pain, infertility and birth trauma are being documented without meaningful action. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Ageing Rebecca White said it was important to hear directly from women and families about their healthcare experiences.

Continue reading

Dual Screening for Breast and Heart Disease

Channel 7, Sunrise 5AM News, TV, 03 Nov 2026, Edwina Bartholomew

Researchers have developed an artificial intelligence algorithm analysing routine mammograms to assess women's risk of heart disease alongside breast cancer screening. Professor Clare Arnott highlighted that the process requires only age and standard scans without extra blood tests. Minister Rebecca White confirmed she will consider the next steps regarding implementation.

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Special Envoy Repacholi

MPs granting powerful political lobbyists unfettered access to Australia's parliament, data reveals

The Guardian, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Tom McIlroy

Labor and Coalition MPs are facilitating permanent access to Parliament House for the country's biggest resources companies and the lobby group representing online gambling giants, new data has revealed. [...] Powerful lobby group the Pharmacy Guild has two sponsored passes, signed by Labor's Gordon Reid, Anne Urquhart, Repacholi and Josh Dolega.

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Also reported by: ***MSN Australia***

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Department

Aged care funds lapse

Courier Mail, General News, 04 Nov 2026, Page 4

More than half a billion dollars set aside for residential aged care went unspent by the Albanese government last year and now risks being returned to government coffers. [...] Health department officials told a Senate estimates hearing that surging demand for in-home care meant occupancy rates in residential care, which has supply challenges, had not grown as fast as budgeted, leaving $517m unspent.

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Also reported by: *Adelaide Advertiser*, *Hobart Mercury*, *Northern Territory News*, *Cairns Post*, *Geelong Advertiser*, *Toowoomba Chronicle*, *Gold Coast Bulletin*, *Townsville Bulletin*

Staying active as you age

Plains Producer, General News, 04 Nov 2026, Page 36

Growing older does not mean slowing down completely. [...] According to the Australian Government, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, regular physical activity, less time spent sitting and adequate sleep all contribute to healthier ageing.

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Fewer than expected are entering residential aged care - why?

The Weekly Source, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Caroline Egan

The number of people in residential aged care grew 3,858 in 2025-26, well below expectations.[...] Department projections put new beds for the current year at 4,000, raising the "prospect of stronger bed growth this year", said Tim.

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Ageing and Aged Care

Decades-old pension rule may cost you

The Senior - SA, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Phoebe Loomes, Page 11

Experts are calling for a review of a decades-old age pension rule which penalises older Australians for gifting more than $10,000 to family, friends or charity. With average house prices quadrupling over the past two decades, more grandparents are looking for ways to help their families, said Dr Brendan Radford from National Seniors Australia.

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Also reported by: *The Senior - NSW*, *The Senior - QLD*, *The Senior - TAS*, *The Senior - VIC*

Dementia rehab program helping people live well for longer at home

The Australian, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Penny Timms

Diane and Misha Siljanovic playfully joke with each other as they reminisce about years of the past. [...] However, without major work to reduce cases and to educate patients and the community about how to care for people with the disease, there is a real risk the nation's aged care system will come under even more pressure in the years ahead.

Continue reading

Dementia risks becoming the forgotten disease without urgent action

The Australian, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Louise Bryant

For the first time, dementia accounts for one in 10 deaths in Australia and remains our leading cause of death. [...] In May, the Australian government announced $22.9m in Medical Research Future Fund grants for eight projects aimed at improving dementia prevention, treatment, quality of life and care as people age.

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State Labor Minister's attack on the Govt over aged care underspend

The Weekly Source, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Caroline Egan

Ambulances were ramped outside Western Australian hospitals for 6,419 hours in October, the equivalent of nearly 270 days and a record high for the month. "The Federal Government admitted that it under-spent its aged care budget by $1.4 billion," said the state's Aged Care Minister, Simone McGurk. Of that total, $570 million was an underspent on residential aged care.

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Dementia Becomes Leading Cause of Death

ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, AM Radio, 03 Nov 2026, Rory Mcclaren

In an interview with Barbra Williams, Director of Client Services at Dementia Australia, Williams discussed dementia becoming Australia's leading cause of death, accounting for over ten percent of fatalities. Williams called for increased investment in support services and risk reduction, warning that without intervention, cases could exceed one million within forty years. She also stressed the need to address community stigma.

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Interview continues on:: *ABC Radio Adelaide*

Aged Care Funding Pressures in South Australia

ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, AM Radio, 03 Nov 2026, Rory Mcclaren

Interview with Eldercare Chief Executive and SA Director of Ageing Australia, Jane Pickering, about addressing hospital bed-blocking and aged care viability. Ahead of a workshop with South Australian Health Minister Blair Boyer, Pickering called for structural federal funding reforms. She noted facilities are operating at full capacity while facing unsustainable daily losses due to rising wage and consumable costs.

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Aged Care Reforms Need Significant Changes

FIVEAA, Mornings, AM Radio, 03 Nov 2026, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Aged Care Reform Specialist Penny Feilding about the effectiveness of recent aged care reforms. Feilding stated that the changes require adjustment as waitlists have grown, leaving 100,000 people waiting for assessment. She called on the government to reduce provider red tape and replace automated assessment algorithms with more human-based evaluations by skilled aged care workers.

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Aged Care Crisis Addressed in SA

Channel 9, Nine News, TV, 03 Nov 2026, Brenton Ragless

Industry leaders have met to address the aged care crisis in South Australia, focusing on 500 aged care patients currently occupying hospital beds due to a lack of aged care placements. Eldercare's Jane Pickering warned the financially unsustainable system requires structural reform, while the opposition called on the government to deliver concrete commitments from the discussions.

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Disability and Carers

SA in alleged NDIS rort sting

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04 Nov 2026, Julie Cross & Jacinta Round, Page 4

Federal investigators have smashed an alleged web of welfare and NDIS rorts worth up to $235m, seizing cash, gold and jewellery across 26 property raids including one in Parkside across the country. The seven individual fraud investigations, operating under the umbrella name Operation Integrity Fusion, spanned Melbourne, Sydney, the NSW Central Coast, Adelaide and regional Queensland, with more than 250 police and Commonwealth agency officers involved.

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Also reported by: *Daily Telegraph*, *Courier Mail*

Putting health at heart of region

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 04 Nov 2026, Zoe De Koning, Page 21

Hundreds of personal injury and disability sector leaders have gathered for a major conference in Geelong exploring new approaches to improving outcomes for injured people. The Personal Injury Education Foundation (PIEF) held its annual conference and awards ceremony at the Nyaal Banyul Geelong Convention and Event Centre last week.

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$1m NDIS scammer Richard John Kennedy also guilty of insurance fraud and selling stolen car

Adelaide Now, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, David Southwell & Janine Watson

A man who along with three other conspirators was part of a $1 million scheme to scam the NDIS, faces additional jail time for separate offences of disposing of a stolen vehicle and defrauding an insurer. South West Rocks man Richard John Kennedy, 37, will be sentenced on December 11 after pleading guilty to the two latter offences at Kempsey Local Court on September 7.

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Also reported by: *The Courier Mail*, *The Mercury*, *Northern Territory News*, *Cairns Post*, *Townsville Bulletin*

Government will play 'helpful role' on inflation but not at fault, Jim Chalmers says

ABC Online, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Tom Crowley

Treasurer Jim Chalmers has again denied his budget is the cause of persistent inflation, after the Reserve Bank raised interest rates for the fifth time this year. [...] The largest single category of savings by far under the Albanese government has been to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), with $36 billion saved over four years in the May budget alone.

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Ditching the shame as a sex worker living with a disability

ABC Online, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Hilary Caldwell

In my unconventional body, I chose unconventional work — sex work. [...] For me, sex work brought financial independence despite remaining single and being refused NDIS.

Continue reading

What public servants say about AI use in government

The Mandarin, Internet, 03 Nov 2026

It's difficult to ignore surveys that deliver arresting quantitative results. [...] “AI is being considered in service delivery as part of assessments for participants on the NDIS scheme, however, there is a lot of controversy around this, especially after the robodebt saga."

Continue reading

Tim Wilson Calls for Action on NDIS Fraud

ABC, News Breakfast, TV, 03 Nov 2026, James Glenday & Emma Reballato

In an interview with Shadow Treasurer Tim Wilson about government spending and inflation, he stated that major areas such as the National Disability Insurance Scheme are not the opposition's focus for cuts. However, Wilson argued the government must tackle fraud and corruption within the NDIS, which he said diverts taxpayer money to dishonest interests and fuels inflation.

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Tim Wilson Criticises Government NDIS Spending

ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, TV, 03 Nov 2026, Patricia Karvelas

In an interview with Shadow Treasurer Tim Wilson, he questioned the government's commitment to delivering $50 billion worth of cuts to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Wilson stated that waste, fraud and corruption within the scheme must be targeted, claiming auditors doubt the government's

rhetoric will be delivered. He also accused government spending of driving inflation and higher interest rates.

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Gallagher Defends Funding for Healthcare Services

ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, AM Radio, 03 Nov 2026, Ross Solly

In an interview with Senator Katy Gallagher about federal budget pressures, she stated that the government must balance finding savings with funding essential services. Gallagher emphasised that the public expects access to bulk billing doctors, Medicare urgent care clinics, and cheaper medicines. She noted that savings must be delivered across programmes to ensure funding for critical services.

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Primary Care

Pharmacists to get extra healing power

Daily Telegraph, General News, 04 Nov 2026, Joanne Vella, Page 14

Chris Minns has defended his healthcare changes that will empower pharmacists to dispense medications for complex conditions such as high blood pressure and some lung conditions, despite medical bodies, including the Australian Medical Association, calling for a pause on the plans so they can undergo "rigorous scrutiny". Speaking at Westmead Hospital yesterday, the Premier said the decision to make the changes was not taken lightly.

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Also reported by: *Newcastle Herald*, *Adelaide Now*, *West Australian*, *Canberra Times*, *Australian Journal of Pharmacy*, *Pharmacy Daily*

Veterans finally get say

West Australian, General News, 04 Nov 2026, Page 9

Australian veterans are at odds with Canberra on a growing list of issues, but will soon have more power in their corner. First, there was a proposed $5000 cap on allied health payments for ex-defence personnel, which Labor was forced to dump in September amid uproar.

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Also reported by: *Canberra Times*, *The Border Mail*, *Warrnambool Standard*, *Newcastle Herald*, *The Mandarin*

'Difficult': Gallagher hints at APS spending cuts

Canberra Times, General News, 04 Nov 2026, Dana Daniel, Page 6

Finance and Public Service Minister Katy Gallagher has hinted at APS spending cuts in the Albanese government's mid-year budget update next month. [...] But she defended the government's federal budget expenditure on programs it regarded as essential, such as Medicare urgent care clinics, boosting GP bulk-billing incentives, making PBS medicines cheaper, indexing pensions and welfare payments and tax cuts.

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Contraceptive choice fears

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04 Nov 2026, Page 11

Doctors are questioning claims that expanding pharmacy trials for contraception prescriptions will provide more choice for women. The federal government says its 12-month pilot could help an estimated 900,000 women initiate or resupply hormonal contraception.

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Also reported by: *Cairns Post*, *Townsville Bulletin*

GP at risk of closure as it battles to secure financial aid from shire

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 04 Nov 2026, Rosa Griffith, Page 1

Norseman's long-serving GP and the Shire of Dundas remain at loggerheads over whether local governments should step up to fund primary health services, with the town's medical practice now risking closure as it struggles to self-fund. Ft Graham Rowlands told the Kalgoorlie Miner it was becoming difficult to operate the Norseman General Practice out of his own pocket through additional weekend work, making a recent appeal for the council to re-initiate funding after it was removed in 2023.

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Medicare review risks sidelining nurse practitioners, ACN warns

Nursing Review, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Stefanie Schultz

A review of Australia's Medicare system has prompted fresh concerns that nurse practitioners (NPs) could be left on the sidelines of primary care reform, despite the federal government's efforts to expand the profession and remove barriers to practice. The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) has welcomed draft recommendations from the Medicare Benefits Schedule Review Advisory Committee to extend Medicare bulk-billing incentives to NP consultations for the first time.

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Patients' GLP-1 use going unreported

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Morgan Liotta

More patients are keeping quiet to their regular GP about using GLP-1s, as one expert warns of telehealth-only services facilitating easy access but also presenting increased risks to continuity of care and serious conditions such as eating disorders. A recent newsGP poll found 52% of respondents have discovered a patient has previously failed to disclose their use of GLP-1 medicines to them as their usual GP.

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GPs urged to bring frontline expertise to health boardrooms

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Michelle Wisbey

For RACGP Victoria Chair Dr Anita Muñoz, having more GPs in boardrooms is 'certainly something to aspire to'. 'It's absolutely necessary for GPs to be serving on boards, not only in the not-for-profit sector, but in the for-profit sector, because GPs have a huge number of transferrable skills,' she told newsGP.

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RACGP President Discusses Iron Deficiency Treatments

Channel 7, Sunrise, TV, 03 Nov 2026, Monique Wright & Matt Shirvington

In an interview with President of the Royal Australian College of GPs, Dr Michael Wright, about iron deficiency and treatments, he stated that low iron affects around one in five women. He explained that iron infusions are indicated when dietary changes and oral supplements fail, noting new formulations can be administered in GP surgeries but carry out-of-pocket costs without Medicare coverage.

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Gallagher Highlights Primary Care Cost Relief

ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, TV, 03 Nov 2026, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Finance Minister Katy Gallagher about budget pressures and cost of living relief. Gallagher highlighted government investments in primary care, pointing to permanent assistance delivered through Medicare bulk billing and Medicare urgent care clinics. She noted Mark Butler recently reported an increase of 4,000 bulk billing GP clinics across Australia resulting from government funding.

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ACT AMA President Discusses AI in Consultations

ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, AM Radio, 03 Nov 2026, Saskia Mabin

Interview with Dr Betty Ge, president of the ACT Australian Medical Association, about the impact of artificial intelligence in medical consultations. She stated that while patients increasingly bring AI diagnoses to appointments, the technology should act as an informational sounding board rather than replace physicians. She added that doctors commonly use ambient AI solely for note-taking.

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Medical Groups Oppose Pharmacy Prescribing Expansion

ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, AM Radio, 03 Nov 2026, Thomas Oriti

Interview with Fred Beatros, president of the New South Wales branch of the Australian Medical Association, regarding government plans allowing pharmacists to prescribe common drugs. Beatros stated patient care could be compromised by inexperienced prescribing and a lack of reporting back to doctors. Oriti say five medical organisations, including the Royal College of GPs, are calling to pause the reforms.

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Population Health

Rate rise fuels charity push to land $1b funding

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 04 Nov 2026, Jessica Mcsweeney, Page 9

Frontline domestic violence, homelessness and mental health service providers are demanding a $1 billion pre-election funding commitment from the state government as they anticipate the interest rate hike to further strain community groups already overrun with calls for help. [...] Reducing wait times for help is one of the core goals of the campaign. Domestic Violence NSW reports waitlists regularly exceed three months, while the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found an average of 31 requests for emergency accommodation were going unassisted every day in NSW.

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Tassie mums' early exit

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04 Nov 2026, Olivia Shying & Sharanpreet Singh, Page 7

Women who give birth at Tasmania's two largest hospitals are being discharged more than a day earlier than those who had babies 13 years ago. An exclusive analysis of length-of-stay data at more than 600 hospitals across Australia found that over the past decade, average stays for caesarean deliveries dropped substantially from 4 days in 2011-12 to 2.8 days at the Launceston General Hospital and 2.9 days at the Royal Hobart Hospital in 2024-25.

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$4.5M to ash illegal smokes

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04 Nov 2026, David Killick, Page 13

The federal government will give Tasmania $4.5m to help expand the fight against illicit tobacco and e-cigarettes. Customs Assistant Minister Julian Hill said the funding would support stronger compliance and enforcement, improved information and intelligence sharing, and enhanced transport, storage and disposal capability for illicit vaping goods.

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Routine blood test gave answers for dismissed symptoms

Launceston Examiner, General News, 04 Nov 2026, Lauren Richardson, Page 3

A doctor's visit saved Linda Holdaway's liver, but she said the rare disease can be "pretty lonely". In 2023, Ms Holdaway saw her regular doctor to get a script renewed.

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Also reported by: *Burnie Advocate*

Extra help to prevent heart attacks

The Senior - TAS, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Phoebe Loomes, Page 9

A GROWING body of research suggests vaccinations may have "off-target" benefits and help prevent serious conditions like dementia, strokes and heart attacks. The shingles vaccine was recently found to reduce the risk of dementia by up to 20 per cent in a large study of more than 280,000 older people.

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Also reported by: *The Senior - VIC*, *The Senior - WA*

‘Nang' addiction led Sam to psychosis. Now he wants Queensland laws to change

Sydney Morning Herald, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Courtney Kruk

Sam Bramman thought he was experimenting with a harmless party drug the first time he cracked open a small silver canister and inhaled nitrous oxide. The high from the bulb, recreationally known as "nangs" or "laughing gas", was fleeting: a 30-second rush that ended nearly as quickly as it began.

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Lawmakers hit back in legal fight over social media ban

Canberra Times, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Annika Rhoades

Online harms on children will be highlighted by government lawyers as they fight a High Court challenge to Australia's world-first under 16s social media ban. The hearing before all seven justices began at the High Court on Tuesday, with Reddit barrister Perry Herzfeld SC arguing the government's ban was "ill-targeted" and "over-broad", rejecting the US-based social media giant's inclusion as a banned platform.

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

Tobacco kingpin Kazem Hamad's crime empire erupts into civil war

ABC Online, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Olivia Jenkins & Danny Tran

Jailed Iraqi crime lord Kazem "Kaz" Hamad appears to be losing control of his criminal empire as a bloody coup unfolds at every level of his international syndicate. The ABC can reveal infighting has broken out because Ali al-Huseini, a key lieutenant, has embarked on an ambitious plan to seize control of the cartel's army of dedicated foot soldiers and billions of dollars in illicit profits.

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'Blood on the path': teen injuries surge amid growing popularity of e-bikes and e-scooters

Illawarra Mercury, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Natalie Croxon

Bob Le Febvre recalls a day earlier this year when he and his wife came to the aid of a girl who needed urgent attention after falling off an e-bike in Wollongong's northern suburbs. The girl was on the back of an e-bike controlled by another teenager who'd slipped on the dew-covered grass near McCauley's Beach in Thirroul.

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Election dental pledges welcome, but those in greatest need must come first

Bite Magazine, Internet, 03 Nov 2026

ADAVB has welcomed the Labor Government's updated commitment to structural, ongoing investment in dental care; expanded regional reach and regional relocation support. Opening free dental care to all Victorians is a significant and untested model but ADAVC warns that expanding access must not further lengthen already long waiting times for people already in the system, reduce the number of dentists in areas of greatest need, or result in publicly eligible and underserved populations paying fees while others receive care for free.

Continue reading

Commonwealth Funds Tasmanian Illicit Tobacco Crackdown

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, AM Radio, 03 Nov 2026, Lucy Breaden/Kylie Baxter

Interview with Assistant Minister for Citizenship, Customs and Multicultural Affairs Julian Hill about Commonwealth funding to tackle illegal tobacco and vapes. Hill stated $4.5 million provided to Tasmania will fund trained enforcement officers and the storage and destruction of seized goods. He urged state authorities to shut down illicit retailers and rejected Coalition proposals to cut tobacco excise.

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Chronic Conditions and Screening

Exercise key to recovery

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 04 Nov 2026, Page 4

A new Adelaide University program is making tailored exercise more affordable and accessible for people with cancer. Led by final-year clinical exercise physiology students, participants of the new My Cancer Exercise Program receive individually tailored exercise sessions through small-group classes of up to five people.

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Also reported by: *Courier Mail*, *Hobart Mercury*

Beating his terminal news

The Senior - TAS, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Phoebe Loomes, Page 5

Retired show horse trainer Norman Stibbard had been given three months left to live, as he struggled to eat or walk more than a few metres. But the grandfather from Helensburgh, in the NSW Illawarra region, has defied the odds without getting a heart transplant.

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Also reported by: *The Senior - NSW*, *The Senior - QLD*, *The Senior - SA*, *The Senior - VIC*, *The Senior - WA*

A 'tingles' deadly warning

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Phoebe Loomes, Page 6

Retired small business owner Phil Neven and his wife Robin were both diagnosed with the same cancer but months apart, with just a tingle in the tummy as an early warning sign. Phil cannot remember feeling unwell, except for a small tickle in his abdomen, and was the first to be diagnosed with bladder cancer.

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Also reported by: *The Senior - NSW*, *The Senior - SA*, *The Senior - QLD*, *The Senior - TAS*, *The Senior - WA*

Solo journey past the pain

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Anna Houlahan, Page 8

When Adam Borg left Melbourne for a month-long solo road trip up the east coast of Australia, he thought it would be his last one. At 54, chronic neck pain meant that every kilometre driven and every night spent sleeping on a hard cot was a battle.

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Also reported by: *The Senior - NSW*, *The Senior - SA*

Best brain training apps backed by evidence

The Senior - SA, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Page 9

Dementia Australia's Barbra Williams said while we can't change genetics, looking after our broader brain health is beneficial. "Reducing the risk of dementia not only increases the number of healthy years of life, in many cases it also supports people diagnosed with dementia to live ...for longer," Williams said.

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Also reported by: *The Senior - NSW*

BreastScreen SA joins low-flying plane trend hours after deadly Florida jet crash

Daily Telegraph Australia, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Ryan Kirley

An online social media trend has taken a dark turn as organisations continue to post videos about a "low plane" just hours after nine people were killed in a plane crash in Florida. [...] A BreastScreen SA spokeswoman said the organisation “apologised for any unintended offence this caused”.

Continue reading

Also reported by: *The Mercury*, *Gold Coast Bulletin*

What is it like to administer the liquid used for voluntary assisted dying? This nurse reflects

Canberra Times, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Steve Evans

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.

Continue reading

One year since voluntary assisted dying came into effect in ACT

ABC Online, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Annabel Whitehouse

This time last year, Anthea Smith picked up the phone to get her husband access to voluntary assisted dying. The pair were high school sweethearts and had been together for more than three decades.

Continue reading

Why the temperature of your food and drink could be the key to everything from lowering your cancer risk to losing weight. Experts reveal how to adjust your diet

Daily Mail UK, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Laura Stott

We all know the importance of a balanced diet, but could the temperature of our food and drink matter just as much? Evidence from a study of nearly a million people would suggest so.

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CGM subsidy extended for Type 3C diabetes, but Type 2 decision deferred

Retail Pharmacy, Internet, 03 Nov 2026

Australians living with Type 3C diabetes are a step closer to subsidised continuous glucose monitors (CGM), while those with insulin-dependent Type 2 diabetes must wait until next year for a decision. The Medical Services Advisory Council (MSAC), which advises the government on funding health services and

technologies, on Monday (26 October) endorsed extending subsidised CGM access to people with Type 3C diabetes.

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Experts Discuss Stroke Signs and Early Treatment

ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, AM Radio, 03 Nov 2026, Leon Compton

Interview with Menzies stroke researcher Dr Serah Kalpakavadi and Menzies cardiovascular research flagship leader Professor Seana Gall about recognising stroke symptoms and responding quickly. The researchers highlighted the FAST acronym to identify signs like facial drooping and slurred speech, emphasising that rapid hospital access ensures critical treatments like clot-busting medication or surgery can restore blood flow.

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Blood Cancer Survivor Highlights Vital Blood Donations

ABC Radio Melbourne, Breakfast, AM Radio, 03 Nov 2026, Bob Murphy & Richelle Hunt

Interview with Melbourne blood cancer survivor Aura Mora about the vital importance of blood, platelet, and stem cell donations for cancer patients. Mora noted that according to Australian Trust Red, 34 per cent of blood products support people surviving cancer or undergoing chemotherapy. Having received 22 blood and 20 platelet transfusions, she urged Australians to donate.

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Concerns Over Calvary Healthcare Restricting Assisted Dying

ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, AM Radio, 03 Nov 2026, Craig Reucassel

Interview with Dr Linda Swan, CEO of Go Gentle Australia, about concerns that Calvary Healthcare's takeover of 16 hospitals across Australia will restrict voluntary assisted dying. Swan stated that Calvary follows a Catholic ethics framework banning assisted dying on-site, forcing transfers for dying patients. She called for hospital accreditation rules or legislation to mandate facilitation of the service.

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ACT Voluntary Assisted Dying Report Released

2CC, Canberra Live, AM Radio, 03 Nov 2026, Leon Delaney

In an interview with Dr Marisa Paterson, ACT Health Minister and Mental Health, she said the Voluntary Assisted Dying Oversight Board's annual report identified no systemic issues after one year of the scheme operating in the ACT. She noted the Attorney General is advocating to the Federal Government to permit Telehealth access, while a citizens' jury process will examine lost capacity scenarios next year.

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Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

How to create a ‘vaccine for mental health'

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Morgan Liotta

A new project examines how building resilience from the ground up can prevent mental health conditions in adolescence and beyond. Raising Superheroes looks at how families, schools and communities around the world are helping children, to thrive, including at Goodlettsville Elementary School in Tennessee, United States.

Continue reading

Experts Warn of Psychosis Linked to ADHD Stimulants

Channel 7, Seven News, TV, 02 Nov 2026, Tim McMillan & Angela Tsun

Medical experts are warning that an increasing number of patients using stimulant medication for ADHD are experiencing psychosis. Reported symptoms include paranoia and hallucinations. The risk is considered particularly high for individuals who consume more than their prescribed dose or use the medication without proper medical supervision.

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Calls for Improved Workplace Grief Supports

Radio National, Life Matters, AM Radio, 03 Nov 2026, Hilary Harper & Beverley Wang

In an interview with Grief Australia CEO Christopher Hall and advocate Carla Lennox, Hall called for better workplace support and nationwide access to specialised bereavement counselling. He noted roughly 170,000 Australians annually risk prolonged grief disorder, which increases mental health service use. Lennox shared her personal experience, emphasising that standard bereavement leave and assistance programmes are insufficient.

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High Court Challenge to Under-16 Social Ban

ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, AM Radio, 03 Nov 2026, Craig Reucassel

In an interview with Libertarian MP John Ruddick, leader of the Digital Freedom Project, he discussed the High Court challenge against Australia's social media ban for under-16s. Ruddick rejected claims that platforms fuel mental health harms, contending youth suicide rates have dropped since social media's advent. The legal challenge is being heard alongside a similar case by Reddit.

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Immunisation

Meningococcal B cases rise in South Australia

FIVEAA, Mornings, AM Radio, 03 Nov 2026, Graeme Goodings

In an interview with Dr Emily Kirkpatrick, discussion focused on rising meningococcal B cases, with SA Health data recording 22 infections in South Australia so far this year compared to about 16 last year. Kirkpatrick urged vaccination, highlighting the Bexsero vaccine for children and adolescents, as well as the ACYW vaccine, advising people to consult their GP.

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Health Systems Strategies

What I should have told the doorknocker about Minns

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 04 Nov 2026, Jenna Price, Page 19

I'm in the middle of mountains of post-holiday laundry when my beloved calls me so insistently I assume he's having a medical episode. Midway down the stairs, arms full of unfolded undies and unpaired socks, I hear what he's actually saying.

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Also reported by: *Sydney Morning Herald*

Anger as Mater staff left in limbo

Courier Mail, General News, 04 Nov 2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 2

Together Queensland has slammed Mater for closing its pathology services without making arrangements for highly specialised staff to be transferred to the new provider Sullivan Nicolaides. The union has written to Health Minister Tim Nicholls asking him to urgently intervene over the inadequate redeployment processes as the government funds Mater's public hospital services.

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Also reported by: *The Guardian*

Why Newcastle Private proposal amplifies issues at Mater

Newcastle Herald, General News, 04 Nov 2026, Lucy Miller, Page 18

The prospect of Calvary Health Care taking over Newcastle Private Hospital has rightly sparked outrage about people's access to health care without discrimination. But there's something conspicuously absent from the debate.

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Health Economics & Research

The quiet pandemic, and the Aussies halting it

The Australian, Business News, 04 Nov 2026, Jared Lynch, Page 15

Sydney duo Alison Todd and Elisa Mokany are leading the fight against one of the world's biggest silent killers, antimicrobial resistance, in an effort to prevent humanity from slipping "back to the dark ages".

Known as the quiet pandemic, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) happens when drugs, including antibiotics, antivirals and antifungals, no longer halt bacteria and viruses, fuelling the rise of superbugs.

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Also reported by: *The Australian*

Is your skull shape a dementia risk?

Australian Financial Review, General News, 04 Nov 2026, Carolyn Y. Johnson, Page 29

The illnesses that rob people of the ability to think, remember and create identity often begin, with pinpoint precision, in specific parts of the brain. It is one of the biggest mysteries about brain diseases: why do they start where they do?

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Cervical cancer deaths on rise

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04 Nov 2026, Page 11

Research Australian and international researchers suggest that deaths due to cervical cancer could increase by almost 40 per cent by 2050. The Nature Medicine study examined cervical cancer cases and deaths from 204 countries over three decades and found global cervical cancer cases and deaths could rise by 20.2 per cent and 39.3 per cent.

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Also reported by: *Northern Territory News*, *Cairns Post*, *Gold Coast Bulletin*

'World first' project tackling NT resistance to superbugs

Northern Territory News, General News, 04 Nov 2026, Gera Kazakov, Page 7

A new project is putting antimicrobial resistance in outback healthcare under the microscope with an eye to delivering better health outcomes out bush. The Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance in Remote Australia project is now under way, with Flinders University research pharmacist Danny Tsai leading the study.

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Also reported by: *Daily Telegraph Australia*

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First Nations Health

Being in custody should not mean losing access to support, relationships and cultural connections

Hobart Mercury, General News, 04 Nov 2026, Jake Smith, Page 18

Aboriginal people in custody must not be left behind, writes Jake Smith The Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service is calling for practical improvements to the treatment, wellbeing and rights of Aboriginal people in custody following the release of the Custodial Inspector Tasmania's 2025-26 Annual Report. The report highlights that Tasmania has had the worst out-of-cell hours in the country for three consecutive years, with conditions worsening again in 2025-26.

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Local Aboriginal-led cardiac imaging service showcased at international medical conference

West Australian, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Rosa Griffith

Australia's first Aboriginal-led cardiac imaging service located in the heart of Kalgoorlie-Boulder was showcased at an international medical conference last week, demonstrating how telehealth technology overcame distance and specialised workforce shortages in regional WA. Spartan First Medical Imaging presented important new local health data collected through its CT scanner at the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists annual scientific meeting.

Continue reading

Also reported by: *Kalgoorlie Miner*

Federal government commits to closing the gap in Indigenous eye health by 2035 at first Global Summit

National Indigenous Times, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Giovanni Torre

The Fred Hollows Foundation has welcomed the federal government's commitments to close the eye health gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians by 2035. The pledge was made on Tuesday at the first Global Summit for Eye Health taking place at CHOGM (Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting) in Antigua and Barbuda.

Continue reading

Professor Marcia Langton to convene national forum on First Nations data sovereignty and AI

National Indigenous Times, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Giovanni Torre

Laureate Professor Marcia Langton AO is set to convene the First Nations Data Governance & Sovereignty Forum this month, bringing together Indigenous leaders, policymakers, researchers and technology experts to examine how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can retain authority over data concerning their communities, cultures and Country. Supported by the Indigenous Data Network (IDN), the Forum will take place across November 11-12 at the University of Melbourne and will explore how Indigenous data sovereignty can move from principle to practice across government, health, research and digital infrastructure.

Continue reading

WA backs Aboriginal nursing pathway and virtual maternity care

Nursing Review, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Stefanie Schultz

The Western Australian government has announced two initiatives aimed at strengthening the state's health workforce and improving access to care in regional communities. A new Aboriginal Application Pathway will provide dedicated recruitment support for newly qualified Aboriginal nurses and midwives applying for WA Health transition-to-practice programs.

Continue reading

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Public Hospital and Health Reform

Ambulance wait times spike with hospitals 'busier'

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 04 Nov 2026, Liz Lawson, Page 3

With ambulance wait times spiking and health minister Tim Nicholls recently in the hot seat, Toowoomba's healthcare system has been busier than ever, affecting emergency department wait times. Despite the LNP promising to alleviate ramping times, the latest performance data shows wait times have barely budged with a majority of patients at Toowoomba Hospital ramped for longer than the recommended time in August.

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Townsville University Hospital crisis escalates with 18 ambulances filmed at ED

Townsville Bulletin, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Leighton Smith

Alarm bells are ringing about Townsville University Hospital's chronic ramping problem after 18 ambulance vehicles were seen ramped and parked last week, leaving just three for emergencies. The social media account CodeOne, which is operated by the United Workers Union, shared a video on Wednesday, October 28 of the ambulance vehicles banked up around the hospital's Emergency Department – highlighting TUH's patient bed shortage.

Continue reading

Also reported by: *The Courier Mail*, *Daily Telegraph Australia*, *Adelaide Now*, *Cairns Post*

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Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office

ANMF Seeks Tasmanian Nurse Pay Rise

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, AM Radio, 03 Nov 2026, Lucy Breaden/Kylie Baxter

In an interview with Emily Shepherd, the Tasmanian Secretary of the Nursing and Midwifery Federation, discussions focused on ongoing public sector wage negotiations with Health Minister Bridget Archer. Shepherd called for a jurisdictional catch-up payment to address chronic underpayment of Tasmanian nurses and midwives. She confirmed planned industrial action, including a Hobart rally, will continue without an improved offer.

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Health Workforce

Rural Health Month thanks bush carers

South Gippsland Sentinel Times, General News, 03 Nov 2026, Page 34

Rural Health Pro is urging Australians to thank the health workers who serve rural and remote communities by sharing a #RuralPositive story during Rural Health Month in November. The organisation, part of RDN, launched the annual month in 2020 to celebrate the achievements, commitment and innovation of the rural and remote health workforce through educational and networking events with a "rural positive" focus.

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We We hear you. We are here for you. Primary healthcare nurses and midwives

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Jillian Maguire, Page 13

Nursing and midwifery in primary healthcare has never been more important. Primary healthcare nurses and midwives are central to the success of that transition.

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Embedding research where it matters: How NaMREC is strengthening nursing and midwifery research in Western NSW

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Catherine Leahy, Page 18

Across Australia, nurses and midwives are increasingly recognised as central to improving health outcomes, particularly in regional, rural, remote and very remote communities. Yet many of these clinicians still face practical barriers to engaging in research, including limited time, limited access to mentoring, reduced confidence and variable organisational support.' The Nursing and Midwifery Research Excellence Centre (NaMREC) is addressing these challenges head on, by embedding research in everyday clinical practice.

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The changing face of care

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Phoebe Loomes, Page 6

While advancements in contemporary healthcare have saved countless lives, retired nurse Marjorie Davidson believes growing pressures on nurses mean hospital care may have lost some of its heart. "There was a lot of time given to the patients' comfort," Ms Davidson, who spent nearly six decades as a nurse, told The Senior.

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Also reported by: *The Senior - SA*, *The Senior - TAS*, *The Senior - VIC*, *The Senior - QLD*

Leadership special report

Pharmacy Daily, Internet, 03 Nov 2026

Pharmacy Daily has released its first ever leadership special report, highlighting the industry leaders making change within the sector. This report discusses the evolution of modern leadership, preparing teams for expanded scope, empowering the next generation of pharmacists and building a legacy.

Continue reading

Tasmanian Unions Split Over Government Pay Offer

ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, AM Radio, 03 Nov 2026, Tracey Strong

Two unions representing public nurses are at odds following the Tasmanian government's latest wage proposal. On Friday, the state government offered an 8.25 per cent pay increase over three years covering nurses, midwives, medical practitioners, firefighters, correctional officers, and education facility attendants.

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Report continues on:: ***ABC Radio Hobart***

Pharmacist Training and Prescribing Support Roles

ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, AM Radio, 03 Nov 2026, Thomas Oriti

In an interview with Mario Barone President, Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW Branch, he discussed how an additional twelve months of training enables pharmacists to treat minor conditions and ease pressure on general practitioners. Barone stated that the Rural Doctors Network has provided 150 scholarships worth $10,000 in rural areas to address gaps in care, while a new federal trial will also commence next year.

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Technology Assessment and Access

No relevant coverage.

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Medicare Benefits and Digital Health

No relevant coverage.

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Benefits Integrity

Unmasked: Sydney doctor barred after he kissed and touched teenage patient before blaming wife for texts when he got caught

Daily Mail UK, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Maisy Rae

A Sydney GP who was found by a tribunal to have molested a teenage patient seeking treatment for an eating disorder, and later blamed a barrage of text messages to her on his wife, has failed in his bid to return to medical practice. Hazem Chahoud, 64, has been barred from working as a doctor for at least another year after a tribunal found he'd made 'physical sexual advances' towards a young patient inside his consultation room in 2018.

Continue reading

AHPRA Sees Record Healthcare Worker Complaints

ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, AM Radio, 03 Nov 2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos

In an interview with Jamie Orchard, general counsel at the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Authority, Orchard discussed AHPRA receiving almost 12,700 complaints about registered healthcare workers last financial year. Orchard noted over a third related to clinical care, alongside practitioner behaviour and medication management, while explaining that AHPRA regulates 16 professions but not clinics or unregistered roles.

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Interview continues on:: *ABC Radio Perth*

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Australian CDC

No relevant coverage.

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Therapeutic Goods Administration

GLP-1 weight loss pills approved

Australian Financial Review, General News, 04 Nov 2026, Michael Smith, Page 3

Australians will be able to buy GLP-1 weight-loss drugs in tablet form this year after the medicines regulator approved a Wegovy pill.

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Also reported by: *West Australian*, *ABC Online*, *West Australian*, *NEWS.com.au*, *7News.com.au*, *Pharmacy Daily*

That black triangle on your meds

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Carla Mascarenhas, Page 11

If you've ever noticed a little black triangle on prescription medication information, it's not there to look pretty - it could save future lives. Part of a scheme designed to collate side effects from medication, most Australians don't know what it is.

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Clinic fined $6.95m for med cannabis ads

Pharmacy Daily, Internet, 03 Nov 2026

The Federal Court of Australia has ordered CDA Clinics Qld to pay a $6.5 million penalty for the unlawful advertising of medicinal cannabis to the public, in breach of the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989.

Continue reading

TGA Approves Wegovy Weight Loss Pill

Channel 7, Seven News, TV, 03 Nov 2026, Angela Cox & Mark Ferguson

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved the pill version of the popular weight loss drug Wegovy. More than 10,000 Australians have already joined an online waiting list to access the treatment. The medication is scheduled to become available before Christmas.

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Also reported by: *Channel 7*, *Channel 7*

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Office of Drug Control

Mother issues warning after her child picks up used syringe

Daily Advertiser, General News, 04 Nov 2026, Taylor Dodge, Page 7

A Riverina mother who took her children to a public playground was left mortified when she saw her son playing with a dirty syringe found on the ground near play equipment. The family had gone to the duck pond near Pioneer Park in Tumut on Saturday, October 31, when the boy picked the syringe up.

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Food Standards

Coca-Cola bottled water range recalled nationwide over potential choking hazard

7News.com.au, Internet, 03 Nov 2026, Katharina Loesche

A nationwide recall alert has been issued for a popular bottled water range sold just about everywhere in Australia, over a packaging fault posing a potential choking hazard. [...] Coca-Cola Europacific Partners Australia has recalled five affected Pump Spring Water products after discovering the distinctive white sipper could become dislodged while drinking "Consumers should not drink this product," Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) warned.

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