Australian Government
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing



TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 5 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

- **The Herald Sun** (page 4) reports the Federal Government was criticised for leaving $517 million allocated to residential aged care unspent last year, as 3,732 older Australians reportedly remained in hospitals due to bed block. A spokesperson for Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said the government invested in the sector by constructing 5,000 additional residential aged care beds annually and the $1 billion funding across 200 infrastructure projects since 2022. *Also reported by: The Daily Telegraph*
- **The Sydney Morning Herald** (page 12) leads coverage reporting the TGA approved an oral tablet version of the weight-loss drug Wegovy and could become available in chemists by end of the year.

Also reported by: The Daily Telegraph, The Canberra Times, 7News

- **The Age** (page 2) reports that a world-first study led by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and the National Allergy Centre of Excellence found that 35 per cent of babies initially diagnosed with a peanut allergy could safely consume peanuts during a medically supervised food challenge through the ADAPT oral immunotherapy program. *Also reported by: The Australian*
- **The Age** (page 3) reports the Victorian Coalition pledged $100 million in funding for the state's 14 independent medical research institutes if elected in November, following reports of financial pressures across the sector.
- **The Adelaide Advertiser** (page 12) reports that an Adelaide woman at the centre of Operation Inca-Varrakai was accused of accessing 78 NDIS participant records and sharing them with disability providers with whom she allegedly had undeclared links, reportedly generating more than $1.6 million in NDIS-funded revenue. NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said in an interview the scheme has to "operate with integrity". *Also reported by: ABC Online*
- **The Hobart Mercury** (page 5) reports the Tasmanian Government announced a $40 million funding boost to deliver almost 9,000 additional endoscopy procedures over three years, aiming to clear the waitlist for Category 1 patients by June 2028.
- **The Daily Telegraph** (online) reports that founders of Better Nude Snacks criticised the Health Star Rating system after their protein popcorn with collagen peptides received a 2.5-star rating, while a Department of Health spokesperson said the system assesses a product's nutritional profile rather than whether its ingredients are whole, refined or ultra-processed.

Minister Butler

VAD telehealth reform an 'issue of equity'

Oncology Republic, Internet, 04 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

Is the reluctance to revisit term limits because they are such an obvious change?

BioPharmaDispatch, Internet, 04 Nov 2026

In the first article in a series, we highlight issues that may not currently be on the agenda but should be. Health Minister Mark Butler has said HTA reform will be finalised through agreement negotiations, with advice from advisory committees.

Continue reading

Doubts Raised Over Mark Butler's NDIS Savings Plan

2SM, Mornings, AM Radio, 04 Nov 2026, Chris Smith

A 38-billion-dollar NDIS savings plan promoted by Mark Butler is facing scrutiny after Treasury's chief actuary questioned whether the cuts can be delivered. In a letter to the National Disability Insurance Agency, Treasury Chief Actuary Guy Thorburn stated he lacked sufficient information to determine if saving 38.2 billion dollars over four years was achievable.

Play Now

Questions Raised Over Butler's NDIS Savings Plan

ABC Radio Sydney, Nightlife, AM Radio, 03 Nov 2026, Philip Clark & Suzanne Hill

A speaker reported that Age Care Minister Mark Butler introduced a budget savings package intended to cut 38 billion dollars from the NDIS over four years. However, an actuary assessing the budget concluded there was no evidence demonstrating this expectation was realistic. The scheme currently costs about 56 billion dollars annually and was projected to exceed the age pension.

Play Now

Back to top

Minister McAllister

Police arrest five over $235m rorted from federal agencies including NDIA

ABC Online, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Andi Yu

Federal investigators have charged five people as part of a probe into $235 million allegedly defrauded from welfare agencies following a series of raids across Australia. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister told ABC News Breakfast this morning it was a scheme "that has to operate with integrity".

Continue reading

NDIS Minister Details Crackdown on Fraud

ABC, News Breakfast, TV, 04 Nov 2026, James Glenday & Emma Reballato

Interview with NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister about efforts to tackle fraud in the NDIS. McAllister stated that the NDIA, AFP and state police forces have conducted a three-month blitz against alleged syndicates, resulting in raids and asset seizures. She emphasised that increasing banning orders, disruptions, convictions and jail sentences are essential to safeguard the scheme.

Play Now

Jenny McAllister Outlines NDIS Reforms and Fraud

Channel 9, Today, TV, 04 Nov 2026, Tom Steinfort & Sylvia Jeffreys

Interview with NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister about economic pressures, planned NDIS changes and fraud operations. McAllister expressed confidence in delivering reforms to support the long-term sustainability of the scheme and participants' needs, requiring cooperation from the Senate, states and territories. She noted a recent NDIA and AFP blitz targeting improper claiming yielded raids and seized bullion and cash.

Play Now

Five Charged Over Major NDIS Fraud Scheme

Channel 10, 10 News, TV, 04 Nov 2026, Kate Freebairn

Five people across four states have been charged by the Australian Government's Fraud Fusion Taskforce over alleged fraudulent claims exceeding $200 million targeting schemes including the NDIS. NDIS Minister

Jenny McAllister stated that money lost to fraud should support people with disability, welcoming prosecutions, convictions and jail sentences to protect the institution.

Play Now

Similar coverage reported by: *Channel 10*

Government Cracks Down on NDIS Fraud Syndicate

ABC, USA Votes, TV, 04 Nov 2026, John Barron,Chas Licciardello,Lorna Dunkley &Casey Briggs

NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister stated that wrongdoing cannot compromise the integrity of the scheme, following an investigation into an alleged fraud syndicate targeting the NDIS, Veterans Affairs, and childcare subsidies. Federal investigators described the welfare fraud as a national security threat. Four individuals have been bailed, and police have not ruled out further arrests.

Play Now

Also reported by: *ABC News*, *ABC*, *ABC*

AFP Raids Target NDIS Fraud Network

Channel 9, Nine News, TV, 04 Nov 2026, Brenton Ragless

The Australian Federal Police have targeted a 235 million dollar NDIS fraud crackdown, carrying out raids and five recent arrests, including an NDIA worker in Parkside accused of improperly sharing participant records. Federal NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister stated that the enforcement operations have resulted in warranted activity and the seizure of cash alongside gold and silver bullion.

Play Now

Back to top

Minister Rae

Seniors stuck in hospitals as $517m in aged care went unspent

Herald Sun, General News, 05 Nov 2026, Jade Gailberger, 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 Treasury coffers. [...] A spokesman for Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said the government was making record investment in aged care to ensure more patients could transition quickly and safely to an appropriate care setting.

View PDF Read full text

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

Back to top

Assistant Minister McBride

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Assistant Minister White

Doctors face $109,200 fines for false MBS claims

The Limbic, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Mardi Chapman

Doctors who knowingly give false information in MBS claims face fines upwards of $100,000 under legislation before federal parliament, as new figures show the Medicare watchdog's caseload has risen 70% in five years. [...] "The government is committed to protecting and strengthening Medicare and the PBS, and this includes strengthening the integrity of Medicare and the PBS," said Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Rebecca White, introducing the bill to parliament last week.

Continue reading

Government Housing Project Announced for Westbury

SEA FM , Breakfast, FM Radio, 04 Nov 2026, Ben Lawrence

Rebecca White said a state and federally funded project will help community members who need it most. Another speaker noted that the initiative will significantly benefit families receiving houses in Westbury, highlighting that the town already offers social and affordable housing alongside a primary school and an upcoming early childhood education and care centre.

Play Now

Back to top

Special Envoy Repacholi

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Department

‘Doesn't make sense': Snack founders slam Health Star Rating after product gets 2.5 stars

Daily Telegraph Australia, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Brianne Tolj

The founders of a new healthy snack brand have criticised Australia's confusing Health Star Rating system after their debut product received a lousy score of just 2.5. [...] A spokesperson for the federal government’s Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, which chairs the Health Star Rating Advisory Committee, told news.com.au the system “assesses the nutritional profile of a product, not whether its ingredients are ‘whole’, refined or ultra-processed”.

Continue reading

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

Back to top

Ageing and Aged Care

Judo to teach elderly to fall

Herald Sun, General News, 05 Nov 2026, Page 15

Judo and aged care may seem like an unlikely match up, but allied health professionals are learning how to help older Australians fall more safely. Adelaide University researchers have helped develop a program to upskill allied health professionals and judo coaches to teach seniors safe falling skills, adapting techniques from the martial art.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: *Hobart Mercury*

Albanese government warned it's 'sleepwalking into another robodebt scenario' over use of algorithms and AI

The Guardian, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Melissa Davey

The federal government is "sleepwalking its way into another robodebt" scandal amid a lack of transparency and legislation around use of algorithms and artificial intelligence in decisions, the chief executive of independent thinktank the Centre for Public Integrity said. Dr Catherine Williams launched the centre's "Computer Says No" report on Thursday, which examines the use of automated decision-making (ADM) tools by the government and calls for urgent reform.

Continue reading

165 aged care homes don't have 24/7 RNs

The Weekly Source, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Caroline Egan

New data shows about 6.4% of all homes nationally do not meet the mandatory requirement to have an RN on duty at all times. In total, 165 homes do not comply with the target, including 12 homes with exemptions and 40 homes that did not report.

Continue reading

How HammondCare grew by a third in one day

The Weekly Source, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Ian Horswill

The growing importance of scale in Australia's home care sector has been demonstrated by a major acquisition. Not For Profit HammondCare has been transformed with almost 400 employees moving into the business.

Continue reading

Almost a year on, Senate schedules first Aged Care Rules hearing

The Weekly Source, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Caroline Egan

The Aged Care Act requires the Aged Care Rules to be reviewed by the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs within three months of being tabled in the Senate. The Rules were tabled on 27 and 29 October 2025, and the Committee began a review on 24 November 2025.

Continue reading

Food remains aged care's weakest link despite record resident satisfaction

The Weekly Source, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Ian Horswill

Australian aged care residents are reporting their highest satisfaction levels since national surveys began in 2022, but one persistent problem refuses to go away. Food remains the lowest-rated aspect of residential aged care, despite increased attention to nutrition, dining experiences and everyday living standards.

Continue reading

Regis completes aged care home as rivals shelve developments

The Weekly Source, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Ian Horswill

As operators around the country shelve development of new beds, Australia's third largest operator has completed a new 123-bed home. ASX-listed Regis Aged Care announced on Monday (2 November) that its new aged care home at Toowong, 4km west of Brisbane's CBD, has reached practical completion.

Continue reading

Two years and millions of dollars later, where are aged care's pharmacists?

The Weekly Source, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Ian Horswill

More than two years after the Federal Government began funding pharmacists to work inside residential aged care homes, the majority of operators have yet to embrace the program. A new Department of Health, Disability and Ageing report, published on 30 October, reveals just over 22% of eligible aged care homes had taken up the voluntary program by 30 June 2026.

Continue reading

Despite assumptions, retiring is unlikely to make you lonely, says new study

The Senior, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Phoebe Loomes

Older people are often told to beware the creeping loneliness that can come with retirement. But leaving work might be only a tiny factor in how healthy a social life you have, according to new research from Monash University.

Continue reading

Government Defends Health Rebates and Aged Care

2CC, Canberra Live, AM Radio, 04 Nov 2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with Assistant Minister for Productivity, Competition, Charities and Treasury Andrew Leigh. Leigh defended government measures removing age testing from private health insurance rebates, arguing it creates fiscal scope for major investment in aged care packages. He noted that these savings support government commitments to higher quality aged care, including funding more packages, boosting pensions, and returning nurses to aged care homes.

Play Now

Continuing interview on: *2CC*

Back to top

Disability and Carers

Billions bleed from the NDIS

Herald Sun, Editorials, 05 Nov 2026, Page 24

As inflation and interest rates bite harder across the country and households are counting every dollar, government splurges and mismanagement become especially galling. And when it comes to allegations of criminal exploitation and the rorting of public funds, the anger of taxpayers becomes palpable.

View PDF Read full text

NDIS raid links revealed

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 05 Nov 2026, Jacinta Round, Dylan Hogarth & Julie Cross, Page 12

The Parkside home at the centre of an AFP raid where a 42-year-old woman was arrested is owned by a man who is listed as a director of a Kent Town-based NDIS provider. Property records show the pair jointly own a residential property in North Plympton.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: *Yahoo! News Australia*, *News24 Australia*, *Daily Mail UK*, *Daily Telegraph Australia*, *Townsville Bulletin*, *Gold Coast Bulletin*, *Cairns Post*, *The Courier Mail*, *Toowoomba Chronicle*, *Northern Territory News*, *Adelaide Now*, *Geelong Advertiser*, *The Mercury*, *Newcastle Herald*, *West Australian*, *Shepparton News Online*, *Kalgoorlie Miner*

Uber's $81m tax defeat may hit drivers

West Australian, General News, 05 Nov 2026, Page 6

Uber drivers and disability workers could be collateral damage after a High Court ruling forced the rideshare giant to fork out millions in tax. Australia's highest court yesterday found Uber was liable to pay $81 million in NSW payroll tax.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: *The Nightly*, *Canberra Times*, *The Border Mail*, *Bathurst Western Advocate*, *Kalgoorlie Miner*, *West Australian*, *The Senior*, *Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser*, *Daily Liberal*, *Northern Daily Leader*, *Newcastle Herald*

PM flags ‘hard decisions' amid calls for steeper budget cuts after RBA call to hike rates

The Australian, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Ike Morris

Anthony Albanese has signalled tighter spending policies as the government looks to curb stubbornly high inflation, but has taken a swipe at the opposition for blocking cuts. [...] “The NDIS, we’re the first government to take the decisions that we have on the NDIS. We’re trying to find savings as well in order to fund aged care going forward.

Continue reading

Also reported by: *West Australian*, *NEWS.com.au*, *Kalgoorlie Miner*, *Adelaide Now*, *Townsville Bulletin*, *News24 Australia*, *Cairns Post*, *Daily Telegraph Australia*, *The Courier Mail*, *The Mercury*, *Toowoomba Chronicle*, *Geelong Advertiser*

Owners of banned Perth NDIS company Adachi allegedly purchased Victorian NDIS business

ABC Online, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Lily Kristanto

The NDIS watchdog is investigating after the directors of a banned NDIS company that racked up a $6.8 million debt bought another NDIS business in Victoria's Latrobe Valley. Perth-based NDIS operator Adachi Disability Services was banned in February 2024.

Continue reading

Parliamentary committee releases probe into administration of the NDIS

Freedom2Live, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Kymberly Martin

The Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit examined the NDIA's management of financial sustainability risks and compliance with claim requirements to investigate the regulatory performance of the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission; and scrutinise the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's policy advice to the government. Committee chair Josh Burns MP said: "While the NDIS will continue to grow, it is imperative that the long-term sustainability is not put at risk. The Committee wanted to ensure the agencies responsible for ensuring the sustainability of the NDIS were performing their functions effectively."

Continue reading

Five Charged Over NDIS and Centrelink Fraud

Channel 7, Seven News, TV, 04 Nov 2026, Angela Cox & Mark Ferguson

Five people have been charged over allegations of defrauding the Commonwealth of $235 million through suspected rorts involving the NDIS and Centrelink. Officers executed 26 search warrants interstate and across Sydney, seizing approximately $120,000 in cash alongside gold, silver, and jewellery. A speaker condemned the alleged offences, noting that investigations remain ongoing and further arrests are possible.

Play Now

Back to top

Primary Care

Smiles fade after clinic snub

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 05 Nov 2026, William Stanley, Page 3

Public dental patients across the south-west face up to 16.5 months of waiting to see a dentist at South West Healthcare. The state government announced that if elected, 20 new clinics would be built around the state to ease pressure and shorten wait times, but none of the new clinics will be built in the southwest.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: *Warrnambool Standard*

‘Significant risk': Specialists call for suspension of pharmacist prescribing expansion

Australian Doctor, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Ciara Seccombe

GPs, surgeons and physicians have joined forces to demand that the NSW Government suspend its planned expansion of pharmacist prescribing into chronic disease. With the backing of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, the State Government has said it will allow pharmacists to diagnose, prescribe and dispense for hypertension, COPD, ear infection and wound care, as well as hormonal contraceptives.

Continue reading

RACGP survey finds happier GPs

Australian Doctor, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Mojdeh Kashani

The 2026 Health of the Nation report says there have been “notable improvements” in GP sentiment. The survey of 2766 practising GPs found overall job satisfaction had increased slightly from 71% in 2025 to 76% this year, the highest level since the measure was introduced in 2022.

Continue reading

Draft virtual health standards out

Pharmacy Daily, Internet, 04 Nov 2026

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has released the draft national standards for virtual care (PD 22 Jun), with public consultation open until 13 Dec 2026. Developed as healthcare delivery continues to evolve, the first draft of the virtual care standards recognises the realities of modern...

Continue reading

Medical bodies demand pharmacy prescribing pause

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Morgan Liotta

A coalition of medical bodies, including the RACGP, has penned an urgent letter to New South Wales Premier Chris Minns, demanding a pause of the state’s expanded pharmacy prescribing program for complex conditions. The RACGP joins the Australian Medical Association, Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation, Royal Australasian College of Physicians, and Royal Australasian College of Surgeons to warn about the program’s potential dangers.

Continue reading

Victorian GPs no longer need permit to prescribe some ADHD meds

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Dr Pratiksha Nirmal

GPs in Victoria can now prescribe psychostimulant medicines for the treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in specified circumstances, without requiring a Schedule 8 treatment permit

‘GPs and nurse practitioners no longer require a permit to prescribe dexamphetamine, lisdexamfetamine and methylphenidate for the treatment of ADHD in non-drug-dependent patients, provided there is a valid “ADHD treatment instruction” from a paediatrician, psychiatrist or ADHD practitioner,’ the announcement revealed.

Continue reading

Special editorial: Being RACGP President – opportunities and challenges

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Michael Wright

As my term as The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) President draws to a close, I'm grateful for the opportunity to reflect on my time leading the College. During this time, I have focused on growing and supporting our general practitioner (GP) workforce, getting greater funding and recognition for the complex work we provide, and advocating for and being the voice of members all around the country.

Continue reading

PSR investigations lead to record repayments

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Jolyon Attwooll

A record $32.6 million was repaid to the Federal Government in the past financial year following investigations carried out by the Professional Services Review (PSR), according to its latest annual report. The Government agency, which looks into potential 'inappropriate practice' cases linked to Medicare billing, received 124 requests for review in the past financial year, compared to a five-year average of 99.

Continue reading

Inquiry Examines Specialist Fees and Medicare Rebates

Radio National, Breakfast, AM Radio, 04 Nov 2026, Sally Sara

An inquiry is examining rising specialist fees, whether to lift Medicare rebates, and bolstering public outpatient clinics, with submissions closing this month. Outgoing Australian Medical Association vice president Julian Rait noted specialist care issues are decades in the making. However, committee chair and Labor MP Mike Freelander expressed optimism that the problems can be fixed.

Play Now

Similar coverage reported on: *Radio National*, *ABC Radio Perth*, *ABC Radio Adelaide*

Back to top

Population Health

Peanut allergy a phase for third of kids who test positive

The Australian, General News, 05 Nov 2026, Penny Timms, Page 9

A world-first Australian program has found more than a third of infants who once tested positive to a peanut allergy were later able to tolerate the legume in findings that could help revolutionise allergy management. One of those patients is Arthur, who had an allergic reaction the first time he tried peanut butter.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: *The Australian*

Many infant nut allergies 'misdiagnosed'

Age, General News, 05 Nov 2026, Henrietta Cook, Page 2

More than one in three Australian babies thought to have a peanut allergy do not have the condition, according to a landmark study set to overhaul how food allergies are diagnosed and managed. In Australia,

most babies who react to peanut and test positive via a skin prick or blood test are told to strictly avoid the allergen.

View PDF Read full text

Blitz smokes out rogue retailers

The Nightly, General News, 04 Nov 2026, Kristin Shorten, Page 21

Hundreds of shops shuttered as authorities step up war against illegal tobacco trade fuelling organised crime, money laundering and deadly violence Hundreds of shops are sitting shuttered across Australia as authorities wage an escalating war against a multibillion-dollar illegal tobacco trade fuelling organised crime, money laundering and deadly violence. New figures obtained by The Nightly reveal at least 1436 closure orders, notices and reported shutdowns across five Australian States since November last year, with 348 orders still in force this week.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: *7News.com.au*

Summer readiness a hot topic for health alertness

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 05 Nov 2026, Dr Sarah Kleinman, Page 25

An El Nino summer is forecast to bring hotter and drier conditions to North Queensland, prompting health experts to encourage residents to prepare early for the risks associated with prolonged heat. It is an El Nino year and summer is coming.

View PDF Read full text

Public health missing out

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 05 Nov 2026, Page 9

New data released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows governments collectively spend less than three cents in every health dollar on public health and prevention. The Public Health Association of Australia says it's disappointing that governments are failing to progress towards the National Preventive Health Strategy's target of 5 per cent of total health spending by 2030.

View PDF Read full text

The $1b idea for early intervention as rate rise looms over struggling families

Sydney Morning Herald, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Jessica McSweeney

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 will further strain community groups already overrun with calls for help. More than 11 charities, unions and church groups have written an open letter to the Minns government urging an overhaul of state funding, which they say focuses on crisis support but leads to ballooning wait lists for early intervention services.

Continue reading

Also reported by: *Sydney Morning Herald*

NSW nitrous oxide rules now in effect as state cracks down on nang sales and delivery

Adelaide Now, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Andrew Hedgman

Buying nitrous oxide in NSW just became much harder, with new statewide rules kicking in as authorities try to curb the growing harm linked to the drug commonly known as nangs. The crackdown targets late-night sales, large canisters and easy online access, while leaving legitimate uses untouched.

Continue reading

Also reported by: *Cairns Post*, *News24 Australia*, *Geelong Advertiser*, *Kalgoorlie Miner*, *Northern Territory News*, *Daily Telegraph Australia*, *Townsville Bulletin*, *Gold Coast Bulletin*, *The Mercury*, *Toowoomba Chronicle*

Accessible Paediatric First Aid for Remote Communities

Radio National, Breakfast, AM Radio, 04 Nov 2026, Sally Sara

Interview with Grace Larson, co-founder of the Sisterhood Project, about providing free baby and child first aid training to regional and remote communities. Larson explained the charity works with community leaders and health professionals to remove access barriers and build health literacy. Over 1,500 parents and carers have completed the training to date.

Play Now

Back to top

Chronic Conditions and Screening

$40M blitz to slash endoscopy waitlist

Hobart Mercury, General News, 05 Nov 2026, David Killick, Page 5

The state government has announced another blitz to reduce the long waiting list for endoscopies in the public health system. Heath, Mental Health and Wellbeing Minister Bridget Archer announced a $40m boost in funding to increase capacity and deliver nearly 9000 additional procedures across the next three years.

View PDF Read full text

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

Choosing peace over pain

Burnie Advocate, General News, 05 Nov 2026, Freddie Moffat, Page 1

It is an "incredible privilege" to help people die, Dr Keith McArthur said. The Burnie general practitioner is one of about four doctors who facilitate voluntary assisted dying (VAD) in the North-West.

View PDF Read full text

Newcastle's Calvary Mater Hospital takeover not ruled out by NSW Premier Chris Minns

Northern Territory News, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Amy Ziniak

NSW Premier Chris Minns is not dismissing calls for a State Government takeover of Newcastle's embattled Calvary Mater Hospital, but warned public money must be spent wisely. In August a scathing report was released into the mismanagement and the maintenance and operational issues at Newcastle's second

largest hospital which made recommendations for an immediate termination of the public private ownership (PPP) and to be put back into public hands.

Continue reading

Also reported by: *Gold Coast Bulletin*

Lung cancer awareness month promotes acting early

West Australian, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Toby Cann

Goldfields locals have been urged to take note of health changes and persistent symptoms, as acting early against lung cancer can make a real difference. As Lung Cancer Awareness Month begins, Pilbara regional cancer prevention co-ordinator Kate Henry is encouraging people to see their doctor, clinic nurse or Aboriginal health worker the moment they notice unusual or reoccurring symptoms.

Continue reading

Also reported by: *Kalgoorlie Miner*

'I always thought it won't happen to me': one phone call changed everything

The Border Mail, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Jac Marshall

A record almost 390,000 women were checked for breast cancer in NSW in the past year. Among them is Riverina grandmother Carolyn Hamilton who hasn't missed a breast screen for more than 24 years.

Continue reading

Also reported by: *Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser*

‘A blessing': How an Airbnb home helped Leigh Stephens fight cancer

Geelong Advertiser, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Nicole Madigan

Airbnb will commit $770 million over the next five years to provide free accommodation for people facing disasters, serious illness and domestic violence, with thousands of Australians expected to benefit from a major expansion of its charitable housing program. For 74-year-old Leigh Stephens, the initiative has been life-changing as he undergoes ongoing treatment for leukaemia, including fortnightly blood tests and chemotherapy every five weeks, requiring regular travel and extended stays away from home.

Continue reading

Mass thunderstorm asthma warning issued for Northern Victoria

Shepparton News Online, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Louie Cina

Victoria's acting chief health officer Dr Evelyn Wong has issued a warning for those with both diagnosed and undiagnosed asthma and hay fever as Northern Victoria braces for a possible thunderstorm this evening, November 4. The storm's forecasted strong winds combined with high grass pollen levels potentially increase the risk of a fast onset of asthma symptoms for a large number of people.

Continue reading

Cancer Council celebrates Slip! Slop! Slap!

Pharmacy Daily, Internet, 04 Nov 2026

In the lead up to National Skin Cancer Action Week (15-22 Nov), Cancer Council Australia is encouraging Australians to make sun protection part of their everyday lives and pass those habits on to future

generations.

Continue reading

Calls for Expanded Bowel Cancer Screening Packages

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, AM Radio, 04 Nov 2026, Lucy Breaden/Kylie Baxter

In an interview with Philip Bigg about delays in receiving a colonoscopy, Big highlighted that bowel cancer rates are rising among young people, noting one in nine cases now occurs in people under 50. He called on the federal government to provide free screening packages for individuals under 45, following his year-long wait for a procedure through the Tasmanian Health Service.

Play Now

Back to top

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

Social media ban's burden on political speech 'indirect'

The Australian, General News, 05 Nov 2026, Jack Quail, Page 7

Government lawyers have rejected Reddit's claim that Labor's social media ban for children is a "blunt" instrument, while insisting the restrictions only apply an "indirect and modest" burden on the constitution's implied freedom of political communication. [...] He argued children's exposure to the features of the barred social media sites, including algorithmically-driven content and endless feeds, could lead to a bevy of harmful risks including addiction, depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, reduced attention spans, intensification of ADHD symptoms, and the exacerbation of disordered eating.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: *The Australian*

Help to hit our farms

Daily Telegraph, General News, 05 Nov 2026, Page 18

Farmers in some of Australia's most impacted areas will receive more than the hay and water supplies they desperately need this week. The 'On the Frontline with Rural Aid' tour will provide much-needed hay for livestock, water tanks and water as well as financial assistance, mental health and wellbeing services and community development programs to communities across southern Queensland, northern New South Wales and the Hunter Region.

View PDF Read full text

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

Online ban 'protects young brains'

Canberra Times, General News, 05 Nov 2026, Page 3

Australia's under-16s social media ban is necessary to protect young people's developing brains from risks inherent to the tech platforms, the High Court has been told. [...] The risks were addictive use, adverse

sleep effects, depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, exacerbation of disordered eating, and intensification of ADHD symptoms, barrister Joanna Davidson SC said.

View PDF Read full text

Some timely (if early) tips to take the stress out of Christmas

The Australian, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Matthew Condon

Too early for a Christmas column? Probably too late.

Continue reading

No one tells you about the days after your child self-harms.

Mamamia, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Carolyn Tate

The text from my friend Kate* arrived on a Wednesday morning. She said she'd heard so many stories of children harming themselves, but she'd never given a thought "for a parent in the days after, on their hands and knees scrubbing their child's blood from the carpet".

Continue reading

Back to top

Immunisation

Tragic loss saved lives

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 05 Nov 2026, Evangeline Polymeneas, Page 19

In the days following his son's death, Oren Klemich walked down his driveway, picked up The Advertiser and saw his only son's face staring back from the front page. It was the moment, he said, he realised it wasn't a terrible dream.

View PDF Read full text

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

Back to top

Health Systems Strategies

Specialist wait times and excessive fees in sights of parliamentary inquiry

ABC Online, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Stephanie Dalzell & Paige Cockburn

Patients could make fewer visits to specialists and instead rely on their GP to treat some medical conditions, under a possible shake-up of specialist care in Australia. A parliamentary inquiry is considering a sweeping overhaul of the system to help patients who struggle to afford private specialists or languish on public waitlists for years.

Continue reading

Back to top

Health Economics & Research

Winging it: Scientists study cicadas to battle bacteria

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 05 Nov 2026, Angus Dalton, Page 2

It's the most vulnerable and dangerous event in a cicada's life. After years underground, the insect's thick body bursts backwards from its subterranean armour and the scrunched, fleshy, feeble wads on either side of its body begin pumping with hemolymph yellow insect blood.

View PDF Read full text

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

Opposition promises $100m for research

Age, General News, 05 Nov 2026, Liam Mannix, Page 3

The state's foundering medical research institutes would be in for a $100 million windfall if the Coalition wins the November election, after an investigation by this masthead revealed existential financial problems across the sector. Victoria's 14 independent medical research institutes are under serious financial pressure after years of flat federal funding for science, coupled with sharp increases in the cost of doing research.

View PDF Read full text

Back to top

First Nations Health

She's ready to deliver for her community

Cairns Post, General News, 05 Nov 2026, Piper Walmsley, Page 4

Thursday Island's only Torres Strait Islander midwife is bringing new skills back home after intensive training at the state's busiest maternity hospital. Katrina Pearson, 33, spent two weeks at Mater Mothers' Hospital where she was trained to deliver high-risk and preterm bubs.

View PDF Read full text

Ozzy on the run

Sunraysia Daily, Internet, 04 Nov 2026

Recently appointed Mallee District Aboriginal Services health promotion officer Ozark “Ozzy” Lennox has led by example this month, running 70 kilometres to raise funds and awareness for Aspect Autism, the country’s largest autism-specific service provider. The distance carries a deeper meaning. With about 70

per cent of autistic people experiencing mental health difficulties, each kilometre represents 1 per cent: 70 kilometres for 70 per cent.

Continue reading

Back to top

Public Hospital and Health Reform

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office

New mothers discharged faster than ever as hospital maternity stays hit record low

Daily Telegraph Australia, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Olivia Shying & Sharanpreet Singh

New mothers are spending less time in hospital after giving birth than ever before, an exclusive analysis shows. An investigation into the time mums spend in hospital after giving birth – both vaginally and via caesarean delivery – reveals a steady decline in the average stay over a 13-year period.

Continue reading

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

Back to top

Health Workforce

'Race to bottom' on migration hurts regions

Canberra Times, General News, 05 Nov 2026, Stephanie Gardiner, Page 9

Migrants working as doctors, nurses, carers, scientists and farmers in rural Australia wrongly cop the blame for a complex "vicious cycle" fraying social cohesion, research shows. Declining trust in governments and institutions runs much deeper than immigration in regions, driven instead by the cost of living, housing pressures, isolation and poor access to healthcare.

View PDF Read full text

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

Essential workers priced out of Brisbane rentals as housing costs outpace wages The Courier Mail

The Courier Mail, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Paul Brescia

Hospitality staff, cleaners, enrolled nurses have been priced out of Brisbane's rental market, as less than 1 per cent of listed properties are now affordable on full-time salaries. An analysis of more than 8000 rental listings across southern Queensland by Anglicare Australia reveals workers across 16 essential occupations can barely afford a place to live.

Continue reading

Also reported by: *Cairns Post*, *Gold Coast Bulletin*, *Toowoomba Chronicle*

Union urges state government to intervene over hundreds of Mater job cuts

ABC Online, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Emma-Pollard

A union representing pathology workers is calling on the state government to intervene as Mater Health prepares to axe around 430 jobs. On Monday, Mater staff were told pathology services at its hospitals in South Brisbane and Springfield would be outsourced.

Continue reading

Rural non-GP training reform 'shelved' despite college buy-in

Allergy and Respiratory Republic, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Holly Payne

If rural Australians are going to get fairer access to healthcare, according to National Rural Health Commissioner Professor Jenny May, around 30% of non-GP specialist training must occur in rural settings. The current funding mechanism for non-GP rural training, the Specialist Training Program (STP), only accounts for around 7% of non-GP specialist training places.

Continue reading

Training Pathway for Rural Generalist Doctors

ABC Radio Hobart, Afternoons, AM Radio, 04 Nov 2026, Joel Rheinberger

In an interview with Dr Brian Treanor, the North West Coast-based rural generalist discussed the training pathway and essential skills required for country doctors. Treanorhighlighted that rural generalists require advanced capabilities, including emergency, anaesthetics, and palliative care. He explained how clinical learning workshops help bring junior doctors to regional areas to encourage rural medical careers.

Play Now

Back to top

Technology Assessment and Access

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Medicare Benefits and Digital Health

Heidi II v Best Practice: what the AI agent stoush means for GPs and specialists

The Medical Republic, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Jeremy Knibbs

The stoush between AI scribe company Heidi Health and Best Practice, the country's most-used GP software, has turned into open conflict. How it ends will help decide which AI tools Australian GPs and specialists can use, and who gets to decide.

Continue reading

Back to top

Benefits Integrity

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Australian CDC

No relevant coverage.

Back to top

Therapeutic Goods Administration

Weight loss pill on market by year's end

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 05 Nov 2026, Rachel Rasker, Page 12

A GLP-1 weight-loss tablet has been approved in Australia for the first time, expected to lead to a surge in demand for the soughtafter peptide that could hit the market by the end of this year. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approved Novo Nordisk's Wegovy (semaglutide) pill on Tuesday evening, following similar endorsements in the UK and the US.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Age*, *SBS*, *7News.com.au*, *Royal Australian College of General Practitioners*, *Australian Pharmacist*, *The Guardian*, *Pharmacy Daily*, *Daily Telegraph Australia*, *Geelong Advertiser*, *The Courier Mail*, *The Mercury*, *Northern Territory News*, *Gold Coast Bulletin*, *Daily Telegraph Australia*, *Cairns Post*, *Adelaide Now*, *Toowoomba Chronicle*, *Townsville Bulletin*, *The Mercury*, *Daily Mail UK*

Wegovy tablet gets tick

Daily Telegraph, General News, 05 Nov 2026, Page 6

Aussies could soon be able to take one of the world's most popular weight-loss medications in tablet form, following a major regulatory decision that could eliminate the need for weekly injections. The Therapeutic

Goods Administration (TGA) has approved an oral version of Wegovy, becoming the first GLP-1 weight-loss tablet cleared for use in Australia.

View PDF Read full text

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

Former NRL star 'breaks badly'

Daily Telegraph, General News, 05 Nov 2026, Eliza Barr & Josh Hanrahan, Page 20

Premiership-winner allegedly involved in drug lab making illegal peptides Former NRL star Trent Merrin has been charged after allegedly participating in a criminal syndicate that manufactured peptides at a residential home just south of Wollongong. [...] A NSW Police spokeswoman told The Daily Telegraph the charges had been laid as part of Strike Force Antree, a joint investigation between Organised Crime Squad detectives and the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: *Toowoomba Chronicle*, *7News.com.au*, *ABC Online*, *Gold Coast Bulletin*, *The Australian*, *Daily Telegraph Australia*, *Northern Territory News*, *Geelong Advertiser*, *Cairns Post*, *Toowoomba Chronicle*, *Townsville Bulletin*, *The Mercury*, *The Courier Mail*, *Adelaide Now*, *NEWS.com.au*, *Yahoo! News Australia*

Appetite for weight loss drugs increases novo's bullishness

West Australian, Business News, 05 Nov 2026, None, Page 30

Novo Nordisk has boosted its forecast for the year once again, helped by the new Wegovy pill and the older shot Ozempic as it continues to fight for a larger share of the obesity market. Both sales and profit could rise as much as 2 per cent this year, the Danish drug maker on Wednesday said.

View PDF Read full text

Also reported by: *West Australian*, *Kalgoorlie Miner*

Health risk identified in 'wellness' peptides

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 05 Nov 2026, Natalie Croxon, Page 3

People are risking life-threatening health problems by using unapproved substances that are touted online as a path to wellness and longevity, as hospitals experience a surge in emergency department presentations linked to their use. NSW Health has found that the number of people presenting to the emergency departments who mentioned their use of unapproved peptides skyrocketed from five in July 2025 to 217 in September 2026.

View PDF Read full text

Ex-NSW Origin star arrested, charged over alleged syndicate operation

Daily Telegraph Australia, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Tyson Otto

Former NSW State of Origin enforcer Trent Merrin has been charged over his alleged involvement in a peptide operation. News.com.au can confirm the 37-year-old was arrested and charged in Sydney on Tuesday as part of an ongoing investigation by Strike Force Antree detectives.

Continue reading

Also reported by: *Cairns Post*, *Townsville Bulletin*, *Adelaide Now*, *NEWS.com.au*, *Daily Telegraph Australia*, *Northern Territory News*, *Geelong Advertiser*, *Cairns Post*, *Toowoomba Chronicle*, *Townsville Bulletin*, *Daily Mail UK*, *Illawarra Mercury*

Coroner’s peptide finding renews call for telehealth inquiry

Retail Pharmacy, Internet, 04 Nov 2026

Independent MP Dr Monique Ryan says the death of actor Richard Norton should prompt Parliament to examine Australia’s online healthcare market. A Victorian coroner has found that Mr Norton, 75, died of a cardiac arrest after injecting CJC-1295 and ipamorelin, neither of which is approved by the TGA.

Continue reading

TGA Approves First Weight-Loss Tablet

ABC, News Breakfast, TV, 04 Nov 2026, James Glenday & Emma Reballato

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved the Wegovy pill, marking the first GLP-1 weight loss tablet cleared for use in Australia. Manufactured by Danish pharmaceutical giant Novo Nordisk, the approval provides an oral alternative for Australians with prescriptions, who have previously only been able to access GLP-1 treatments as weekly injections.

Play Now

Australia approves Wegovy weight loss pill

Channel 7, Sunrise, TV, 04 Nov 2026, Monique Wright & Matt Shirvington

Australia's drug regulator was reported to have approved the pill form of diabetes and weight loss drug Wegovy. The semaglutide treatment is expected to launch within weeks, offering a needle-free alternative for over 500,000 Australians currently taking monthly injections for obesity and diabetes.

Play Now

Similar coverage reported by: ***Channel 7***

TGA Approves Wegovy Weight-Loss Pill

Channel 9, Today, TV, 04 Nov 2026, Tom Steinfort & Sylvia Jeffreys

Interview with Dr Paul Griffin, Physician, about the Therapeutic Goods Administration clearing the weight-loss drug Wegovy for oral use in Australia. Dr Griffin explained that a daily tablet will improve access and convenience for people unable to use weekly injections, while emphasising the need for good oversight to ensure the medication is provided only to those requiring it.

Play Now

TGA approves oral weight loss medication

Channel 10, 10 News, TV, 04 Nov 2026, Jennifer Keyte

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved an oral form of Wegovy, allowing a daily pill to potentially replace weekly weight loss injections for Australians. Prof. Michael Cowley from Monash Biomedicine Discovery Institute stated the GLP-1 medication does not require refrigeration and could arrive by Christmas. However, doctors warn of serious side effects alongside an unknown price.

Play Now

TGA Approves First Oral GLP-1 Weight-Loss Pill

FIVEAA, Afternoons, AM Radio, 04 Nov 2026, Leith Forrest

Interview with Garron Dodd, Professor of Neuroscience at the University of Melbourne, about the Therapeutic Goods Administration approving the daily Wegovy tablet, the first oral GLP-1 medication

cleared in Australia. Dodd explained that the pill requires a doctor's prescription and offers an accessible alternative to injectables, whilst cautioning that patients must manage side effects with medical professionals.

Play Now

TGA Approves Oral Weight-Loss Medications

6PR, Drive, AM Radio, 04 Nov 2026, Jamie Burnett

Interview with Kimberly A. Craig from the University of Queensland School of Public Health about weight-loss pills approved by the TGA. Craig noted the oral drugs offer similar effectiveness and side effects to injectables, aside from slightly higher indigestion. She added that uptake will depend on PBS subsidies and raised potential concerns about illicit market responses.

Play Now

Back to top

Office of Drug Control

'Sorry bro, I'm too ketted up'

Canberra Times, General News, 05 Nov 2026, Bageshri Savyasachi, Page 11

On Mort Street, a glassyeyed teenager crouches down to fill his cup with water while thousands of costume-clad revellers pass through the intersection where a man died of a suspected overdose earlier that week. When asked how his evening was unfolding, the boy shakes his head and offers a brief apology.

View PDF Read full text

Hundreds take OD kits

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 05 Nov 2026, Olivia Conder, Page 1

Two naloxone vending machines in Geelong have dispensed more than 500 overdose-reversal kits in just over a month, amid growing alarm over drugrelated deaths in the region. Machines were installed near the Geelong hospital and outside the Corio Community Health Centre last month, two of 20 machines installed across the state.

View PDF Read full text

Back to top

Food Standards

Pump water pulled from shelves as Coca-Cola bottler faces share price slump

The New Daily, Internet, 04 Nov 2026, Stuart Marsh

Hundreds of thousands of popular water bottles sold across Woolworths, Coles, Aldi, and service stations have been taken off shelves over fears they could cause the drinker to choke. Coca-Cola Europacific

Partners Australia issued the recall for five of its “Pump” branded products after it discovered an internal part could become dislodged.

Continue reading

Also reported by: *Daily Mail UK*, *The New Daily*

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.