

Australian Government
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 6 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 Sydney Morning Herald** (page 17) reports that Calvary Health Care, a Catholic health organisation, confirmed that services including IVF, voluntary assisted dying, elective terminations of pregnancy and gender reassignment surgeries will be cut at its hospitals, including Newcastle Private. *Also reported by: Newcastle Herald, ABC Online*
- **The Australian** (page 24) reports that rugby league legend and mental health advocate Paul Langmack has died of a suspected heart attack at the age of 61. *Also reported by: The Sydney Morning Herald*

- **The Age** (page 1) reports that an analysis of more than 60 Victorian public health service annual reports found that reported workplace violence increased to 73 incidents a day, with Labor party pledging $30 million for improved hospital lighting, CCTV and a ban to violent patients, ahead of the state elections.
- **The Adelaide Advertiser** (page 5) reports that Adelaide University researchers identified a small DNA region within the ZBTB16 gene they believed acts as an on-off switch that could suppress the growth of hormone-driven breast cancer cells.
- **The Hobart Mercury** (page 11) reports that a report by Tasmania's Chief Psychiatrist Dinesh Arya found that seclusion incidents increased across public mental health wards in 2025-26, with the Wilfred Lopes Centre recording 91 cases.
- **The Daily Telegraph** (online) reports the TGA warned consumers against using Synedica-branded black-market peptide injectables after testing found no detectable TB-500 and lower levels of retatrutide than claimed, with inaccurate labelling posing potential health risks.
- **ABC Online** reports that NT Health has banned smart glasses at all of its clinical sites following a review into its privacy policies, prompted by a recent breach at Royal Darwin Hospital.
- **Royal Australian College of General Practitioners** (online) reports a draft MBS Review Advisory Committee report recommended increasing the number of Medicare-subsidised allied health sessions for people with chronic conditions from five to 12 per year.

Minister Butler

More Capricornia clinics offer free doctor visits

WEB The Rockhampton News, Internet, 05 Nov 2026

What's Happening? More Central Queensland residents can now access free GP appointments following the Albanese Government's investment in Medicare. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the investment was making a difference for patients and healthcare providers.

Continue reading

Mackay GP Bulk Billing Increases Significantly

ABC Tropical North, 07:30 News, FM Radio, 05 Nov 2026

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler stated that 14 GP services in the Mackay region are now fully bulk billing, rising from six a year ago. Additionally, the bulk billing rate across the Dawson electorate has increased by close to 10 per cent since 2023.

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Also reported by: *ABC Tropical North*

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Minister McAllister

New facility to improve beach access for people with disability

Bellarine Times, General News, 06 Nov 2026, Tahlia Sinclair, Page 15

Queenscliff residents and visitors with disability will have easier access to the beach following the installation of a new portable Changing Places facility. [...] Borough of Queenscliffe councillor Isabelle Tolhurst, federal Corangamite MP Libby Coker, Borough of Queenscliffe mayor Donnie Grigau and federal minister for the NDIS Jenny McAllister at Weeroona Parade where the Changing Places facility will be installed.

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Fake myGov sites exposed in $235 million fraud investigation

Your Life Choices, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Don Turrobia

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) has identified approximately $235 million in actual or potential fraud across several investigations, with five people now facing charges. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister emphasised the impact that misuse of public funding can have on people relying on essential support.

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Minister Rae

Labor's aged care disaster 17 die every day waiting for help

Sea Lake & Wycheproof Times Ensign, General News, 05 Nov 2026, Page 8

One year after Labor's aged care reforms, thousands have died waiting for help, older Australians are stranded in hospitals, and vulnerable regional residents are being assessed over the telephone because the government cannot provide enough assessors. [...] "If Labor has nothing to hide, release the figures." Dr Webster said Aged Care Minister Sam Rae and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese must take responsibility.

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Also reported by: ***North West Express***

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Assistant Minister McBride

No relevant coverage.

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Assistant Minister White

No relevant coverage.

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Special Envoy Repacholi

No relevant coverage.

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Department

Four public servants got an exclusive Qantas perk. One missed the invite

Canberra Times, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Zac Braxton-Smith

A senior leader at the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) has missed out on an invite to Qantas' chairman's lounge , in a sign that the airline is tightening access to one of Australia's most exclusive clubs. [...] Acting Deputy Commissioner Penny Shakespeare started at the NACC at the same time as Ms Lowe, bringing across a chairman's lounge membership that was first declared when she was a deputy secretary at the Department of Health.

Continue reading

Also reported by: *Braidwood Times*

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Ageing and Aged Care

Calvary clear for takeover

Hobart Mercury, General News, 06 Nov 2026, Rob Inglis, Page 7

Catholic not-for-profit Calvary has been cleared to acquire Tasmania's largest aged care provider, Southern Cross Care, after a national regulator determined it was "unlikely" the sale would "substantially" reduce competition in the sector. The decision by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, published last month, clears the way for the Archdiocese of Hobart to sell Southern Cross Care (SCC) to Calvary Health Care.

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

Crime and elder abuse key subjects in upcoming forum

Shepparton News, General News, 06 Nov 2026, Page 22

Greater Shepparton City Council is joining forces with Victoria Police and Elder Rights Australia for an upcoming Stronger Together community forum. Stronger Together, which began in 2024 as a gathering of advocates, age care workers, and carers, will discuss individuals' rights in aged care, victim support, recognising and reporting elder abuse, and scams and cyber safety.

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Strangulation support 'grinding to a halt' amid uptick

Canberra Times, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Emily Woods

Non-fatal strangulation is increasingly being reported to sexual assault crisis lines, but support for victim-survivors is "grinding to a halt" due to health protocols. [...] Older women's experiences of sexual violence were being under-reported due to distrust in institutions, disconnect between police and the aged care commissioner, and also service-providers, another session was told.

Continue reading

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

As Australia ages, there is a workforce we cannot afford to overlook

Canberra Times, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Shane Thomas

Australia's aged care reforms promised a system built more firmly around the rights and needs of older people. One year after the new Aged Care Act came into effect, attention now must turn to a fundamental question: who will deliver that care as Australia grows older Australia is already facing a projected shortfall of 110,000 aged care workers over the next decade.

Continue reading

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

What do our cities owe us when we can no longer drive?

ABC Online, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Jialing Xie

The question of when to give up driving looms large as we age. For some, this decision comes gradually, as changes in eyesight, health or confidence make getting behind the wheel increasingly difficult.

Continue reading

Meet the extraordinary older Australians proving age is no barrier

The Senior, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Carla Mascarenhas

A doctor who has cared for patients in remote and regional Australia and a Lifeline volunteer who has served the community for decades have been crowned the 2027 Senior Australian of the Year for their respective states.

Continue reading

Money for nothing: Retirement village residents demand council rate cut

The Senior, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Phoebe Loomes

A growing army of retirement village residents are in battle with a Victorian council over rates, saying they are being charged an unfair amount and being provided with nothing. "We pay for our own roads, our own streetlights, our own drainage, our own kerbs and pathways, the upkeep of our grounds," retiree Christine Kilsby told The Senior.

Continue reading

Essential Workers Priced Out of Rental Market

ABC News, ABC National News, TV, 05 Nov 2026, Joe O'Brien

New Anglicare Australia data reveals essential workers, including aged care and disability support staff, are increasingly priced out of the national rental market. Housing advocates warn key personnel cannot afford to live where needed, prompting calls for more social and affordable housing. Federal Housing Minister Clare O'Neil acknowledged the crisis, noting plans to deliver 55,000 affordable homes.

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Rental Shortage Hits Australia's Essential Workers

Channel 9, Nine News, TV, 05 Nov 2026, Alicia Loxley

Anglicare Australia's annual report has revealed that essential workers face severe rental affordability issues, with a survey of 49,000 properties finding just 1.7 per cent of listings appropriate for aged care workers. Early childhood staff and delivery drivers face similar shortages. Although the Albanese Government supports wage rises, concerns remain about potential impacts on inflation.

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Rental Shortage Pressures Queensland Aged Care Staff

4BC, Drive, AM Radio, 05 Nov 2026, Carla Bignasca

Interview with Sue Cooke, CEO of Anglicare Southern Queensland, about rental affordability locking essential staff, including aged care workers and nurses, out of southern Queensland housing. Cooke stated that low availability causes recruitment and retention challenges for aged care homes and local hospitals. She called on governments to invest directly in public and community housing.

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Disability and Carers

Wage blowout raises pressure on Chalmers

Australian Financial Review, General News, 06 Nov 2026, Michael Read, Page 5

Federal government spending on public servant salaries surged another 7 per cent last year, putting further pressure on Treasurer Jim Chalmers and Finance Minister Katy Gallagher to rein in hiring to help repair the Commonwealth's stretched finances.

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Also reported by: ***Australian Financial Review***

The 'glass child' label doesn't resonate with everyone, but this is what it means

ABC Online, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, By Anna Chisholm

As an adult, Samantha Hellams has realised how different some parts of her childhood were from those of her peers. Ms Hellams's sister Alison lives with an intellectual disability, epilepsy and is also non-verbal, and the sound of her falling was often how the family knew she was having a seizure.

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From Tasty Plate to selling poppies for veterans, how Simon is helping others

Warrnambool Standard, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Katrina Lovell

Almost every day Simon Ridgwell asks about Tasty Plate - a place he loved to work - but selling poppies for Remembrance Day has helped fill the void. It's the second year that Simon has been volunteering to sell poppies which he does with the help of his carer on Mondays and Fridays at Warrnambool's IGA supermarket.

Continue reading

Is Australia's history of disabled policy doomed to repeat itself?

MOJO News, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Kiara Dunbar

''I am scared for my life,'' says Sudhashree Somers, 27, following the 2026 NDIS cuts. Somers is an artist and studying Disability and Community Inclusion.

Continue reading

Multi-million dollar fraud syndicate charged by AFP

The Mandarin, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Dan Holmes

Police have charged five people with allegedly orchestrating $235 million in fraud against the federal government. The Australian Federal Police (AFP) executed 26 search warrants across Adelaide, the central coast, Melbourne, rural Queensland, and Sydney as part of Operation Integrity Fusion.

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Primary Care

Government Abandons Allied Health Rebate Cap

ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, AM Radio, 05 Nov 2026, Thomas Oriti

In an interview with Katina Curtis, senior political correspondent at Capital Brief, she discussed federal spending and budget savings. The government backed down on plans to introduce a $5,000 annual cap on Allied Health rebates for veterans following pressure from the coalition and veterans' groups, reversing nearly $750 million in projected savings over four years.

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Population Health

Illicit booze flooding Vic bars

Herald Sun, General News, 06 Nov 2026, Aris Schuler-Shah, Page 4

The illicit alcohol industry is responsible for a $1.2bn black hole in federal government coffers, with the shadow market more than doubling in size since 2016, according to new government data. Industry leaders

are sounding the alarm over "rivers" of cheap, dirty alcohol flooding bars and bottle shops in Victoria, as the shadow market follows in the footsteps of illegal tobacco.

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

Mobile blood bank back

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 06 Nov 2026, Rosa Griffith, Page 2

The Lifeblood pop-up donor centre is returning to KalgoorlieBoulder this month after reserves for whole blood hit their lowest level in almost a decade a few weeks ago. With more than 60 appointments still available at the pop-up at Goldfields Arts Centre from November 23-27, people are urged to roll up their sleeves and help save lives.

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Why women in their late 30s demand HRT – and why doctors say no

Australian Financial Review, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Euan Black

Doctors say they are seeing a worrying rise in women in their late 30s and early 40s demanding hormone replacement therapy (HRT) treatment for symptoms such as night-time wakings, anxiety, trouble concentrating and brain fog.

Continue reading

Third of peanut allergies in baby study misdiagnosed

Canberra Times, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Duncan Murray

Families may be turning their lives and pantries upside down based on a wrongly suspected peanut allergy. A study has found it safe to remove the diagnosis from a third of babies who had previously reacted to peanuts and were classified as allergic.

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Also reported by: *Shepparton News Online*, *Kalgoorlie Miner*, *West Australian*, *Ballarat Courier*, *Daily Liberal*, *The Senior*, *The Border Mail*, *Northern Daily Leader*, *Warrnambool Standard*, *Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser*, *Illawarra Mercury*, *Bathurst Western Advocate*, *Newcastle Herald*, *7News.com.au*, *The New Daily*

Limiting cigarette sales to supermarkets and away from schools could mean major reduction in smoking

West Australian, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Belinda Hickman

Limiting tobacco sales to supermarkets could cut the number of licensed retailers by a massive 82 per cent, according to new modelling by WA researchers. Prohibiting sales within a walkable 500 metres of schools could lower retailer numbers by 41 per cent, while stopping petrol stations from selling the products could reduce the number of retailers by more than a quarter.

Continue reading

Also reported by: *Kalgoorlie Miner*

Research finds a third of infants diagnosed with a peanut allergy may be able to eat nuts

ABC Online, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Tim Callanan

More than a third of babies thought to have a peanut allergy may actually be able to safely eat nuts, according to a new study. Researchers say the study could change the way the healthcare system approaches infant food allergies and lead to many children having their allergy diagnosis removed.

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Women vulnerable to eating disorders in midlife and need more help, experts say

ABC Online, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Lauren Roberts

Alone and frustrated. That's how Sue Cody felt when seeking help for an eating disorder in her 50s.

Continue reading

One in three babies may shed peanut allergy diagnosis

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Jo Roberts

More than a third of babies diagnosed with a peanut allergy can safely have the diagnosis removed, according to the results of world-first Australian research that has even surprised its authors. A study from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) and the National Allergy Centre of Excellence (NACE) found 35% of infants with a previous reaction to peanut and positive allergy test did not react during an oral food challenge.

Continue reading

Research Questioning Infant Peanut Allergy Diagnoses

ABC, News Breakfast, TV, 05 Nov 2026, James Glenday & Emma Reballato

New research across two major research bodies and 10 paediatric hospitals indicates that up to a third of babies diagnosed with peanut allergies may not actually be allergic. Murdoch Children's Research Institute's Kirsten Perrett warned parents against testing allergies at home, noting that 12 per cent of infants who reacted during oral food challenges experienced severe anaphylaxis.

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Study Finds Babies Outgrowing Peanut Allergies

ABC, News Breakfast, TV, 05 Nov 2026, James Glenday & Emma Reballato

In an interview with Professor Kirsten Perrett from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, she discussed findings from the nationwide ADAPT Program showing 35 per cent of babies diagnosed with peanut allergies did not react during hospital oral food challenges. Perrett explained the programme uses oral immunotherapy to build tolerance and warned parents against attempting food challenges at home due to anaphylaxis risks.

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Study Finds Babies Overdiagnosed with Peanut Allergies

Channel 9, Nine News, TV, 05 Nov 2026, Alicia Loxley

A landmark study led by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute has found that 35% of babies believed to have a peanut allergy could safely have their diagnosis removed. Professor Kirsten Perrett reported that

the Oral Food Challenge programme has examined 1,500 children across 10 paediatric hospitals nationwide, prompting calls for an expanded national rollout.

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Supermarket Tactics Promote Unhealthy Food Purchases

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, AM Radio, 05 Nov 2026, Lucy Breaden/Kylie Baxter

Interview with University of Sydney research fellow Dr Phillip Baker about tactics used by supermarkets to encourage unhealthy food purchases. Baker said product placements, misleading packaging claims, and high Health Star Ratings on items like ultra-processed breakfast cereals deceive consumers. He called for changes to food regulations and recommended shoppers stick to outer supermarket aisles or visit local grocers.

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Chronic Conditions and Screening

'Always thinking of others': Langmack dies suddenly

The Australian, Sport, 06 Nov 2026, Dean Ritchie & Michael Carayannis, Page 24

More than 100 former rugby league players were told about Paul Langmack's sudden death via the very support network the Canterbury Bulldogs great and mental health advocate had created to look after them. Langmack, 61, suffered a suspected heart attack on Thursday morning after collapsing in the sauna at Breakfast Point Country Club gym.

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Also reported by: *News24 Australia*

Health services for women face major cuts

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 06 Nov 2026, Rachel Rasker, Page 17

Services including IVF, voluntary assisted dying, elective terminations of pregnancy, gender reassignment surgeries and some contraceptive procedures will be cut at hospitals across the country, Calvary Health Care has confirmed. The Catholic health organisation is set to more than double its hospital portfolio when it takes over 16 hospitals across Australia by the end of the month, following the financial collapse of Healthscope.

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

'Devastated' greats pay tribute to Dogs legend Langmack

Sydney Morning Herald, Sport, 06 Nov 2026, Adrian Proszenko & Christian Nicolussi, Page 47

Rugby league legend Paul Langmack has died from a heart attack at the age of 61. Langmack won three premierships as a ball-playing forward and five-eighth with Canterbury in an illustrious 314-game first-grade career that also included time with the Magpies and Roosters.

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Farewell to a titan of league

Daily Telegraph, General News, 06 Nov 2026, Chris Minns, Page 12

Iremember the first time I met Paul Langmack. I was the Premier by that stage, and he knew I was a big Bulldogs fan. Paul just put his arm around me and started talking about the footy like we'd known each other for 40 years.

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Switching off breast cancer

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 06 Nov 2026, Brad Crouch, Page 5

Adelaide University researchers believe they have found the Holy Grail of breast cancer research - an on-off switch. A tiny patch of DNA hidden on a key gene is believed to hold the key to turning off the growth of a family of hormone-driven cancers that make up the most common form of breast cancer.

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

'Barbaric': dead man's tragic VAD plea

Canberra Times, General News, 06 Nov 2026, Steve Evans, Page 15

It was the toughest email to receive: a man who was about to take his own life sent a plea to The Canberra Times and to policy-makers pleading for the "barbaric" law to change so that others wouldn't suffer what he had suffered. Howard Patrick had been rejected for voluntary assisted dying (VAD) despite his intense pain.

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Catholics' cuts confirmed

Newcastle Herald, General News, 06 Nov 2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

Calvary Health Care's ban on reproductive procedures at Newcastle Private will begin in three weeks, shocking doctors and patients at the hospital who expected a longer transition. The Catholic organisation confirmed in a meeting with doctors on Wednesday night that "IVF and other assisted reproductive technologies" would not be provided at the New Lambton Heights hospital.

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‘No symptoms': Mum battles bowel cancer after feeling minor stomach pain

Daily Telegraph Australia, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Brianne Tolj

A 40-year-old mum is fighting for her life after she went to bed one night and "woke up with Stage 4 bowel cancer". Helen Worthington, a primary school teacher from Adelaide, had no idea what awaited her when she suddenly felt an "uncomfortable" twinge in her abdomen in the early hours of August 27 last year.

Continue reading

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

Demand for urgent colonoscopy procedures outpace public health capacity as waitlist grows

ABC Online, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Clancy Balen

Greg Twigger has been waiting three months for a colonoscopy, despite being considered an urgent case. The 69-year-old has been happily living in Hobart for eight years, but recently he's considered leaving the state to get a timely medical procedure.

Continue reading

I noticed a tiny mark on my girlfriend's face but she told me it was just an 'age spot'. It was melanoma - and she only found out after severe eye pain hit

Daily Mail UK, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Shania O'Brien

A Melbourne woman dismissed a suspicious mark on her face as an innocent sign of ageing for months, despite her girlfriend repeatedly urging her to get it checked. Leish Kiprios was just 30 when her partner, Christina Podolyan , noticed an unusual dark spot beside a thunderbolt tattoo on her face.

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MRAC recommends lifting chronic care cap to 12 visits

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Karen Burge

Patients should have increased access to GP-referred chronic condition management (CCM) services, boosting the current allowance from five to 12 per calendar year, a draft report recommends. The MBS Review Advisory Committee (MRAC) report analysed MBS-referred CCM items, finding the current, outdated system is failing to meet the needs of patients and providers.

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TGA Approves Wegovy Weight Loss Tablet

Channel 9, Nine News, TV, 04 Nov 2026, Michael Thomson

Australians will be able to access the weight loss medication Wegovy in tablet form by the end of the year following approval from the Therapeutic Goods Administration. Developed by Novo Nordisk, the daily oral treatment is cleared in four doses for patients with obesity or major cardiovascular risks. Australian Medical Association Queensland Professor Paul Griffin welcomed the decision.

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Hunter Hospitals to Cease Voluntary Assisted Dying

ABC, ABC News, TV, 05 Nov 2026, Jeremy Fernandez

Voluntary assisted dying and certain reproductive services will no longer be offered at Newcastle and Hunter Valley Private hospitals following a takeover by Calvary Healthcare. The Catholic care provider, which is acquiring 14 hospitals nationally after Healthscope collapsed, cited religious reasons for halting elective terminations, IVF, and voluntary assisted dying. A weekend community rally has been organised to oppose the decision.

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Calls to Allow Telehealth for Assisted Dying

2CC, Breakfast, AM Radio, 05 Nov 2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

In an interview with the CEO of Go Gentle Australia, Dr Linda Swan, discussions focused on state and territory health leaders urging the Albanese government to amend the Commonwealth Criminal Code to permit Telehealth consultations for voluntary assisted dying. Swan defended voluntary assisted dying as an essential end-of-life choice that distinctively differs from suicide, noting palliative care cannot always relieve suffering.

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Lung Foundation Australia Highlights Cancer Awareness Campaign

2CC, Breakfast, AM Radio, 05 Nov 2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Alicia Goodwin, general manager of clinical programs research and innovation at Lung Foundation Australia, about the Shine a Light on Lung Cancer campaign. Goodwin noted that lung cancer remains Australia's leading cause of cancer death, with 15,000 annual diagnoses. She highlighted that the national lung cancer screening programme and community walks aim to boost awareness, early detection and survival.

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Interview continues on:: *2CC*

Sun Safety Push for National Skin Cancer Action Week

2GB, Mornings, AM Radio, 05 Nov 2026, Mark Levy

Interview with Dr Stephen Shumack, Clinical Associate Professor at University of Sydney and Fellow at the Australasian Journal of Dermatology, about National Skin Cancer Action Week, with the Cancer Council and the Australasian College of Dermatologists partnering to promote sun safety as part of the campaign. Shumack urged protecting youth from sun exposure and seeing a GP promptly for skin checks.

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NanoKnife Focal Therapy for Prostate Cancer

ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, AM Radio, 05 Nov 2026, Leon Compton

In an interview with Dr Anthony Eaton about the NanoKnife for prostate cancer, he explained that the focal therapy targets cancerous cells using electrical currents to minimise damage to surrounding nerves. He stated that it sharply reduces incontinence and erectile dysfunction risks compared to whole-gland treatments, with eight-year data showing around 80 per cent of men avoided additional treatment.

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Interview continues on:: *ABC Radio Hobart*

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Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

Lives will be saved with gift

Daily Telegraph, General News, 06 Nov 2026, Ryan Keen, Page 8

A gift of $55,000 worth of courses on artificial intelligence innovation will help make a bigger difference and save lives, charity leaders say. As part of The Daily Telegraph's annual Bradfield Oration Scholarships, The

University of Sydney's Sydney Executive Plus program is gifting 40 seats at four AI leadership courses to seven charities.

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Mental health stat on rise

Hobart Mercury, General News, 06 Nov 2026, Amber Wilson, Page 11

The practice of "seclusion" - where a patient is locked up as a last resort to prevent harm to themselves or others - has soared over the past year at several Tasmanian public mental health wards. According to the newly tabled annual report from Tasmania's Chief Psychiatrist Dinesh Arya, the Wilfred Lopes Centre - the forensic psychiatric facility at Risdon Vale - experienced the biggest jump.

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Senate inquiry into women's health hears heartbreaking stories from mothers about postpartum healthcare gaps

Daily Telegraph Australia, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Lauren Novak

After Nicola Marsh's second child was born she found herself besieged by constant, alarming thoughts. Mental images of harm befalling her, or her children, would flash into her mind day and night.

Continue reading

Drought-hit farmers secure critical feed and mental health relief on Rural Aid frontline tour

Daily Telegraph Australia, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Liliana Molina

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.

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

'It's about time': wine industry responds to $2.6m rescue package

Newcastle Herald, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Lisa Rockman

The NSW wine industry is "scrambling" to meet a deadline set by the government for a $2.6 million recovery program. The industry has until November 27 to apply for grants ranging from $20,000 to $250,000 to counter the challenges posed by declining wine consumption and the global oversupply of wine.

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'I'm a psychologist. The most revealing thing about Craig Silvey's apology is what he didn't write.'

Mamamia, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Carly Dober

As a psychologist who works with victim/survivors, I know that accountability requires us to look beyond an offender's personal pain. But reading Craig Silvey's 9,000-word apology, I was struck by how little space was given to the children at the centre of his crimes.

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Emerging Minds Hosts Mental Health Webinar

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, AM Radio, 05 Nov 2026, Lucy Breaden/Kylie Baxter

In an interview with Vicki Mansfield, Senior Advisor of practise Development at Emerging Minds, she discussed an upcoming free online webinar scheduled for 17 November. She said the event is open to health workers, educators, allied health, lived experience peer workers and families. Mansfield stated attendees can register via the Mental Health Professionals' Network website.

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Interview continues on:: *ABC Radio Hobart*

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Immunisation

No relevant coverage.

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Health Systems Strategies

Scare campaigns: Victoria's major parties trade blows over AI-generated videos of leaders in election ads

The Guardian, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Benita Kolovos & Bertin Huynh

It's the night of Halloween and Jess Wilson has appeared on social media feeds with a warning about a scary prospect: "Americanised healthcare" under a future Liberal government. "If you had a heart attack, you would have to pay $150,000 for care," the Victorian Liberal leader says, mid-trick or treat.

Continue reading

Why Newcastle Private proposal amplifies issues at Mater

Newcastle Herald, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Lucy Miller

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

'Decision critical': Australia's most powerful computers are on their last legs

Canberra Times, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Dave Allen

A funding decision for the future of a Canberra supercomputer Australians rely on for everything from weather forecasts to health breakthroughs, including the development of COVID-19 vaccines, needs to happen within the next 60 days, or it will crash before it can be replaced. The National Computational Infrastructure's (NCI) supercomputer in Acton will be forced offline by 2028 and two funding cliffs are rapidly approaching, which scientists now say require an immediate government response if Australia is to avoid a wholesale outage of its supercomputer fleet.

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Dispute over hospital policy and election costings

Channel 9, Nine News, TV, 05 Nov 2026, Alicia Loxley

Treasurer Colin Brooks stated that the opposition's hospital policy for PSOs is $37 million short, claiming 31 election promises lack costings. Opposition Leader Jess Wilson dismissed the claims as fiction, stating policies are being costed by the independent parliamentary budget office. Greens Leader Ellen Sandell subsequently criticised Wilson for refusing to answer questions from journalists.

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First Nations Health

Please mind the gap

West Australian, General News, 06 Nov 2026, Jessica Page, Page 11

The embattled Labor minister who is responsible for the WA Government's targets to improve life outcomes for Aboriginal people failed to mention the high rate of Indigenous children in state care when he last reported to Parliament on its progress. Aboriginal Affairs Minister Don Punch, who is under increasing pressure over his lack of response to the ongoing child welfare crisis in the Pilbara region, only spoke for two minutes when delivering his Government's Close the Gap annual report in June.

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

No-show minister is a gut-Punch to the people of Hedland

West Australian, General News, 06 Nov 2026, Basil Zempilas, Page 13

It's long past time for Don Punch to quit as the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. He has failed the people he serves. If he won't quit, the Premier must sack him.

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Outback WA charity hits out at ‘arrogant’ Cook government after 20 rebuffed meetings

Sydney Morning Herald, Internet, 06 Nov 2026, Hannah Murphy

A West Australian food charity that helps set up community gardens and run nutrition programs for children in the outback has accused the state government of "arrogance and unprofessionalism" after no minister failed to respond to more than 20 requests over three years to discuss the charity's future. EON Aboriginal Foundation was set up in 2005 to help combat health problems in remote Indigenous communities, including the prevalence of Type 2 diabetes and kidney disease, by educating locals about nutrition.

Continue reading

Services warn of 'massive' support gap for teen girls in remote NT after alleged domestic violence murders

ABC Online, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Olivana Lathouris

Northern Territory Police have charged more than 140 youths with domestic violence-related offences in the past six months, as domestic and family violence services call for specialised supports to help young people experiencing abuse. [...] Chief Executive of the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT) Donna Ah Chee said health clinics were often shouldering the load of domestic violence support in small communities.

Continue reading

The program supporting regional, remote and rural midwives gain critical experience for their communities

National Indigenous Times, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Jarred Cross

Katrina Pearson was born at Thursday Island Hospital in the Torres Strait, and would later give birth to her children there. Today, she helps other families bring new life into the world as the only Torres Strait Islander midwife at the only hospital in Zenadth Kes.

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Public Hospital and Health Reform

Staff bitten, punched as hospital attacks escalate

Age, General News, 06 Nov 2026, Melissa Cunningham & Henrietta Cook, Page 1

Violence in the state's public hospitals has surged by more than 60 per cent over the past four years, with a record 26,730 incidents logged last year including healthcare workers being bitten, punched and having their bones broken. The escalating violence has prompted hospitals to employ security guards in emergency departments, equip staff with duress alarms, and establish a 24/7 security control room.

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Also reported by: *Sydney Morning Herald*

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Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office

No relevant coverage.

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Health Workforce

Win for care & compassion

Adelaide Advertiser, Edition Changes, 06 Nov 2026, Karen Grace Prince, Page 15

Celebrating local pride on Thursday night were four people recognised for their extraordinary contributions to medicine and health, advocacy, and education at the 2027 Australian of the Year Awards for South Australia. Taking home the title of 2027 Australian of the Year for SA was Dr Fariba Behnia-Willison, an endo-gynaecologist and reconstructive surgeon.

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

Four South Australians making a difference: 2027 Australian of the Year award recipients

Canberra Times, Internet, 05 Nov 2026

Four extraordinary people have been named 2027 Australian of the Year award recipients for South Australia at a ceremony in Adelaide on Thursday evening. 2027 Australian of the Year for South Australia - Dr Fariba Behnia-Willison (Somerton Park).

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

Rural medical students are just what the doctor ordered

Canberra Times, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Stephanie Gardiner

A girl growing up in rural Australia wants to become a doctor, but her school doesn't offer chemistry and her part-time job at a pharmacy is her only exposure to the medical system. Other students in country schools hoping to pursue medicine mostly get information about their future careers from TV dramas.

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

NT Health issues staff ban on Meta Glasses as part of review into privacy policy

ABC Online, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Grace Atta

NT Health has issued a ban on smart glasses at all of its clinical sites, as part of an internal department review into its privacy policies prompted by a breach at Royal Darwin Hospital earlier this month. The breach involved a medical observer, Dr Neda Mogharehabed, who was visiting Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH), posting images and videos containing the confidential medical information of 12 pregnant patients to her 28,000 followers on Instagram.

Continue reading

The AFLW player who juggles life as a doctor and charity founder: 'Finals is my least busy time of year'

The Guardian, Internet, 06 Nov 2026, Jonathan Horn

Lulu Pullar's boss has given her this Saturday night off work. As an emergency doctor at Sydney's St Vincent's hospital, a typical shift sees her treating patients in acute mental health distress, people affected by drugs and alcohol, and victims of road trauma and domestic violence.

Continue reading

Rental crisis: Nurses, teachers priced out of 99pc of homes

NEWS.com.au, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Elizabeth Tilley

Nurses, teachers, cleaners and aged care workers are now being priced out of 99 per cent of rental properties across the country, alarming new research reveals. A new Anglicare Australia report, released Thursday, has exposed the worsening rental affordability crisis facing full-time essential workers, with even those receiving significant pay rises struggling to keep up with soaring housing costs.

Continue reading

Also reported by: ***Toowoomba Chronicle***

Everyone pays when essential workers can't afford to live in our communities

The New Daily, Internet, 05 Nov 2026

There was a time when having a decent job meant you could afford a decent home. You might not have been rich, but if you worked hard, you could pay the rent, cover the bills, and have something left over.

Continue reading

Unions welcome new national measures to protect workers from climate-related health risks

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Kathryn Anderson

Plans to develop new measures to protect workers from extreme heat, poor air quality and vector-borne illnesses have been welcomed by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation and Australian Unions. Federal and state workplace safety ministers' have endorsed Safe Work Australia's three formal recommendations clears the way for development of national regulations and a National Strategic Plan on Climate Safe Work.

Continue reading

Leading beyond expanded scope qualification

Pharmacy Daily, Internet, 05 Nov 2026

As an increasing number of pharmacists take on expanded scope training, those driving the transition to the profession's increasingly clinical role face both rewards and challenges, with good leadership playing a critical role throughout the training and beyond.

Continue reading

NSW Premier told to reveal dealings with his Pharmacy Guild ‘friends'

Australian Doctor, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Paul Smith

The RACGP is demanding that the NSW Premier disclose details of every “meeting, communication and exchange of policy advice” with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia over his government’s radical expansion of pharmacist prescribing. The college says the public deserves to know how much influence the guild has exerted over the reforms, which will allow pharmacists to prescribe for chronic and complex conditions, including hypertension and COPD.

Continue reading

Essential Health Workers Priced Out of Rentals

Channel 7, Seven News, TV, 05 Nov 2026, Peter Mitchell

Anglicare Australia's annual affordability snapshot has revealed that essential frontline workers, including nurses, aged care workers and ambulance staff, can afford only up to 3% of available rental properties. Executive Director Kasy Chambers described the findings as horrific, noting that many workers are paying more than half their wages in rent amid rising inflation.

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Queensland Hospital Staffing Shortages Raise Concerns

4BC, Breakfast, AM Radio, 05 Nov 2026, Jason Matthews

Matthews played a clip of Shadow Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Mark Bailey, saying severe staffing shortages leaving Queensland emergency departments exposed, citing an instance of just one doctor working at a major hospital. Matthews said Health and Ambulance Services Minister Tim Nicholls defended the government, stating their rescue plan would deliver new and expanded hospitals across the state.

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Hospital Pressures and Proposed Nursing Cuts Challenged

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, AM Radio, 05 Nov 2026, Lucy Breaden/Kylie Baxter

Interview with Dr Michael Lumsden-Steel, past president of the Australian Medical Association in Tasmania, about extreme hospital pressure and proposed cuts to nursing in the emergency medical unit. Lumsden-Steel criticised bureaucratic decisions, arguing poor data, federal funding shortfalls, and severe bed shortages are forcing healthcare staff to deliver care under suboptimal conditions.

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ACT Government Criticised Over Specialist Disability Accommodation

2CC, Canberra Live, AM Radio, 05 Nov 2026, Leon Delaney

In an interview with independent MLA for Kurrajong Tom Emerson, he criticised the ACT Government for failing to access Commonwealth specialist disability accommodation funding. Emerson noted an inquiry

confirmed eligible public housing tenants with high support needs missed out on up to $30 million over several years. He stated the government failed to deliver on its 2018 housing strategy commitments.

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Technology Assessment and Access

Surgery hope for prostate patients

Hobart Mercury, General News, 06 Nov 2026, Sue Bailey, Page 15

A "life-changing" new approach to treating prostate cancer will be trialled in Tasmania. Urologist Anthony Eaton will use the NanoKnife procedure, already performed interstate, on three patients at Calvary Hospital at Lenah Valley on Friday.

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How the Wegovy pill compares to weight-loss injections

ABC Online, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Kimberley Akrigg

A new tablet version of Wegovy , a peptide used to help people lose weight, has been approved for the first time in Australia. Until now, the best-known medicines in this group (semaglutide , sold as Wegovy or Ozempic, and tirzepatide, sold as Mounjaro), have generally required weekly injections.

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Medicare Benefits and Digital Health

‘Failing to meet clinical need': Medicare review calls for doubling of MBS allied health sessions

Australian Doctor, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Jamie Thannoo

A major government review is calling for a radical expansion of the number of allied health services funded under the MBS through GP management plans. The maximum number of sessions should increase to 12 in any calendar year, a draft report from the MBS Review Advisory Committee says, arguing the current limits are failing to meet the clinical needs of patients with chronic conditions.

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Benefits Integrity

AHPRA CEO's ‘pockets of acute noise' comment galvanises psychologists

The Medical Republic, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Holly Payne

Psychologists across Australia have embraced a new epithet, after AHPRA CEO Justin Untersteiner described widespread opposition to a shake-up of psychologist training as “pockets of acute noise” at senate estimates last week. “Effectively, what he’s saying is it’s just a few people, and also it’s going to go away very quickly, right? Acute means short, sharp,” clinical psychologist and clinic director Leanne Clarke told The Medical Republic.

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Australian CDC

Meth trafficking stokes Pacific health crisis

Canberra Times, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Max Aldred

Security policy in the Pacific must put people first as meth trafficking fuels a public health crisis, lawmakers have been warned. Policing and health services must work hand-in-hand to tackle mounting health and climate threats, three human security experts told the Lowy Institute on Thursday.

Continue reading

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

Mosquitoes suck - especially ours

Shepparton News Online, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Louie Cina

A droning buzz, a glance of a black speck and a sharp bite followed by a night of itching. It’s easy to discount the discomfort as a by-product of living in a country with so much bio-diversity, but Victoria’s chief health officer is urging Victorians to familiarise themselves with the risks and stay vigilant as the state rolls into mosquito season.

Continue reading

Concerns Over Antibiotic Resistance in Tasmania

ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, AM Radio, 05 Nov 2026, Leon Compton

In an interview with Dr Clare Smith, retired GP and spokesperson with the Australian Medical Association, concerns were raised regarding antibiotic resistance from the use of antibiotics in Tasmanian waterways. Smith warned that horizontal gene transfer and emergency permits allow bacteria to develop resistance to critical human medicines. She criticised the lack of transparency surrounding industry antibiotic usage.

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Therapeutic Goods Administration

‘Serious risk': Lab tests on popular Synedica peptides revealed

Daily Telegraph Australia, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Sarah Booth

Authorities have urged Australians to throw away a popular peptide brand after testing revealed their contents did not match their label. The Therapeutic Goods Administration issued the warning about Synedica-branded peptide products — black-market injectables sold as performance and image-enhancing drugs — on Thursday.

Continue reading

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

Former 'nangs' addict sparks state's new retail rules

Canberra Times, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Sarah Spina-Matthews

Sam Bramman's harrowing journey of addiction and recovery started at a house party aged just 19. [...] Mr Bramman has welcomed the changes but wants more work to be done, including a push for the Therapeutic Goods Administration to implement nationwide scheduling changes to the substance.

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

TGA approves Australia's first GLP-1 weight loss pill

Australian Doctor, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Jamie Thannoo

Oral semaglutide for weight management will soon be available for GPs to prescribe in Australia following the TGA's approval of Novo Nordisk's Wegovy pill. The regulator gave the green light for Australia's first GLP-1 weight loss pill on Tuesday.

Continue reading

Also reported by: *Medicine Today*

Australian-first guidance on valproate in pregnancy

Pharmacy Daily, Internet, 05 Nov 2026

Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has launched new national guidance for clinicians on the safe use of sodium valproate, providing long-awaited support for healthcare professionals working in mental health, neurology, paediatrics and obstetrics.

Continue reading

New South Wales Limits Nitrous Oxide Sales

2GB, Mornings, AM Radio, 05 Nov 2026, Mark Levy

Interview with Sam Bramman about new restrictions on nitrous oxide sales in New South Wales following his 'No to Nangs' campaign. Bramman detailed his past drug-induced psychosis and welcomed the under-18 sales ban. He called for the Therapeutic Goods Administration to reschedule the substance by next February and urged Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke to prohibit imports of large tanks.

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Office of Drug Control

No relevant coverage.

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Food Standards

Simple kitchen change could slash deadly health toll in Australia 'We have the opportunity to literally prevent thousands of people in Australia having strokes and heart attacks.'

7News.com.au, Internet, 05 Nov 2026, Jennifer Bechwati

A change to the salt in Australian kitchens and food factories could prevent more than 2000 deaths a year, new research suggests. The global modelling study, published in Nature Health, estimates replacing regular salt with potassium enriched alternatives could prevent almost three million deaths worldwide annually.

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