

Australian Government
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 7 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 Saturday Paper** (page 6) reports that Services Australia, in consultation with the Department of Home Affairs and Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, has clarified its policy on Medicare eligibility, resulting in asylum seekers losing Medicare access while their cases are still in legal proceedings.
- **ABC Online** reports a new $71 million federal government funding commitment will enable 25,000 additional Australians with advanced or incurable cancers to access comprehensive genomic profiling for more personalised treatments. Health Minister Mark Butler stated that the government is working

to scale up health infrastructure so that genomic profiling can become a standard part of routine care across Australia. *Also reported by:* *Radio National*

- **Weekend Australian** (page 1) reports a new Australian-developed vaccine for Strep A, aimed at combating rheumatic heart disease which disproportionately affects Indigenous children, is being manufactured in China with human trials to begin in Melbourne.
- **Weekend Australian** (page 1) reports that Australia's $3 billion private GLP-1 market highlights growing household spending on medicines as declining real government investment in the PBS leaves patients facing higher out-of-pocket costs and a widening two-tier health system.
- **AFR Weekend** (page 3) reports the first pill version of the Wegovy weight-loss drug approved in Australia will be sold at a similar price to existing injections, dashing hopes for a significantly cheaper alternative.
- **Saturday Age** (page 2) reports that a nurse at Victoria's Thomas Embling Hospital was allegedly raped by a patient during a shift where staffing numbers on her unit were halved, prompting police and WorkSafe investigations. *Also reported by:* *Canberra Times*, *ABC Online*
- **Adelaide Advertiser** (page 3) reports that South Australia recorded 4,759 hours of ambulance ramping in October, the worst October on record, despite the state government highlighting a 13.6 per cent fall from September.
- **Daily Telegraph** (page 22) reports that Adelaide University researchers have identified a DNA switch that helps suppress the growth of oestrogen-driven breast cancer, potentially opening the way for future treatments. *Also reported by:* *Channel 9*

Minister Butler

Payday looming for undervalued Australian workers

Mudgee Guardian & Gulgong Advertiser, General News, 07 Nov 2026, Catherine Bouris, Page 36

A big payout is on the cards for workers in industries found to be undervalued. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the investment would not only retain existing workers, but also make the sector more attractive to future workers, ensuring a stronger workforce in the future.

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Also reported by: *Goulburn Post*, *Lithgow Mercury*, *The Area News*

Parliament closes health insurance price loophole

Choice, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Morgan Campbell, Page 5

In a major victory for consumers, Federal Parliament has voted to close a loophole that has allowed health insurers to charge skyrocketing premiums. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has previously acknowledged CHOICE's role in bringing this practice to light, saying in late 2024, "I want to pay tribute to an organisation called CHOICE ... It's been operating for many years now in the interests of consumers and it lifted the lid on this practice."

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Genomic profiling offers hope to cancer patients as extra funding secured for thousands of Australians

ABC Online, Internet, 06 Nov 2026, Paige Cockburn & Stephanie Dalzell

Diagnosed with an aggressive and incurable brain cancer at just 31, Emily Capper was given as little as nine months to live. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the federal government was mobilising to scale

up health infrastructure, so genomic profiling could be offered more widely across Australia.

Continue reading

Hughes bulk billing surges

Good Morning Macarthur, Internet, 06 Nov 2026, Brian Laul

More Hughes residents are seeing a GP without paying out-of-pocket costs, with the number of local practices bulk billing all patients rising from 17 to 23 in just one year. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the changes were reducing the cost of GP visits.

Continue reading

Bondi mental health support extended at Jewish House

The Australian Jewish News, Internet, 06 Nov 2026, Gareth Narunsky

The federal government will extend mental health support for those affected by the Bondi terror attack, Health Minister Mark Butler announced at the Jewish House Gala Dinner at Le Montage in Lilyfield on Thursday night. Butler, who attended on behalf of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, said the mental health package announced after the December 14 attack would be extended so that organisations including Jewish House could continue their work.

Continue reading

No deficit of budget ideas

Inside Story, Internet, 06 Nov 2026, Karen Middleton

More savings and revenue proposals are circulating than the government concedes. [...] This year, health minister Mark Butler introduced further controversial changes aimed at reducing the annual rise to 2 per cent, capped until 2030.

Continue reading

Government Funds Advanced Genomic Cancer Treatments

Radio National, 15:00 News, AM Radio, 06 Nov 2026

The federal government is investing $70 million to provide precise genomic cancer treatments for 25,000 people with solid tumours. Health Minister Mark Butler said the government aims to make genomic medicine a standard part of the broader health system. The initiative is anticipated to help over 1,000 patients achieve five-year cancer survivorship.

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Federal Funding Expands Genomic Cancer Profiling

ABC, ABC News, TV, 06 Nov 2026, Jeremy Fernandez

Thousands more Australians with cancer will access genomic profiling following new federal funding to scale up targeted treatment technology. Omico Chief Science and Strategy Officer Professor David Thomas said the government's commitment will allow an additional 25,000 patient referrals to access the technology for free. Health Minister Mark Butler said the government aims to make this care a broader standard across the health system.

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Minister McAllister

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Minister Rae

Sam Rae Defends Public Service Expenditure

Channel 9, Today, TV, 06 Nov 2026, Tom Steinfort & Sylvia Jeffreys

Panel discussion with Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae and Nationals leader Matt Canavan about public service spending. Rae defended investments in the Australian Public Service, saying the funds support frontline services, including aged care, Centrelink, and Veterans' Affairs. Canavan argued the government is addicted to wasteful spending and called for natural attrition.

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Sam Rae Discusses Aged Care Home Reforms

ABC Radio Melbourne, Mornings, AM Radio, 06 Nov 2026, Rafael Epstein

Interview with Aged Care Minister Sam Rae about the federal Labor government's aged care reforms, funding changes for home care, and long waiting lists. Addressing a caller who paid out of pocket for an urgent wheelchair after assessment delays, Rae acknowledged the acute emotional challenges people face and stated that such assessments would normally occur within the hospital system.

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Also reported by: ***ABC Radio Melbourne***

New First Nations Aged Care Facility Announced

ABC Radio Perth, 09:00 News, AM Radio, 06 Nov 2026

The federal government will fund a new $42.5m aged care home for First Nations elders in Halls Creek, Western Australia, through the Aged Care Capital Assistance Program. The 40-bed facility will replace the existing 28-bed Menkawum Ngurra Elders Residence. Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae said accessible care close to home remains critical.

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Assistant Minister McBride

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Assistant Minister White

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Special Envoy Repacholi

Veterans find their voice

Good Morning Macarthur, Internet, 06 Nov 2026, Brian Laul

Veterans, serving defence personnel and their families in Hughes have a new avenue to take their concerns directly to the federal level, following the inaugural meeting of the Hughes Defence, Veterans and Families Forum. [...] The meeting was co-hosted by Moncrieff and Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi MP, who discussed findings from the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide and the government's response to its recommendations.

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Department

Labor's quiet erosion of Medicare for all

The Saturday Paper, General News, 07 Nov 2026, Jana Favero, Page 6

I love Medicare. I am proud to live in a country that values free and accessible public healthcare. [...] The agency, “in consultation with the Department of Home Aff airs and Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, has clarifi ed how Medicare eligibility is assessed”.

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Calls to fix 'unfair' aged care algorithm

Irrigator, General News, 07 Nov 2026, Phoebe Loomes, Page 41

A controversial algorithm used to determine funding for people receiving aged care at home has been slammed as unfair and inconsistent by the Commonwealth Ombudsman, who said bureaucrats drafting new laws did not understand what they were doing. [...] He said the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing had incorrectly told older people they would be able to override any mistakes.

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Spirit of Service Awards showcase exceptional public sector initiatives

WEB Region Canberra, Internet, 06 Nov 2026, Chris Johnson

The huge effort in bringing together more than 300 government, research and industry organisations to better align how seabed data is collected and used has been recognised with a prestigious honour at this year's Spirit of Service Awards for public sector projects. [...] The Breakthrough Award was given for Australia's first National Lung Cancer Screening Program, which was delivered by the federal Health Department, the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) and Cancer Australia.

Continue reading

Also reported by: *The Mandarin*

The latest developments in law reform & advocacy: November 2026

Law Society Journal, Internet, 06 Nov 2026

The Law Society's Human Rights, Public Law, and Privacy and Data Law Committees contributed to a submission to the Law Council of Australia to inform its response to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's consultation on the proposed New Framework Planning Rules (' Rules ') for the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Under the Rules, the 'core needs' assessment will be undertaken with the assistance of the Instrument for the Classification and Assessment of Support Needs (' I-CAN ') version 6.

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Ageing and Aged Care

Seniors taking the fall

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 07 Nov 2026, Page 29

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 been involved in developing a targeted instructor program to upskill allied health professionals and judo coaches so they can teach seniors safe falling skills, adapting techniques from the martial art.

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Financial greed leads to rising elder abuse

Daily Telegraph, General News, 07 Nov 2026, Angela Mollard, Page 84

Greedy younger generations have developed a sense of entitlement to their parents' wealth which has given rise to "inheritance impatience" and growing financial abuse. [...] Estate planning and estate litigation lawyer MaryAnn de Mestre says some are viewing an inheritance as part of their financial plan, while David Thompson of seniors advocacy body Advocare says calls to its abuse helpline have increased dramatically with older parents reporting being pressured to hand over money.

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Also reported by: *Herald Sun*, *Adelaide Advertiser*, *Toowoomba Chronicle*, *Hobart Mercury*

Older Australians pay the price for Federal Budget savings: Ruston

The Weekly Source, Internet, 06 Nov 2026, Caroline Egan

Shadow Minister for Aged Care Senator Anne Ruston has accused the Government of cutting spending on aged care to prop up the Federal Budget. Senate Estimates revealed last month the Government made savings of $727 million on Support at Home and $570 million in residential aged care in 2025-26 - money allocated to the Budget for aged care but never spent.

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$42.5 million aged care home planned for Halls Creek Elders

National Indigenous Times, Internet, 06 Nov 2026, Phoebe Solon

Halls Creek is set to receive a new 40-bed aged care home, with a $42.5 million federal government investment aimed at providing culturally safe care for First Nations Elders without having to leave Country. The new purpose-built residential aged care facility will replace the existing 28-bed Menkawum Ngurra Elders Residence, the only aged care home within 350 kilometres of Halls Creek.

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This town has a solution for its aged care crisis, but red tape blocks the way

The Senior, Internet, 06 Nov 2026, Anna Houlahan

Across regional Australia, older couples and lifelong neighbours are being forced to separate in their final years because their home towns have nowhere safe for them to grow old. A national shortage of aged care beds, as well as rigid government rules that block small towns from funding their own facilities, has left vulnerable older Australians in the lurch.

Continue reading

When the computer says no to aged care

The Mandarin, Internet, 06 Nov 2026, Robert McMahon

When Labor came to power in 2022, it moved quickly to establish a royal commission into robodebt — an automated process in which some Centrelink recipients' fluctuating income and resultant liabilities were averaged, through computer modelling, into an assumed debt. [...] Despite this recent disgrace, the federal government — right now — is replicating the worst drivers of robodebt in the aged care sector, through the automated new decision-making apparatus of the Aged Care Assessment Teams (ACAT).

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Virtual Train Project Improves Aged Care Well-Being

ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, AM Radio, 06 Nov 2026, Tracey Strong

Aged care residents are taking simulated journeys across international destinations inside a custom-built carriage for a UTAS research project. The study investigates whether virtual train trips enhance well-being by showing scenic window projections alongside video interactions. Participants reportedly stayed longer at mealtimes and ate more during the simulated travel experience.

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Salvation Army Exiting Australian Aged Care Sector

4BC, Drive, AM Radio, 06 Nov 2026, Carla Bignasca

Interview with Steve Bessioli from the Salvation Army about the organisation's decision to exit residential aged care and home care across Australia. Bessioli explained that rising construction costs for required

capital works, alongside enhanced regulations, prompted plans to hand over centres to specialised providers by early 2027, while refocusing on core areas like homelessness and domestic violence.

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Disability and Carers

Evicted as a kid, Bleyer fights on

Hobart Mercury, General News, 07 Nov 2026, Nick Clark, Page 20

New Greens senator Vanessa Bleyer says her political beliefs owe much to the abandonment of her family by her father when she was in high school. [...] Senator Bleyer is also working for disabled people, and is the plan nominee for her Down syndrome sister under the National Disability Insurance Scheme after the death of her mother this year.

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Return from workplace injury a shared journey

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 07 Nov 2026, Jason Lardelli, Page 43

Many people think of work as something we do to earn a living. [...] Alongside major employers, healthcare providers and community organisations, WorkSafe Victoria, the Transport Accident Commission and the NDIA all call Geelong home, making it a centre of excellence, an ideal place to develop and test new approaches that help those with disabilities, injured workers recover and return to work

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Why chronic pain is often overlooked as part of disability – and what can help

Yahoo! News Australia, Internet, 06 Nov 2026, Manasi Murthy Mittinty, Anne Kavanagh & Sophie Yates

One in five Australians lives with chronic pain, meaning pain that persists longer than three months. Among people with disabilities, the rate is far higher. Yet this overlap between disability and chronic pain is still misunderstood.

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Also reported by: ***The Conversation***

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Primary Care

Telehealth clinics required to ensure patient handover with GPs under draft national standards

Australian Doctor, Internet, 06 Nov 2026

Doctors working in telehealth clinics would be required to explicitly identify who is accountable for ongoing patient care when a consultation ends and share information with patients' regular clinicians. The demand forms part of new draft standards for virtual care which aim to clean up a telehealth sector which has been dogged by accusations of poor or non-existent clinical handover, with prescribing fuelled by commercial interests rather than those of the patient.

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Patients benefit from two years of progress

Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Internet, 06 Nov 2026, Brett Masters

Patients in every state and territory can now see a specially trained pharmacist for more of their everyday health needs. It follows two years of progress since Scope of Practice Review, Unleashing the Potential of our Health Workforce, was published.

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Recruiting Rural GPs to Address Shortages

ABC Radio Hobart, Afternoons, AM Radio, 06 Nov 2026, Joel Rheinberger

Interview with Dr Cathy Welch about moving from Scotland to work as a local GP in Strahan to help address regional workforce shortages. Dr Welch discussed transitioning from working in remote Scottish communities to Tasmania, highlighting the appeal of close community connections and the importance of continuity of care in rural general practice.

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Also reported by: *ABC Radio Hobart*

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Population Health

Peanut allergy no more

Courier Mail, General News, 07 Nov 2026, Page 18

A national program has found more than a third of babies thought to have a peanut allergy could safely have the diagnosis removed. The research led by Murdoch Children's Research Institute and the National Allergy Centre of Excellence, in partnership with 10 pediatric public hospitals, found 35 per cent of infants with a recent reaction to peanut and positive allergy test didn't react during an oral food challenge.

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Also reported by: *Adelaide Advertiser*

Fighting for Ask Izzy: why 300 groups want funding restored for this lifeline

Canberra Times, Internet, 06 Nov 2026, David Spriggs

Australians are doing it tough. [...] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data shows financial stress is higher in outer regional Australia than in major cities.

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

Experts on why your back hurts – and what to do about it

The Guardian, Internet, 07 Nov 2026, Éva Malpass

Was jet-washing the patio the straw that broke the camel's – and your – back? That's a possibility, but experts say the actual causes of back pain may surprise you – and it's a bigger issue than most may realise.

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Chronic Conditions and Screening

Drug wars in two-tier health system

Weekend Australian, General News, 07 Nov 2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

Australia's private market in medicines - led by GLP-1 drugs - has expanded to unprecedented levels as households' spending on pharmaceuticals skyrockets and government investment in the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme plummets. New figures have quantified the explosion in demand for GLP-1 drugs that has spawned a $3bn-a-year market that has no precedent in Australia's history, with 1.6 million Australians a year obtaining weight-loss medicines at the rate of at least one million scripts a month.

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Call to share your spare

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 07 Nov 2026, Karli Farrell, Page 13

Peter Farnsworth is a survivor, thanks to a kidney donation more than 30 years ago. He is now calling for people to register for organ donation, as the Robinvale native, who now lives in Melbourne, has more than 16 close family members who have been diagnosed with polycystic kidney disease (PKD) -- a genetic disease where fluid-filled cysts grow in both kidneys, making them larger and stopping them from performing effectively.

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Why my father took his own life after being rejected for voluntary assisted dying

Canberra Times, Internet, 06 Nov 2026, Craig Patrick

Whilst the death of my father came as no surprise, the manner of his exit remains saddening and disorienting for my family. We have decided to share his experience and convey some of his concerns about current voluntary assisted dying (VAD) legislation.

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The midlife health shift we need to talk about

NEWS.com.au, Internet, 06 Nov 2026, Brooke Lewis

If you've ever used your phone camera to zoom in on a menu photo you're struggling to read, you're not alone. Vision changes are among the top three ageing concerns for almost half of Australians aged 40-59, coming in behind reduced mobility and memory loss, and outranking wrinkles, grey hair and weight gain.

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Diabetes Australia welcomes new oral GLP-1 treatment option for Australians

Retail Pharmacy, Internet, 06 Nov 2026

Diabetes Australia welcomes the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) recent approval of a new oral formulation of Wegovy (semaglutide) as a step forward in the treatment of obesity and related chronic conditions. The oral formulation – in pill or tablet form – is an alternative delivery form to current products for weight management and cardiovascular risk reduction, which rely on self-administered injections.

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'I smelled like a dead rat': Woman's brave fight to expose rare cancer

The Senior, Internet, 06 Nov 2026, Carla Mascarenhas

Marilee Burtt was in her late 60s when she developed a persistent "down there" itch, a symptom repeatedly dismissed by doctors before it was finally diagnosed as vulvar cancer. Now in recovery, Burtt is determined to raise awareness of this lesser-known disease, fearing that many women suffer in silence due to embarrassment or shyness.

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Dr Roger Hunt on Voluntary Assisted Dying

FIVEAA, Breakfast, AM Radio, 06 Nov 2026, Will Goodings & Stacey Lee

In an interview, Dr Roger Hunt discussed the historical development of palliative care and voluntary assisted dying in Australia. Hunt noted that after decades of debate, both approaches are now recognised as distinct end-of-life care options, providing patients with greater choice when suffering from terminal conditions. He highlighted advocates' contributions to reforming the law while calling for continued improvements.

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Also reported by: ***FIVEAA***

Oncologist Reflects on Cancer Prevention Advances

FIVEAA, Mornings, AM Radio, 06 Nov 2026, Graeme Goodings

In an interview with Professor Ian Olver, a medical oncologist and former Cancer Council Australia CEO, he discussed progress in cancer treatment, prevention, and public health policy. He highlighted that five-year cancer survival rates have risen from under 50% to over 70%, driven by targeted therapies, screening programs, HPV vaccination, and public education initiatives like Slip, Slop, Slap.

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Also reported by: ***FIVEAA***

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Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

The mistake at the heart of our radicalisation debate

Weekend Australian, General News, 07 Nov 2026, Claire Lehmann, Page 16

Being an opinion writer and running a digital magazine that covers contentious issues for more than a decade has, at times, made me a target online. [...] Our society is understandably reluctant to discuss the relationship between psychosis and violent crime because we want to avoid stigmatising people suffering from mental illness

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Resilience training

The Saturday Paper, General News, 07 Nov 2026, Russell Marks, Page 3

Following a major investigation in The Monthly into The Resilience Project, it can be revealed that education departments and national non-government organisations do not require providers of school wellbeing programs - including The Resilience Project - to show they do not harm particular students before endorsing their use in schools. Education departments in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia claim to use "rigorous procurement processes" to assess externally provided programs for inclusion in their wellbeing directories, from which schools can then select and pay for programs.

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Police probe alleged nurse rape at mental health hospital

The Saturday Age, General News, 07 Nov 2026, Henrietta Cook & Melissa Cunningham, Page 2

A nurse working at Victoria's only mental health hospital for prisoners was allegedly raped by a patient earlier this week when staffing numbers on her unit were halved during a shift. Police are investigating the alleged incident, which is said to have happened at Thomas Embling Hospital during the early hours of Monday.

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

Hospital self-harm horror

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 07 Nov 2026, Jessica Page, Page 5

Alarming new suicide figures have prompted health unions to speak out and demand an urgent funding boost to fix "critical capacity pressures" they say are putting lives at risk. The West Australian can reveal that in the wake of a 49 per cent surge in suicide attempts within hospitals, the unions passed a vote of no confidence in the State's Mental Health Commissioner, Maureen Lewis.

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

Nurse sexually assaulted at high-security hospital

Canberra Times, Internet, 06 Nov 2026, Melissa Meehan

Investigations are underway after a nurse was allegedly sexually assaulted at a high-security hospital used to house mentally ill prisoners. Police are investigating the alleged assault that occurred on Monday at the

Thomas Embling Hospital.

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

Nurse allegedly sexually assaulted at Melbourne's Thomas Embling Hospital

ABC Online, Internet, 06 Nov 2026, Rachel Eddie

A nurse has allegedly been sexually assaulted by a patient detained at Victoria's only forensic hospital, as distressed staff detail concerns about dysfunction at the facility in Melbourne's inner north. Victoria Police is investigating and WorkSafe is making inquiries about the incident this week, which two sources in the sector described as serious and distressing.

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Immunisation

Cure for curse made in China

Weekend Australian, General News, 07 Nov 2026, Yoni Bashan, Page 1

Behind thick panes of glass in a laboratory on the outskirts of Chengdu, bacteria multiply inside steel fermentation tanks, the first quiet step towards ending a disease that has cursed Aboriginal children for generations and created one of Australia's most enduring health injustices. Here, on this vaccine production line, a homegrown Australian invention is being engineered to defeat the cause of that disease: Group A Streptococcus, the bug that gives millions of children a sore throat each year.

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Health Systems Strategies

Record super raid for dental work leaves holes in savings

Weekend Australian, Business News, 07 Nov 2026, Anthony Keane, Page 28

A surge in people tapping their superannuation to pay for new teeth and other dental bills is eroding retirement savings, with financial advisers and dentists warning that some savers are using the early-release scheme to seek cosmetic services or offshore procedures that could deliver a holiday on the side. Figures from the Australian Taxation Office show super fund members withdrew $892m early from their nest eggs last financial year to cover dental treatments, a 421 per cent surge since 2021-22.

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Fight for services 'we can't afford to lose'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 07 Nov 2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

An outpouring of emotion is expected at a big protest in Civic Park tomorrow over the pending loss of reproductive services at Newcastle Private Hospital. The protest, titled Hands off our Healthcare - Our Bodies, Our Choice, was organised by the Hunter Workers Women's Committee.

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Doctors condemn bans on VAD, tubal ligations and terminations following Catholic hospital takeovers

Australian Doctor, Internet, 06 Nov 2026, Carmel Sparke

Doctors have condemned the takeover of private hospitals by a Catholic health provider, which has said it is planning to ban voluntary assisted dying, contraception such as tubal ligations, terminations and gender reassignment procedures. Calvary Health Care is currently awaiting regulatory approval for a takeover of 14 private hospitals across Australia following the collapse of Healthscope earlier this year.

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Hospital Takeover Prompts Health Service Cut Concerns

2HD, 06:30 News, AM Radio, 06 Nov 2026

Calvary Health Care has confirmed it will discontinue IVF, elective terminations, gender reassignment procedures, and voluntary assisted dying following its proposed takeover of two Hunter hospitals. Amid widespread community concern over losing treatments, Newcastle MP Sharon Claydon said she raised the issue with the New South Wales government, Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers, and NSW Health Minister Ryan Park.

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Health Economics & Research

DNA 'switch' fights cancer

Daily Telegraph, General News, 07 Nov 2026, Page 22

A DNA "switch" that helps the body stop the growth of the most common form of breast cancer has been found by Adelaide University researchers. The research could help with future treatments.

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Also reported by: *Toowoomba Chronicle*, *Townsville Bulletin*, *Hobart Mercury*, *Geelong Advertiser*

Adelaide Researchers Find Breast Cancer On-Off Switch

Channel 9, Today, TV, 06 Nov 2026, Tom Steinfort & Sylvia Jeffreys

Adelaide cancer scientists believe they have identified an on-off switch in breast cancer research. A tiny DNA receptor is thought to halt the growth of cancers driven by the oestrogen hormone. Researchers hope the discovery may eventually act as a brake on 80 per cent of breast cancer cases.

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First Nations Health

New app helps Aboriginal families track children's ear health

National Indigenous Times, Internet, 06 Nov 2026, Jackson Clark

Aboriginal families are helping shape a new phone app designed to make it easier to keep track of their children's ear health when moving between healthcare services. The free Pathways app brings a child's ear health history into one place, giving parents and carers a record they can share at appointments.

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Yaru Health Hosts Barber Community Event

Radio National, Breakfast, AM Radio, 06 Nov 2026, Sally Sara

Local Aboriginal service Yadu Health will be hiring the shop this month for a community event called Clip and Yarns. Cyril Windlass, a support worker with Yadu Health, highlighted the value of an all-Indigenous barbershop on Ceduna's main street. Windlass noted it brings Indigenous and non-Indigenous people together to socialise and connect.

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Also reported by: *ABC Radio Sydney*, *ABC Radio Darwin*

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Public Hospital and Health Reform

Record October ramping but Labor claims a win

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 07 Nov 2026, Brad Crouch, Page 3

The worst October ramping on record has been spun as good news by the state government, noting that it was slightly down on September. The government promise to "fix ramping" so crucial to its 2022 election victory last month saw patients stuck in ambulances in hospital car parks for 4759 hours, at times tying up paramedics for entire shifts.

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Safety concerns behind emergency department upgrade

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 07 Nov 2026, Sophia Baker, Page 4

Work will soon begin to upgrade an embattled southwest emergency department as anxieties about staff and patient safety becomes more of a concern. Western District Health Service has advised preliminary work on its self-funded interim emergency department upgrade at the Hamilton Base Hospital will start by the middle of November.

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'Sent the heavies in'

Weekend Post, General News, 07 Nov 2026, Samuel Davis, Page 6

Queensland Health has rejected claims that executives attempted to silence staff from raising concerns with a $200m hospital redevelopment in southern Cape York. The Cooktown Multipurpose Health Service project is set to be delivered in 2029, providing a new main clinical building, an eight-bed expansion, emergency department, operating theatre and outpatient services.

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Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office

No relevant coverage.

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Health Workforce

'It's like a dead end'

The Saturday Paper, General News, 07 Nov 2026, Preeshita Shah, Page 5

Sonam* left Nepal for Melbourne to study nursing in early 2024, where she was joined three months later by her husband, Bishal. He found a job working in aged care, without which the couple would not have survived financially while she attended classes and completed 1000 hours of unpaid hospital placements for her Master of Nursing Practice.

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Going places

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 07 Nov 2026, Stephanie Gardiner, Page 1

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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Patients, workers could benefit from human rights bill

Canberra Times, Internet, 06 Nov 2026, Catherine Bouris

Enshrining the right to health in human rights legislation could benefit both workers and patients, advocates argue. Healthcare union representatives detailed a myriad of ways a human rights bill could positively impact their sector at a NSW parliamentary inquiry.

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

‘You can't be what you can't see': Chantelle encourages rural students

Shepparton News Online, Internet, 06 Nov 2026, Bree Harding

When Chantelle Takos was a child, she spent lots of time in medical facilities visiting her grandfather — or 'Opa' — who was perpetually unwell. The family lived regionally, at Woodend in the Macedon Ranges.

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Technology Assessment and Access

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Medicare Benefits and Digital Health

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Benefits Integrity

Dip in complaints about AHPRA to health ombudsman

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Internet, 06 Nov 2026, Jolyon Attwooll

An annual review found investigations about more complex issues are on the rise, while gripes about registration declined. Complaints about AHPRA's work fell from a record high last year.

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Australian CDC

No relevant coverage.

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Therapeutic Goods Administration

Weight-loss pills come with a fat price

AFR Weekend, General News, 07 Nov 2026, Michael Smith, Page 3

The first pill version of GLP-1 weightloss drugs to be sold in Australia will be sold at a similar price to the monthly jabs already available, according to pricing indications sent to doctors and pharmacists this week.

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Also reported by: *Australian Financial Review*

Tasmania trials ‘life-changing' prostate cancer treatment to reduce severe side effects

The Mercury, Internet, 06 Nov 2026, Sue Bailey

A "life-changing" new approach to treating prostate cancer will be trialled in Tasmania. Urologist Dr 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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Also reported by: *Daily Telegraph Australia*, *Townsville Bulletin*, *Cairns Post*, *Geelong Advertiser*, *Northern Territory News*, *Gold Coast Bulletin*, *The Courier Mail*, *Adelaide Now*

TGA denies bid for GPs to prescribe isotretinoin

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Internet, 06 Nov 2026, Michelle Wisbey

A Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) interim decision has rejected a bid to allow GPs to prescribe isotretinoin, citing the risk of teratogenicity, the medication’s clinical complexity, and a lack of safeguards. It’s an outcome the RACGP called ‘deeply disappointing’ and a ‘significant missed opportunity to improve patient access to care’.

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Synedica peptide safety warning

Pharmacy Daily, Internet, 06 Nov 2026

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has warned people not to use Synedica branded peptide products after testing showed they did not contain what their labels claimed. Synedica BPC 157, Klow and Barbie Klow products contained no detectable TB-500, despite being labelled as containing the ingredient, while the Synedica Retatrutide 10mg products tested contained less retatrutide than stated on the label, with significant variation between samples.

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Office of Drug Control

No relevant coverage.

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Food Standards

Purple patch

Weekend Australian, Magazine, 07 Nov 2026, Helen Young, Page 48

Meet 'Purple Bliss', a new, bioengineered tomato that has the deep purple colour of an eggplant. [...] Australia's regulation around genetically modified plants is particularly strict, but 'Purple Bliss' has received all necessary approvals from the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator, and Food Standards Australia New Zealand.

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Bio-engineered purple tomato enters Australian market

4BC, Afternoons, AM Radio, 06 Nov 2026, Michael McLaren

In an interview with Travis Murphy, Managing Director of All Aussie Farmers, he discussed the approval and launch of the genetically modified Purple Bliss tomato in Australia. Approved by Food Standards Australia New Zealand for food consumption and licensed by the Gene Technology Regulator for commercial cultivation, it is the first genetically modified whole food approved for domestic cultivation and sale. Murphy explained that the bio-engineered product offers higher levels of antioxidants and will be supplied to independent retailers.

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Also reported by: *2GB*

Illicit Alcohol Breaches Food Standards Code

6PR, Drive, AM Radio, 06 Nov 2026, Jamie Burnett

Steven Fanner, Executive Director of Spirits Council of Australia, raised concerns about illicit alcohol manufactured domestically outside the Food Standards Code, warning it poses serious health and safety risks. Australia's alcohol body has urged the federal government to review spirits taxes, with ATO figures showing illicit manufacturing and tax evasion will reach $1.23 billion in 2025.

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