

Australian Government
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

# TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 11 November 2026

Minister Butler | Minister McAllister | Minister Rae | Assistant Minister McBride | Assistant Minister White | Special Envoy Repacholi | Department | Ageing and Aged Care | Disability and Carers | Primary Care | Population Health | Chronic Conditions and Screening | Mental Health and Suicide Prevention | Immunisation | Health Systems Strategies | Health Economics & Research | First Nations Health | Public Hospital and Health Reform | Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office | Health Workforce | Technology Assessment and Access | Medicare Benefits and Digital Health | Benefits Integrity | Australian CDC | Therapeutic Goods Administration | Office of Drug Control | Food Standards | AICIS

## Links

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## Executive Summary

- The **Adelaide Advertiser** (page 1) and **ABC Online** lead coverage on aged care bed shortages and their impact on SA hospitals, with Premier Peter Malinauskas demanding federal action, Aged Care Minister Sam Rae unable to attend the crisis summit and Opposition health spokeswoman Anne Ruston highlighting Health Minister Mark Butler's comments that there was no money to address bed block despite a $517 million underspend. *Also reported by: InDailySA*
- The **Australian Financial Review** (page 8) reports that the NDIA is deploying security guards, upgrading office barriers and training staff to respond to aggression following a safety review, as

Health Minister Mark Butler oversees reforms to the scheme involving $38 billion in proposed savings.

- The **Kalgoorlie Miner** (page 1) reports that new insurance requirements could end homebirth services in regional areas such as Esperance and Kalgoorlie, where there are few endorsed midwives, while the Federal Department of Health said the exemption would end on December 31 after an 18-month transition period.
- The **Australian Financial Review** (page 1) reports that companies in the NDIS, disability and aged care sectors are featuring prominently on lists of Australia's fastest-growing businesses, highlighting rapid expansion in the care-based economy.
- The **Weekly Source** (online) reports that Aged Care Minister Sam Rae has defended the Integrated Assessment Tool as improving fairness, amid the Commonwealth Ombudsman's finding that the system was unreasonable, while Department of Health secretary Blair Comley maintained it produced fairer outcomes.
- The **Medical Republic** (online) reports that a Nous Group review has recommended the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing consider reforms to rural primary care funding, including giving Primary Health Networks a greater role in coordinating Commonwealth and state funding.
- **The Australian** reports that an international study has found that people with type 2 diabetes who stop taking GLP-1 medications, such as Ozempic, may double their risk of heart attack, stroke or death. *Also reported by: ABC Online*
- **ABC Online** reports that the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists has backed calls to end the isolation of suicidal prisoners in safe cells and have health workers assess and monitor inmates with serious mental illness, with its NSW chair Dr Ian Korbel saying they need close clinical support.
- The **Retail Pharmacy** (page 10) reports that the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has called for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to conduct a comprehensive review of direct-to-consumer healthcare models, warning they risk commercialising patient care.
- The **Health Times** (online) reports that hospital visits by Australians aged over 65 rose 16 per cent in the six years to 2024, with Health Minister Mark Butler conceding that adding aged care beds alone would not prepare emergency departments for an ageing population.

# Minister Butler

## Security deployed in NDIS offices as threats rise

**Australian Financial Review**, General News, 11 Nov 2026, Michael Smith, Page 8

Security guards and aggression response teams are being deployed at National Disability Insurance Scheme offices to protect staff following a safety review, as the government faces a backlash over looming cuts to the scheme.

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Also reported by: *Australian Financial Review*

## Mali's aged scare crisis

**Adelaide Advertiser**, General News, 11 Nov 2026, Paul Starick, Page 1

Premier Peter Malinauskas is warning people will "wait longer for an ambulance in life-or-death situations" and of elective surgery delays as the state's health system hits "breaking point". [...] Federal opposition health spokeswoman Anne Ruston highlighted federal Health Minister Mark Butler in September saying there was no money to help states with bed block, yet estimates revealing a $517m underspend in residential aged care in the past financial year.

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

## Implications for community pharmacy's future

**Retail Pharmacy**, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Frank Sirianni, Page 26

We recently hosted our 31st Pharmacy Industry Dinner, which included an expert panel discussing 'The future of pharmacy business ownership: Grow, hold or exit in 2026'. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has explicitly described medicines policy as economic policy as well as health policy, noting that effective medicines can improve productive work time and wages.

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## Ministerial discretion requests

**Retail Pharmacy**, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Page 32

Requests for exercise of ministerial discretion are a pathway many pharmacists use when they don't meet the requirements of the Pharmacy Location Rules. [...] In our experience, the Minister (at present, Mark Butler) usually takes the full amount of time available to him to decide on the request.

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## Aged Care Minister describes the IAT as "fair"

**The Weekly Source**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Caroline Egan

Despite significant evidence to the contrary, Aged Care Minister Sam Rae is sticking to the Government's line about automated aged care assessments. [...] In August, Health Minister Mark Butler said the new system "delivers fairer, more consistent outcomes".

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## Feds absent from SA govt emergency talks

**WEB InDaily SA**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026

SA Health Minister Blair Boyer is demanding action from his federal counterparts on the aged care bed block, but gave them less than a week's notice in inviting them to appear before the state's unions in crisis talks. [...] Batty was not invited to today’s crisis talks, nor was Federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

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## 'More work to do': ageing population puts clamp on EDs

**HealthTimes**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026

Adding more aged care beds won't be enough to help hospital emergency departments prepare for an ageing population, the health minister concedes. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said issues involved with an ageing population were hitting the hospital sector.

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## Major rural health funding mechanism could be shifted to PHNs

**The Medical Republic**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Holly Payne

Tying regional primary care funding to Primary Health Networks rather than leaving rural GP clinics and hospitals to rely on a complex and bureaucratic funding mix is one of several potential initiatives which has been pitched to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. [...] Since 2006, the initiative has allowed the federal health minister's office to grant an exemption which allowed Medicare benefits to be payable for some state-funded services in rural communities, the terms of which were governed by a series of memorandums of understanding.

Continue reading

## Government Considers Options on Specialist Fees

**WIN Gippsland**, WIN News, TV, 10 Nov 2026, Bruce Roberts

Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler stated that all options remain on the table to rein in climbing specialist fees. His remarks follow a Grattan Institute report showing over 800,000 Australians skip or delay specialist care annually due to costs. While the report proposed withdrawing Medicare funding from high-charging specialists, Australian Medical Association President Fred Betros rejected that solution.

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Also reported by:: ***WIN Shepparton***, ***WIN Bendigo***

## Anne Ruston on Aged Care Hospital Delays

**News24**, Newsday, TV, 10 Nov 2026, Kieran Gilbert

Interview with Shadow Health & Aged Care Minister Anne Ruston about aged care patients stranded in hospitals. Ruston stated that the federal government, including Mark Butler, must answer for massive wait times, noting about 3,700 clinically cleared older Australians remain stuck nationwide. She added that ministers are failing to take notice despite state governments sounding the alarm.

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## Calls for Federal Funding for Aged Care Beds

**ABC Radio Adelaide**, Drive, AM Radio, 10 Nov 2026, Nikolai Beilharz

In an interview with SA Premier Peter Malinauskas, he called for urgent federal investment in aged care beds, warning that insufficient capacity is severely impacting South Australia's public hospitals and ambulance response times. He noted federal targets require 10,000 new beds annually but only 800 were delivered last year, after measures introduced by Mark Butler were wound back under the Abbott government.

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Also reported by:: ***ABC North and West SA***

## State Ministers Demand Federal Aged Care Action

**FIVEAA**, Mornings, AM Radio, 10 Nov 2026, Graeme Goodings

Gooding says health ministers from across Australia, excluding New South Wales, have demanded urgent federal intervention to address the aged care bed crisis following talks initiated by SA Premier Peter Malinauskas. He reported that more than 3,600 older Australians were waiting in hospital for residential aged care funding in September, with South Australia recording over 500 patients.

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# Minister McAllister

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

**NEWS.com.au**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, commentLabel commentValue

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

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# Minister Rae

## Empty chair at bed shortage summit highlights state-federal tensions

**ABC Online**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Daniel Keane

South Australia's worst-ever ambulance ramping hours in August would have been reduced by two thirds had there been no aged care bedblock, the state government has claimed at a health meeting intended to increase pressure on Canberra. [...] Those tensions were on full display in the form of an empty chair set aside for federal aged care minister Sam Rae, who was unable to attend but whose absence was made more conspicuous by a vacant space bearing his name between SA Premier Peter Malinauskas and SA Ambulance Service CEO Rob Elliott.

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Similar items:

**Feds absent from SA govt emergency talks**

**WEB InDaily SA**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, 11:03 am

## The robot decides. The algorithms taking charge of our health

**Michael West Media**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Claudia Weisenberger

One in four Australians being assessed for aged care support right now will never meet their assessor. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae and the government call them decision-support tools.

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## Aged Care Minister describes the IAT as "fair"

**The Weekly Source**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Caroline Egan

Despite significant evidence to the contrary, Aged Care Minister Sam Rae is sticking to the Government's line about automated aged care assessments. [...] In August, Health Minister Mark Butler said the new

system "delivers fairer, more consistent outcomes".

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## Govt spends $42.5M - $1.05M per bed - on new aged care home in remote region

**The Weekly Source**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Caroline Egan

The Federal Government is investing $42.5 million in a new aged care home in remote Western Australia, where residential care options are scarce. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said the investment reflected the Government's commitment to ensuring older Australians could access care regardless of where they lived.

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## Federal Aged Care Minister Absent from Talks

**Channel 9**, Nine Afternoon News, TV, 10 Nov 2026, Will McDonald

The South Australian government has held crisis talks regarding aged care, demanding more Commonwealth funding as forecasts suggest 700 aged care patients could be stranded in public hospitals by next winter. Premier Peter Malinauskas noted Federal Minister for Aged Care Sam Rae was absent from the meeting after receiving six days' notice.

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## State Government Holds Aged Care Crisis Talks

**FIVEAA**, 10:00 News, AM Radio, 10 Nov 2026

The state government is holding aged care crisis talks with unions and industry groups after more than 500 hospital patients were left waiting for an aged care bed in October. Health Minister Blair Boyer defended the talks despite no federal ministers attending, noting efforts by himself and the Premier to engage federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae.

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## Anne Webster Challenges Sam Rae Over Aged Care Delays

**River 1467**, 08:05 Local News, AM Radio, 10 Nov 2026

Federal Mallee MP Anne Webster has raised concerns regarding aged care reforms, claiming 17 older Australians died each week last financial year awaiting services. She stated she directly confronted Aged Care Minister Sam Rae and handed him correspondence written in May that had gone unanswered, after crossing the chamber to deliver the letters personally.

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## Aged Care Shortages Drive Hospital Bed Block

**Radio National**, The Radio National Hour, AM Radio, 10 Nov 2026, Fran Kelly

Interview with Hal Swerissen, emeritus professor of public health at La Trobe University, about aged care pressures driving hospital bed block. The discussion follows Federal Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae rebuffing South Australian Premier Peter Malinauskas's call for an urgent meeting. Swerissen stated residential care construction is not keeping pace with demand alongside underperforming home care programmes.

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# Assistant Minister McBride

No relevant coverage.

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# Assistant Minister White

## Government Funds Healthcare for First Nations Families

**NITV**, NITV News, TV, 10 Nov 2026, Cameron Gooley

The Federal Government is investing over $100 million into Aboriginal health services to support First Nations mothers and babies across 15 organisations. Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health Rebecca White praised the community-led design of the funded services. The initiative aims to improve family healthcare from pregnancy through early childhood while maintaining cultural connections.

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# Special Envoy Repacholi

## Repacholi Clarifies Prostate Cancer Care Changes

**WIN Rockhampton**, WIN News Central Queensland, TV, 10 Nov 2026, Georgia Elsley

Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi stated that Commonwealth-funded prostate cancer care will transition to McGrath Cancer Care under the Australian Cancer Nursing and Navigation programme. While Prostate Cancer Foundation Australia raised concerns over a lack of consultation, Repacholi noted funding is not being withdrawn and the same number of full-time nurses will remain.

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Also reported by:: *WIN Orange*, *WIN Toowoomba*, *WIN Sunshine Coast*, *WIN Cairns*, *WIN Townsville*

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# Department

## Homes in crisis

**Newcastle Herald**, General News, 11 Nov 2026, Gabriel Fowler, Page 1

Hunter and Central Coast nursing home residents have been involved in more than 7500 serious incident reports to the aged care watchdog during the past two financial years. [...] The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC), which produces the data, is funded by the federal health department, and the reporting system relies on service providers' willingness and competence to make reports

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## Midwives protest laws threatening homebirths

**Kalgoorlie Miner**, General News, 11 Nov 2026, Isabella Davis, Page 1

A change in Federal law could stop local women from being able to give birth in their own homes, a pair of Esperance midwives say. [...] In a statement to the Kalgoorlie Miner, the Federal Department of Health said it was committed to ensuring women had equitable access to safe, high-quality maternity care.

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## Direct-to-consumer healthcare's new phase

**Retail Pharmacy**, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Trent Twomey, Page 10

LillyDirect is the latest manifestation of a broader trend we've already seen with medicinal cannabis, telehealth-first healthcare models, weight management programs, and digital prescribing businesses. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing should undertake a comprehensive review of D2C healthcare.

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## The robot decides. The algorithms taking charge of our health

**Michael West Media**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Claudia Weisenberger

One in four Australians being assessed for aged care support right now will never meet their assessor. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae and the government call them decision-support tools.

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## Aged Care Minister describes the IAT as "fair"

**The Weekly Source**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Caroline Egan

Despite significant evidence to the contrary, Aged Care Minister Sam Rae is sticking to the Government's line about automated aged care assessments. [...] In August, Health Minister Mark Butler said the new system "delivers fairer, more consistent outcomes".

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Similar items:

**Integrity centre calls for stronger audit rights in government technology contracts**

**Procurement and Supply Australasia (PASA)**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, 10:30 am

## The Health Wrap: tackling air pollution, research updates, elections – and a postcard from India

**Croakey**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Lesley Russell

As COP31 puts a spotlight on the health hazards of air pollution, Dr Lesley Russell reports on its impacts in India, where she found climate change to be a regular topic of conversation. [...] The Department of Health,

Disability and Ageing has a consultation on specialist affordability and access which is specifically considering fee caps.

Continue reading

### This innovation in primary care funding aims to support better integration of care

**Croakey**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Stephen Duckett

One of the reasons that so many Australians find their healthcare to be fragmented and difficult to navigate is because of how funding systems are designed. [...] EMPHN receives about $30 million a year from the Commonwealth Department of Health, Disability and Ageing for a range of primary care services across 12 separate funding lines, each with its own requirements.

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### Major rural health funding mechanism could be shifted to PHNs

**The Medical Republic**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Holly Payne

Tying regional primary care funding to Primary Health Networks rather than leaving rural GP clinics and hospitals to rely on a complex and bureaucratic funding mix is one of several potential initiatives which has been pitched to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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Similar items:

**Two front doors to one house: The administration of primary mental health care in Australia**

**The Mandarin**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, 7:39 am, Tom Keating

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## Ageing and Aged Care

### Worried you can't afford aged care? Here's what you could pay

**Sydney Morning Herald**, Money, 11 Nov 2026, Dominic Powell, Page 27

I hate to say it, but we're all getting older. Some of us are a bit further along the track than others, but inevitably at some point our bones will start to creak a bit more than we'd like, and we'll start to think seriously about the prospect of owning a caravan.

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Also reported by: *Age*

### The aged care shortage facing families this Christmas

**Sydney Morning Herald**, Money, 11 Nov 2026, Rachel Lane, Page 27

Christmas is supposed to be a time for family, celebration and a wellearned break. But for families relying on aged care, finding respite over the festive season is becoming a source of stress.

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Also reported by: *Age*

## Aged care homes guarded amid fears of attacks

**Age**, General News, 11 Nov 2026, John Silvester, Page 1

Police are guarding at least seven aged care homes across Melbourne as a campaign of intimidation against an embattled property developer takes a sinister turn. A drive-by shooting last week at one of the facilities, where a bullet hit the building, has sparked the police precaution amid credible threats of further attacks linked to former property tycoon Simon Pitard.

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Similar items:

**Shots fired at Melbourne aged care home as police patrols and security increased across other facilities**

**The Guardian**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, 5:31 pm, Ima Caldwell

## Bad case of lies about ramping is haunting Mali

**Adelaide Advertiser**, Editorials, 11 Nov 2026, Page 20

Cynicism is almost always a wasted state of being. [...] The obvious problem of an ageing population is that when there are not enough federally funded aged care beds, then the aged will instead need to be cared for in state-funded acute-care settings, such as hospitals.

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Also reported by: *Adelaide Now*

## Salvos to pull out of two Canberra centres for old people in big shake-up

**Canberra Times**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Dave Allen

The Salvation Army is to pull out of care and respite centres for old people in the ACT. [...] Burrangiri was recently reprieved from closure by a $10 million federal government grant to the ACT government - but the Salvation Army said it wouldn't be running the place once that refurbishment work was done.

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Similar items:

**Salvation Army's aged care exit leaves hundreds of elderly Aussies fearing for their future**

**7News.com.au**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, 4:20 pm, Lauren Thomson

**Salvos leave aged care to get back to their core mission of hardship relief**

**Newcastle Herald**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, 5:50 pm, Gabriel Fowler

## From two years to life bans: all the names on national aged care black list

**Daily Liberal**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Bradley Jurd

People from across the Central West have been named on a national register of banning orders maintained by the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission. The publicly accessible register identifies individuals who have been prohibited or restricted from being involved in aged care services under federal legislation, with orders ranging from fixed-term prohibitions and supervisory conditions to permanent bans.

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Also reported by: ***Bathurst Western Advocate***

## Is the Retirement Living Code of Conduct now redundant, with just 24% participation?

**The Weekly Source**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, James Wiltshire

In seven months' time, Victoria is introducing its own mandatory retirement village Code of Practice. Has the industry's voluntary Retirement Living Code of Conduct become redundant, and with it, its place at the head table.

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## Aged Care Bed Shortage Strains SA Hospitals

**Channel 7**, Seven News, TV, 10 Nov 2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli & Will Goodings

South Australian Premier Peter Malinauskas warned that an aged care crisis is leaving hundreds of elderly patients stranded in hospital beds. AMA SA President Peter Subramaniam said 502 patients are currently waiting for aged care beds, jamming the healthcare system. State leaders called for increased federal funding, while Canberra highlighted an additional two billion dollars over five years.

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## Aged care bed shortages impact hospitals

**Radio National**, Breakfast, AM Radio, 10 Nov 2026, Sally Sara

Interview with South Australian Premier Peter Malinauskas about the national aged care bed shortage causing hospital pressures and ramping. Malinauskas stated Australia needs 10,000 new beds annually, noting South Australian aged care beds dropped from 89 to 62 per 1,000 people. He called for the federal government to urgently increase funding to construct and service beds.

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## Salvation Army Exiting Residential Aged Care

**2GB**, Breakfast, AM Radio, 10 Nov 2026, Ben Fordham

In an interview with Steve Speziale from the Salvation Army, discussion focused on the charity's decision to exit residential aged care after over a century, a move that affects more than 1,500 residents across 19 facilities and 2,000 home care recipients. Speziale stated capital requirements and regulatory demands drove the planned transition, which could take up to two years.

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## Salvation Army Exiting Residential Aged Care Sector

**FIVEAA**, Mornings, AM Radio, 10 Nov 2026, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Steve Speziale from the Salvation Army about the organisation's decision to exit the residential aged care sector. Speziale explained that rising operational costs, regulatory environments, and the expense of maintaining 19 Australian sites over the next decade drove the decision. He says the provider will go to market in early 2027 while supporting current residents.

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## Salvation Army to Exit Aged Care Sector

**ABC Radio Adelaide**, Mornings, AM Radio, 10 Nov 2026, Rory Mcclaren

Interview with Salvation Army executive Steve Speziale about the organisation's decision to exit aged care and transfer its facilities and home care packages to new operators. Speziale stated that property upkeep demands, rising costs, and aged care regulations led to the move. He says formal process to find operators across its 19 centres will begin in early 2027.

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## Salvation Army Withdraws From Aged Care Sector

**FIVEAA**, Mornings, AM Radio, 10 Nov 2026, Graeme Goodings

Interviews with Older Persons Advocacy Network CEO Craig Gear and National Seniors Australia CEO Chris Kreis about the Salvation Army withdrawing from aged care after 127 years. Gear warned of growing instability and urged governments to boost home care supply. Kreis stated federal funding shortfalls and wage pressures are squeezing providers, leaving one in three unprofitable.

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## Salvation Army Exits ACT Aged Care Services

**2CC**, Canberra Live, AM Radio, 10 Nov 2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with Communications executive at the Salvation Army, Steve Speziale, about the organisation pulling out of providing aged care services in the ACT, which involves selling Mountain View Aged Care Centre and stepping away from Burrangiri Aged Care Respite Centre. Speziale explained that sustainability considerations, ongoing capital expenditure across 19 Australian locations, and meeting residential care requirements prompted the decision.

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Interview continues on:: *2CC*

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# Disability and Carers

## The long road to rapid growth for champion firms

**Australian Financial Review**, Features, 10 Nov 2026, Prashant Mehra, Page 1

Australia's fastest-growing companies are rarely overnight successes. More often, they spend years building the foundations that allow them to scale quickly once the opportunity arrives.

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Also reported by: *Australian Financial Review*

Similar items:

**Choice Chemist continues rapid growth**

**Australian Journal of Pharmacy**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, 11:28 am, Nicholas O'Donoghue

## Start-ups offer treatment for sector's failures

**Australian Financial Review**, Features, 10 Nov 2026, Ronald Mizen, Page 23

Successful start-ups usually start with a problem and a person with an idea for a solution. For Kezia Kingston, the problem was how the $56 billion-a-year National Disability Insurance Scheme operates.

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Also reported by: *Australian Financial Review*

## Businesses missing out on staff options

**Canberra Times**, General News, 11 Nov 2026, Sarah Spina-Matthews, Page 9

Beneath the sails of one of Australia's most famous landmarks, one man is trying to rewrite the rules of how people with disabilities can get into work. Alex Jones, senior access manager at Sydney Opera House who lives with profound deafness, says the lack of progress in the rates of employment for disabled people is unacceptable.

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Also reported by: *Newcastle Herald*, *Illawarra Mercury*, *Border Mail*, *Canberra Times*, *Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser*, *Northern Daily Leader*, *The Senior*

## Assistive living products

**Retail Pharmacy**, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Sue Holzberger, Page 79

Most people can manage the activities of daily living without the use of products to aid these actions, but others may need help – for many reasons. [...] The NDIS can fund ongoing community nursing and related supports for chronic wounds or pressure injuries – if they're directly caused by or linked to an approved disability – as well as consumables such as wound dressings, pressure-relieving cushions, mattresses, heel protectors, and mobility equipment.

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## South West Autism Network earns national award nomination as service demand increases 1100 per cent

**West Australian**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Madelin Hayes

The South West Autism Network has earned national recognition for its role in supporting people with a disability. SWAN have been nominated in the regional and remote care program category at the Kismet Awards, with the winners to be announced at the the Hyatt Regency in Sydney on November 26.

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# Primary Care

## $2M promise to end the 'make do' era

**Warrnambool Standard**, General News, 11 Nov 2026, Jessica Greenan, Page 9

A $2 million pledge could transform an in-demand service into a modern health and well-being hub with expanded services. Member for Lowan Emma Kealy visited the 1950s-dated Terang and Mortlake Health

Service's Mortlake campus on Monday to announce the election commitment from the Liberals and Nationals.

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## Oral contraception access in pharmacies

**Retail Pharmacy**, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Samantha Crawford, Page 71

This year, the introduction and expansion of state-based pharmacy prescribing programs has significantly increased the availability of and access to contraceptive options in community pharmacies, representing a further broadening scope of practice for pharmacists as their role in Australia's healthcare environment continues to grow. All states within Australia can now access an appropriately trained pharmacist to prescribe and supply hormonal contraception, including the pill.

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## GP Calls for Independent Health Authority

**ABC Radio Adelaide**, Mornings, AM Radio, 10 Nov 2026, Rory Mcclaren

In an interview with GP Dr Danny Byrne, Byrne called for an independent health authority to manage the system instead of short-term politicians. He stated Medicare pays GPs $250 an hour at urgent care centres compared to $80 in nursing homes, disincentivising aged care and home visits while leaving vulnerable elderly patients facing avoidable hospital admissions.

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## Government Adopts Recommendations After Medicare Breach

**ABC Radio Hobart**, Afternoons, AM Radio, 10 Nov 2026, Joel Rheinberger

The federal government will establish an AI safety regulator empowered to fine non-compliant companies following a Medicare data portal breach by an OpenAI agent in September. A rapid review into the incident presented 18 recommendations that the government has accepted in full. These measures include mandatory incident reporting and penalties for tech companies failing to comply.

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## AMA NT Calls for New Hospital Infrastructure

**ABC Radio Darwin** , Breakfast, FM Radio, 10 Nov 2026, Jess Ong

In an interview with Dana Duncan, vice president of the Australian Medical Association of the NT, she discussed their calls for a new Royal Darwin Hospital, describing the facility as an urgent necessity that cannot wait. She noted that the organisation has also prioritised new infrastructure in Katherine following two hospital floods last wet season, alongside additional housing across remote communities.

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Interview continues on:: ***ABC Radio Darwin***

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# Population Health

## Red meat 'good for health as well as the environment'

**The Australian**, General News, 11 Nov 2026, Matthew Denholm, Page 3

Australians seeking an environmentally friendly, healthy diet should keep eating red meat, says the CSIRO's former principal research scientist, who warns against blindly adopting global dietary guidelines that reduce meat intake. Brad Ridoutt, who last year was controversially asked to leave the review of Australia's official dietary guidelines, told The Australian any revised advice should be based on Australian research and not "unreliable" global modelling.

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Also reported by: ***The Australian***

## We drink less, pay more

**Herald Sun**, General News, 11 Nov 2026, Page 7

Australians say they are drinking less or have stopped altogether, yet spending per bottle shop visit has increased considerably, according to research revealing a shift in the nation's alcohol habits. The report from consumer insights platform Vypr and Shop!

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## Illegal tobacco and vapes seized

**Cairns Post**, General News, 11 Nov 2026, Peter Carruthers, Page 3

A Cairns CBD convenience store has been raided again by health officials and police resulting in the seizure of a significant haul of illegal tobacco and vaping products. [...] Inside the premises, up to half a dozen Queensland Health compliance officers were seen boxing up the shop's illicit inventory.

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Similar items:

**Burning issue**

**Cairns Post**, General News, 11 Nov 2026, 12:00 am, Page 14

## The beverage market in search of satisfaction

**Retail Pharmacy**, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Hailey Settineri, Page 34

From a morning coffee to an afternoon soda, a focus-enhancing energy drink at work to a postgame hydration drink on the weekend, beverages are embedded into our everyday life. Data supports the deeply habitual nature of Australia's drinking patterns, with 60 per cent of surveyed Australians consuming non-alcoholic drinks as part of daily routines and meals, rather than these being reserved for specific events (The Economics of Everyday Drinks, Vypr and Shop! ANZ).

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## What's brewing functional beverages in pharmacy

**Retail Pharmacy**, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Margaret Mielczarek, Page 47

Functional drinks are a 'fast-growing category in Australia'. From a community pharmacy perspective, what's driving customers to ask for these products?

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## Left out in the cald on medicine safety

**Retail Pharmacy**, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Tracey Cheung, Page 66

Health literacy is key to supporting patient medicine safety, and it's about more than just being able to read the words on a medicine bottle. As the Canberra Health Literacy Hub points out, having good health literacy helps a patient use the information on the label to safely manage their care.

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## Evidence must remain central to therapeutic vaping care

**Retail Pharmacy**, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Page 82

For community pharmacists, therapeutic nicotine vaping products occupy an unusual clinical space. They're intended to support smoking cessation or manage nicotine dependence, yet the products available in Australia are not registered on the ARTG and have not been individually evaluated by the TGA for efficacy, safety, quality, or performance.

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## Lithgow tobacco shops shut down for 90 days in regional illicit trade blitz

**The Courier Mail**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Dane Millerd

Illicit tobacconists operating in the Central Tablelands have been warned by the health minister to cease illegal operations, as authorities widen their war on the unlawful trade across regional NSW. It comes after Lithgow tobacco retailers were slapped with 90-day closures in a major crackdown on illicit cigarettes and vapes last week.

Continue reading

Also reported by: *Cairns Post*, *Townsville Bulletin*, *The Mercury*, *Gold Coast Bulletin*, *Northern Territory News*, *Adelaide Now*

## Oat and almond milk diets trigger iodine deficiency as experts demand fortification

**Adelaide Now**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Eleanor Hayward

Switching from dairy products to oat or almond milk could carry health risks because they contain fewer vital vitamins and minerals, a study suggests. Experts said that favouring plant-based milks, yoghurts or cheeses may lead to deficiency in nutrients such as iodine, which is essential for thyroid function and brain health, as well as being important in pregnancy.

Continue reading

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

## Regional party-goers targeted in new study aimed at exploring the risks of country parties

**West Australian**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Harriet Dash

A study is seeking country party-goers, hoping to learn more about their experiences with alcohol, drugs, mental health and sexual health. The project by the Curtin University-based National Drug Research Institute aims to understand the benefits, risks and harms associated with country parties.

Continue reading

Similar items:

**Rural partygoers called on to inform research project**

**Kalgoorlie Miner**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, 5:00 am, Toby Cann

## Selena Gomez says vaping has changed her voice. Can e-cigarettes really affect your vocal cords – and is it reversible?

**The Guardian**, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Melissa Davey

While vaping is known to cause lung damage, breathlessness and nicotine addiction, the singer and actor Selena Gomez has posted in a video on Instagram that vaping has permanently changed her voice. [...] Prof Peter Wark, a spokesperson for the National Asthma Council Australia and a respiratory physician, says vaping also impacts the mucous membrane, which dries out and thins when damaged. Wark says this increases “the risk of coughing and breathing difficulties”.

Continue reading

## Tobacco wars fire up: police raid store, seize cash and illegal cigarettes

**Warrnambool Standard**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Andrew Thomson

The ongoing tobacco war has taken another significant step after police raided a store, seizing more than 10,000 illegal cigarettes and a significant quantity of cash. The action comes after an illegal tobacco store in Cobden was firebombed early on Wednesday morning, October 28.

Continue reading

## Survey Backs Stronger Measures to Quit Smoking

**2CC**, Breakfast, AM Radio, 10 Nov 2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Paige Preston, Chief Strategy Officer for Policy Advocacy and Prevention at the Lung Foundation of Australia, about a national survey showing 85 per cent support for increased assistance to help Australians quit smoking and vaping. Preston highlighted the difficulty of quitting nicotine addiction and advocated for diverse, accessible alternatives, alongside healthcare professionals, to encourage successful quit attempts without stigma.

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# Chronic Conditions and Screening

## Skin cancer in women on rise

**Herald Sun**, General News, 11 Nov 2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 8

Australian scientists have discovered a dangerous new trend in skin cancer, with cases in women rising faster than in men, highlighting a growing public health challenge. While melanoma has long been more common in men, researchers at Queensland's QIMR Berghofer found rates of cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) have risen steadily across generations, particularly in females.

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Also reported by: *Courier Mail*, *Daily Telegraph Australia*, *Adelaide Now*, *The Mercury*, *Northern Territory News*

## MND trial progressing

**Herald Sun**, General News, 11 Nov 2026, Page 15

An Australian-developed therapy aimed at halting the progression of motor neurone disease and restoring function by supporting the repair of damaged neural connections is advancing into a national phase 2 clinical trial. The 75-participant trial follows encouraging early signs of disease stabilisation and functional improvement in a phase I/Ib study of NUN004 by Queensland-based biotech NuNerve.

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Also reported by: *Adelaide Advertiser*, *Courier Mail*, *Geelong Advertiser*, *The Australian*

## 56 siblings I'm just trying to save one

**Adelaide Advertiser**, General News, 11 Nov 2026, Kate Uren, Page 6

A donor-conceived woman with 56 known half-siblings has won an "unprecedented" backflip from the state's health minister in her quest to warn a mystery Adelaide-born sister about a medical "ticking time bomb". Katherine Vine, 36, has been trying to track down her unidentified sister, who was conceived using the same donor sperm and born in August 1991, and warn her about the syndrome that runs in families and can lead to bowel cancer.

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

## Spring respiratory health

**Retail Pharmacy**, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Haysam Jarid, Page 57

Spring may bring warmer weather and extended daylight, but for many Australians it also signals the return of sneezing, itchy eyes, nasal congestion, and respiratory symptoms. Allergic rhinitis (AR) affects around 18 per cent of children and adults in Australia and New Zealand, according to the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA).

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## Stopping GLP-1s increases heart attack, stroke risk for diabetics: study

**The Australian**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Poppy Koronka

Type 2 diabetics who stop taking weight-loss medication could risk doubling their likelihood of heart attacks, strokes and death, research has found. Researchers from Guy's and St Thomas's NHS Foundation Trust in the UK examined more than 80,000 patients from 300 diabetes clinics in Italy, who were treated for type 2 diabetes between 2004 and 2024.

Continue reading

Similar items:

**Study links stopping Ozempic-like drugs with poor heart health outcomes**

**ABC Online**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, 10:30 am, Lauren Roberts

**Study uncovers hidden danger of type 2 diabetes patients stopping weight loss jabs**

**Yahoo! News Australia**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, 8:18 pm

## ‘He's five, not 85': Mum's shock after son suffers massive stroke near school

**Daily Telegraph Australia**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Brianne Tolj

It was a typical afternoon when five-year-old Beau, his older brother, and some friends gathered to play in bushland near his school's oval. [...] Up to 120 babies and 400 children have a stroke in Australia each year, according to the Stroke Foundation.

Continue reading

Also reported by: *Adelaide Now*, *The Courier Mail*, *The Mercury*, *Northern Territory News*, *Gold Coast Bulletin*, *Geelong Advertiser*

## Diabetes educator and nurse Helen Lamech named 2027 NT Australian of the Year

**ABC Online**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, George Nicoll

An educator and nurse credited with transforming diabetes care in Central Australia has been named the Northern Territory's 2027 Australian of the Year. Helen Lamech has worked in the Northern Territory for more than 30 years, and has spent the past decade working to reduce diabetes rates in Central Australia and improve outcomes for people with the disease.

Continue reading

## Country singer Taylor Moss shares endometriosis and fertility challenges

**ABC Online**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Sarah Howells

On stage, she is an ARIA-nominated artist, but behind the scenes, Taylor Moss is battling stage four endometriosis. The Noosa country singer first started suffering debilitating period cramps as a teenager and was diagnosed at age 18.

Continue reading

## The one unexpected habit that is helping cancer patients to heal faster

**The Senior**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Phoebe Loomes

Although exercising during cancer treatment might sound like a tiresome task that will leave you worn out, evidence shows that staying active can relieve symptoms and reduce the risk of cancer coming back. "It's a fairly new form of adjunct therapy," Adelaide University professor and accredited exercise physiologist Rebecca Dostan told The Senior.

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## Team approach urged for asthma

**Pharmacy Daily**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026

THE National Asthma Council (NAC) released new Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data yesterday showing that 484 people lost their lives in 2025 due to asthma, reinforcing the need for a multidisciplinary team approach to management. Clinical Associate Professor Debbie Rigby, pharmacist and NAC clinical executive lead, said pharmacists can...

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## Heart Foundation Warns Over Energy Drinks

**2GB**, Drive, AM Radio, 10 Nov 2026, James Willis

In an interview with Natalie Raffoul, Heart Foundation head of clinical strategy, she discussed research linking energy drinks to heart problems. Reports of cardiac arrests and heart attacks were 11 times higher for stimulant-containing products, particularly in adults aged 18 to 34. Raffoul highlighted that Australia's TGA enforces tighter regulations on stimulants than the United States.

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# Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

## Union in blue over PTSD changes

**Courier Mail**, General News, 11 Nov 2026, Thomas Chamberlin, Page 10

Queensland's police union has raised concerns with the government's proposed industrial relations law changes arguing they could undermine presumptive PTSD legislation that former president Ian Leavers fiercely campaigned for. Today marks a year since Mr Leavers the former president of the union for 15 years was found in a sudden and non-suspicious death at his home.

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Also reported by: *The Courier Mail*

## Psychiatrists backs call for major shake-up in prison mental health care

**ABC Online**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Kirstie Wellauer & Joanna McCarthy

Australia's peak psychiatrists' body has backed calls to transform mental health care in NSW prisons, including an end to isolating suicidal prisoners in so-called "safe cells". It follows an ABC investigation into mentally ill inmates who have died after being isolated in a safe cell, purportedly for their own protection.

Continue reading

## ChatGPT’s Teen Mode could deprive teenagers of a fundamental need

**The Guardian**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Robin Kirman

In August, OpenAI launched Teen Mode – a version of ChatGPT in which every user under 18 will automatically be enrolled – a year after a lawsuit alleged that ChatGPT had contributed to the suicide of a 16-year-old named Adam Raine. For years, the tech industry has contested any causal link between its products and the harms named in a wave of similar lawsuits, each alleging that the companies had not merely failed to protect children but had deliberately designed products to exploit them.

Continue reading

## Melbourne's crime, homeless crisis sparks warnings across China: ‘Do not make eye contact'

**NEWS.com.au**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Rohan Smith

Type the word "Melbourne" into any Chinese social media platform and hundreds of videos of Feng Jianming's courageous final moments flood the feed. They show the 47-year-old Chinese-Australian food delivery driver slumped on the floor, still wearing his bike helmet, bleeding from stab wounds to the chest.

Continue reading

### 'I had the perfect husband and father. Then an unexpected pregnancy ripped everything apart.'

**Mamamia**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026

I spent most of yesterday sitting in a women's Domestic and Family Violence support group, run by the women at our local women's shelter. I have spent the last year and a half talking with these women, getting their support and learning more about myself and my situation.

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## Immunisation

No relevant coverage.

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## Health Systems Strategies

### Fight of her life

**Northern Territory News**, General News, 11 Nov 2026, Lottie Hood, Page 1

A former Palmerston educator and mum-of-two is facing a double lung transplant or a six-month prognosis after a "devastating" and extremely rare form of lung disease took a rapid turn last month. To her two children, family and friends in the Top End, Denise Roberts is known for her happy spirit, dedication to teaching and love of travelling

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### Healthcare access fears drive protest against Hunter hospital takeover

**Nursing Review**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Stefanie Schultz

Community members gathered at Newcastle's Civic Park on Sunday to protest the proposed sale of Healthscope's Newcastle and Hunter Valley Private Hospitals to Calvary Health Care, citing concerns about future access to reproductive health, voluntary assisted dying and gender-affirming healthcare. The Hands Off Our Healthcare rally, organised by the Hunter Workers Women's Committee, opposed Calvary's intention to disestablish certain services due to religious reasons.

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## Health Economics & Research

### Pump the iron while on weight loss drugs

**West Australian**, General News, 11 Nov 2026, Oliver Lane, Page 3

People taking weight-loss drugs such as Mounjaro should be hitting the weights as well as shedding the kilos, with a landmark WA study finding resistance training can help preserve muscle and boost strength. UWA researchers found that those taking the drug who lifted weights three times a week lost a similar amount of overall weight to those who did not train but lost 25 per cent less lean tissue, including muscle.

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Similar items:

**Resistance training slashes muscle loss for GLP-1 patients: Study**

**Royal Australian College of General Practitioners**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, 4:38 pm, Jo Roberts

## The GLP-1 effect changes in the beverage aisle

**Retail Pharmacy**, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Margaret Mielczarek, Page 42

From your favourite celebrity dominating popular social media feeds to the shopper beside you at the supermarket self-checkout and the patient lining up at the pharmacy counter, GLP-1 medications have gone mainstream and look like they're here to stay. How is this affecting Australia's beverage market?

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## 1 in 3 births are induced. It can be life-saving but it's also linked to more complications

**Yahoo! News Australia**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026

Around one in three women in Australia now have their labours induced rather than starting naturally, or spontaneously. The rate of induction increased from 25% in 2010 to 33% in 2023. For first-time mothers, it rose from 30.6% to 39.7% in 2023.

Continue reading

## Miscarriage risk from common antibiotic reaffirmed

**Royal Australian College of General Practitioners**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Morgan Liotta

Exposure to a common antibiotic in early pregnancy has been linked with a significantly higher risk of miscarriage than in women treated with alternative antibiotics, through a large study out of the United States. Published in Annals of Internal Medicine, doxycycline was found to present a 40–54% higher risk of pregnancy loss during the first trimester, compared to amoxicillin for respiratory infections.

Continue reading

## Neurodevelopmental outcomes equivalent among toddlers exposed and unexposed to COVID-19 vaccination in utero: study

**Australian Doctor**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Louise Goodwin

The US researchers screened children born to women who received the vaccine during or immediately prior to pregnancy. Neurodevelopmental outcomes were similar among children whose mothers did and did not receive the COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy, according to a US study.

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# First Nations Health

## Frisby family's fresh start, but fears kids 'neglected all over again'

**The Australian**, General News, 11 Nov 2026, Ros Thomas, Page 1

Government agencies in South Hedland knew "for years" that the parents of the Frisby Court children were living in dire conditions in a putrid house while abandoning them for days at a time, with a former case worker alleging authorities deemed the family "just too hard". The Australian can reveal the family whose plight attracted the national spotlight after the neglect of the children was laid bare has been relocated by the Housing Department to a larger property in a better location.

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Also reported by: ***The Australian***

## An unconvincing Punch on the ropes after brutal grilling

**The Australian**, General News, 11 Nov 2026, Paul Garvey, Page 6

The performance of West Australian Aboriginal Affairs Minister Don Punch in parliament on Tuesday will have done little to quell calls for him to resign from the role. [...] The proportion of Indigenous children born at a healthy birthweight in WA is below the national average.

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Also reported by: ***The Australian***

## MJD Foundation travels far and wide to support remote Indigenous families

**National Indigenous Times**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Joseph Guenzler

The MJD Foundation travelled approximately 34,000 kilometres across 27 outreach trips during 2025-26 to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families living with inherited neurological conditions in remote Australia. Its Community Services Team assisted 91 clients across 18 locations in the Northern Territory and Far North Queensland, helping families access health care, disability services and ongoing support.

Continue reading

## Orange Sky Partners with Katherine Health Service

**ABC Radio Darwin** , Breakfast, FM Radio, 10 Nov 2026, Jess Ong

In an interview with Orange Sky's Mitch Howard, he discussed the rollout of a new remote laundry vehicle in Katherine. He says Orange Sky has partnered with Wurli-Wurlinjang Health Service, an Aboriginal community-controlled health service, which employs a local worker to operate the mobile van. He says the travelling service is rolling out this week to establish setup locations.

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# Public Hospital and Health Reform

### Sydney mental health patients waiting up to six days in Westmead Hospital emergency department

**ABC Online**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Emily Baker

Acute mental health patients have been waiting up to six days in the emergency department of a major Sydney hospital in a situation described by one doctor as unprecedented, immoral and potentially dangerous. The ABC has confirmed 12 patients with acute mental illness had been in the emergency department of Westmead Hospital in Sydney's west for more than 48 hours as of Monday afternoon.

Continue reading

### ‘How is this considered safe?’ Band-Aids no fix for Victoria’s ‘broken’ health system, doctors warn

**The Guardian**, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Donna Lu

Despite its challenges, Sarah* loves her job. After a decade working as a doctor, "it still feels like a privilege to do the work I do," she says. "I do a lot of long hours and unpaid work, and generally accept this as going with the territory." While pregnant, Sarah worked night shifts until she was 30 weeks along, and then at 35 weeks worked 10 days in a row, including a 15-hour shift.

Continue reading

### NT Labor pledges to build new Royal Darwin Hospital if it wins 2028 election

**ABC Online**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Matt-Garrick

The Northern Territory Labor Opposition has promised to build a new Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH) if it wins government in 2028, revealing new details about how and where it could be built. The current RDH, the NT's biggest and busiest hospital, is deteriorating and in a near perpetual state of crisis, with rolling code yellows , overcrowded wards and stretched staff.

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## Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office

No relevant coverage.

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## Health Workforce

### LNP drags feet on ‘sorely needed’ health workforce plan

**Sydney Morning Herald**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Courtney Kruk

The Crisafulli government has failed to release a plan showing how tens of thousands of healthcare workers will be delivered to the sector by the Olympics, with doctors warning new health infrastructure could be undermined by staff shortages. Tuesday marked a year since the release of the Queensland Health Workforce Gap Analysis Report , which found 46,000 healthcare workers were needed by 2032.

Continue reading

Similar items:

**Queensland government backflips on deadline for plan to attract thousands of health workers**

**ABC Online**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, 3:10 pm, Alex Brewster

## Nine nursing and midwifery bodies call for less hierarchy, more flexibility

**Nursing Review**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Stefanie Schultz

A new joint statement argues person-centred care should determine who leads multidisciplinary healthcare teams. Leadership of healthcare teams should be determined by the needs of patients rather than traditional professional hierarchies, according to a new joint statement endorsed by nine national nursing and midwifery bodies.

Continue reading

## Tasmanian nurses push for better pay and conditions

**Nursing Review**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Stefanie Schultz

Nurses and midwives are seeking an improved agreement that better supports recruitment, retention and workforce wellbeing. Tasmanian nurses and midwives have intensified industrial action after rejecting a government offer they say falls short on pay, workforce wellbeing, and measures needed to improve recruitment and retention.

Continue reading

## Queensland Health Minister Faces Scrutiny Over Plan

**Channel 9**, Nine News, TV, 10 Nov 2026, Melissa Downes & Joel Dry

Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls has refused to commit to a deadline for a strategy addressing the state's health workforce shortage. A gap analysis revealed 46,000 health workers are needed by 2032, including nearly 6,000 doctors. AMAQ President Erica Gannon noted hospital delivery is outpacing staffing plans as the health system remains in crisis.

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## Queensland Health Minister Delays Major Workforce Plan

**Channel 10**, 10 News, TV, 10 Nov 2026, Sharyn Ghidella

Queensland's Health Minister Tim Nicholls has retreated from a firm commitment to release a major health workforce plan, stating the government wants to get it right rather than meet a deadline. The plan is deemed critical to address a projected shortage of 6,000 doctors and 46,000 healthcare workers by 2032.

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## Queensland Health Workforce Shortages and Training Demands

**4BC**, Drive, AM Radio, 10 Nov 2026, Carla Bignasca

Interview with Dr Maria Boulton, Chair of the AMA Queensland Board, regarding demand in the health industry and delays to a detailed health workforce plan. Boulton noted that Queensland will need 46,000 healthcare workers by 2032 and stressed acute shortages across regional areas and growth corridors, including shortages of GPs, anaesthetists and psychiatrists.

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# Technology Assessment and Access

## Price alone won't unlock biosimilars' full value

**Retail Pharmacy**, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Chad Rieger, Page 6

Lower prices are an important benefit of biosimilar competition, but they're not the end goal. [...] The PBS captures the immediate benefit: listing the first eligible biosimilar brand may trigger a statutory price reduction for existing PBS-listed products.

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# Medicare Benefits and Digital Health

No relevant coverage.

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# Benefits Integrity

## Notifications against pharmacists decline

**Australian Journal of Pharmacy**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Megan Haggan

Management of medications remains the top issue behind complaints against pharmacists, data from Ahpra's annual report reveals Fewer notifications were lodged against a smaller number of pharmacists in the 2025/26 financial year than in the previous 12 months, the regulator reveals. A total of 1,119 notifications were filed with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency This content is restricted to registered users only.

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# Australian CDC

## Salmonella outbreak at Rio site still a mystery

**West Australian**, Business News, 11 Nov 2026, Adrian Rauso, Page 31

Rio Tinto is yet to reveal what caused a large salmonella outbreak at its Pilbara iron ore mine camps over a month ago but is confident the bug has been eliminated. Scores of workers, believed to be more than 50,

fell violently ill during late September and early October at the Sodexo-run villages serving the large Brockman 4 mine and the under-construction Brockman Syncline 1 project.

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# Therapeutic Goods Administration

## DAA rule changes in NSW

**Retail Pharmacy**, General News, 01 Nov 2026, Samantha Crawford, Page 68

From 5 November 2026, NSW pharmacists who dispense medicines supplied in a dose administration aid (DAA) must comply with relevant supply, labelling, and packaging requirements under the new NSW Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2026. The new rules introduced by NSW Health around DAAs in the state include a number of changes for pharmacies, whose responsibilities are clarified in terms of labelling requirements and use of third parties or other pharmacies for packing DAAs.

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## LTR Pharma builds IP protection around nasal ED treatments as prescriptions advance

**The Australian**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Special Report

Vardenafil, the active ingredient, is an established generic drug. LTR's differentiation centres on its proprietary intranasal formulation, making protection of that technology a central part of its commercial strategy. The grant adds another layer of protection as LTR Pharma (ASX:LTP) advances SPONTAN's clinical development and expands patient access through SPONTAN in Australia and ROXUS in the US.

Continue reading

## FDA adds rare vision-loss warning to popular GLP-1 drugs

**Daily Mail UK**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Associated Press

Popular weight loss drugs including Ozempic and Wegovy will carry a new warning about a possible rare side effect that can sometimes lead to permanent vision loss, U.S. health regulators announced Monday. The Food and Drug Administration said the risk will be added to the labeling of all GLP-1 drugs, the blockbuster medications used to treat obesity, diabetes and several other medical conditions.

Continue reading

## RACGP launches fresh push after TGA rejects isotretinoin bid

**Royal Australian College of General Practitioners**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Jolyon Attwooll

The RACGP is ramping up its opposition to a 'deeply disappointing' Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) decision not to allow GPs to initiate oral isotretinoin, and encouraging GPs to speak out. The TGA's interim decision, published last week and open for consultation until 4 December, raised concerns over the risk of teratogenicity, clinical complexity, and the potential for an expansion of existing telehealth prescribing of the medication.

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# Office of Drug Control

No relevant coverage.

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# Food Standards

## Australia reviewing risks to supermarkets after Europe cyber attacks

**The Australian**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026, Joseph Olbrycht-Palmer

Australia's security agencies are reviewing risks to local supermarkets after hundreds of costly cyber attacks targeting freezers in Europe. Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke has warned Australians that any device connected to the internet is "hackable", as France blames Iran for a large-scale cyber attack targeting supermarket freezers.

Continue reading

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

## Dispensary Corner 10 Nov 26

**Pharmacy Daily**, Internet, 10 Nov 2026

As Australian Food Safety Week is marked from 07-14 Nov, research has revealed that an astonishing one in six Australian adults consumes raw cows' milk – despite it being illegal to sell as human food. Raw milk is that which hasn't undergone a pasteurisation process, which involves heating the milk...

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# AICIS

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