Australian Government
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing



TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 12 November 2026

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

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Executive Summary

- **The Australian** (page 5) reports that Greens leader David Shoebridge said the party would support Labor's private health insurance rebate changes only if all pensioners were exempt, rejecting any partial exemptions. Health Minister Mark Butler said the government would work constructively with the Coalition and Greens to pass the bill.
- **The Sydney Morning Herald** (page 10) reports the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care warned that thousands of Australians with knee osteoarthritis were receiving unnecessary scans, which could lead to surgeries.

- **The Age** (page 5) reports that an analysis of Victorian hospital data found that admissions for alcohol-associated hepatitis rose to 2,979 between March 2020 and June 2024, with increasing cases in younger adults and women.
- **The Adelaide Advertiser** (page 15) reports that SA Opposition leader Ashton Hurn criticised Premier Peter Malinauskas' aged-care summit as a political stunt, while the federal government said it was supporting the construction of about 5,000 additional aged-care beds annually.
- **The Courier Mail** (page 13) reports that an independent investigation found administrative failures at Townsville University Hospital impacted care or treatment for 576 patients, including six critical cases, with Health Minister Tim Nicholls apologising and stating the situation was unacceptable. *Also reported by: Townsville Bulletin*
- **The Australian** (online) reports that Sport Integrity Australia said an international study estimating that at least 10 million minor aged athletes had used performance-enhancing drugs is concerning, with chief executive Sarah Benson saying SIA's investigations identified an increase in peptide use among Australian teenagers.
- **The Northern Territory News** (online) reports the ANMF Tasmania Branch has backed calls for a Commission of Inquiry into the state's public health system, saying the review would be critical to improve healthcare efficiency, access and reduce costs.
- **ABC Online** reports aged care provider Bupa is facing criticism for introducing a $42 daily fee for an "Enhanced Dining Experience", leaving residents on a continental breakfast unless they opt in.
- **Royal Australian College of General Practitioners** (online) reports a Commonwealth Ombudsman report criticised the fairness and lack of human oversight in Australia's automated aged care classification system, and the DoHDA said it is committed to ongoing improvement and there are two different algorithms used to determine a person's classification level and priority category.

Minister Butler

'Exclude all from pensioner health rise'

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 12 Nov 2026, Rosie Lewis, Page 5

Greens leader David Shoebridge has ruled out supporting Labor's private health insurance rebate cut for over-65s unless all pensioners are exempt, not just Australians on the full pension, saying "half-measures" will be rejected. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has signalled he's open to a debate in parliament about carving out full pensioners after the Coalition teamed up with the Greens and crossbenchers to discharge the bill from the Senate notice paper last month.

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Also reported by: *The Australian*

Stonepeak makes its biggest Australian aged care move yet

The Weekly Source, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Ian Horswill

One of the world's largest infrastructure investors has taken another significant step into Australia's seniors market. [...] Its latest addition is the 124-bed Estia Health Findon, officially opened by Federal Health Minister Mark Butler on 23 October. The South Australian development became Estia's 20th home in the State.

Continue reading

Selena Uibo Proposes Health Infrastructure Plan

ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, FM Radio, 11 Nov 2026, Lara Stimpson

Interview with Selena Uibo, Leader of the Opposition, about Northern Territory health infrastructure commitments. Uibo said she met with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler in September to propose a non-political roving health infrastructure plan to identify, time and budget for ageing facilities across Australia. She emphasised that federal support is critical for large projects, including replacing Royal Darwin Hospital.

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Minister McAllister

NDIS Funding Cuts Impacting Community Participation

ABC Coffs Coast, Breakfast, FM Radio, 11 Nov 2026, Fi Poole

Interview with Coffs Harbour disability advocate Connor Bryant about National Disability Insurance Scheme reforms and funding cuts. Bryant stated that participants face a 50 per cent cut to community and social participation alongside reduced therapy funding, forcing people to remain at home. He added that avenues to contest decisions through ART have been curtailed by automated systems. Fi Poole said they will put requests into Minister for the NDIS Jenny McAllister**.**

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Minister Rae

SA Labor slammed 'basketball stadium' to fix ramping but the crisis is far from over

ABC Online, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Leah MacLennan

"I'm choosing to scrap the basketball stadium and invest in our health system." That was how then SA Opposition Leader Peter Malinauskas announced a key part of his election campaign on social media back in June 2021. [...] This week Labor held crisis talks with unions, industry and advocacy bodies, even giving the "empty chair" treatment to federal aged care minister Sam Rae , who did not attend.

Continue reading

SA Warns of Aged Care Bed Shortages

Channel 9, Today, TV, 11 Nov 2026, Tom Steinfort & Sylvia Jeffreys

The South Australian Premier warned that around 700 elderly residents could be stuck waiting in public hospitals within a year without federal aged care beds. Health Minister Blair Boyer said the state is undertaking federal responsibilities and called on the Commonwealth to step up. A South Australian delegation is seeking federal funding to alleviate system pressure.

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Similar coverage reported by: *Channel 9*, *Channel 9*, *Channel 9*

Calls for Federal Support Over Hospital Delays

Seven Tasmania, Nightly News, TV, 11 Nov 2026, Kim Millar

Tasmania's health system is facing growing strain, with Health Minister Bridget Archer citing 141 patients stranded in hospitals awaiting residential aged care or NDIS placement. Shadow Health Minister Sarah Lovell called on the Federal Aged Care Minister, Sam Ray, to provide support. Meanwhile, Council on the Ageing National CEO Patricia Sparrow emphasised that both levels of government must resolve the issue.

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Sam Rae Defends Aged Care Funding

Radio National, 17:00 News, AM Radio, 11 Nov 2026

Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae has defended Commonwealth investment, stating that 25 billion dollars was provided to state and territory government hospitals to address aged care bed block. He told 891 ABC Adelaide that the government sought to ring-fence two billion dollars of that funding, following state government calls for dramatically increased aged care bed funding.

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Similar coverage reported by: *Radio National*, *Radio National*, *ABC North and West SA*

Sam Rae Addresses Delayed Hospital Discharges

ABC Radio Adelaide, Drive, AM Radio, 11 Nov 2026, Nikolai Beilharz

Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae will host politicians and healthcare leaders in Canberra to examine modelling showing escalating numbers of older patients stuck in hospital beds awaiting aged care spots. Speaking about delayed discharges, Rae stated the issue requires a national approach and highlighted federal investments, despite states rejecting a plan to ring-fence two billion dollars.

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Assistant Minister McBride

No relevant coverage.

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Assistant Minister White

Long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) centres open across Australia

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Internet, 11 Nov 2026

Eight specialist long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) centres have opened across Australia, giving women better access to contraceptive options including intrauterine devices (IUDs) and implants. [...] "We

want women to be able to choose the contraception that works best for them, not simply the option that is easiest to access or the one they can afford," Assistant Minister for Women, Rebecca White, said.

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Special Envoy Repacholi

No relevant coverage.

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Department

Law change could stop Esperance midwives from offering homebirths

West Australian, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Isabella Davis

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, Disability and Ageing said the Australian Government was committed to ensuring women had equitable access to safe, high-quality maternity care.

Continue reading

Also reported by: *Countryman*, *South Western Times*, *Kalgoorlie Miner*, *Midwest Times*, *Busselton Dunsborough Times*, *Great Southern Herald*, *Geraldton Guardian*, *Pilbara News*, *North West Telegraph*, *Manjimup-Bridgetown Times*, *Augusta-Margaret River Times*, *Narrogin Observer*, *Harvey-Waroona Reporter*, *Albany Advertiser*, *Broome Advertiser*, *Bunbury Herald*, *Sound Telegraph*

Losing Nikolic is the government's wake-up call on workforce

The Medical Republic, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Jeremy Knibbs

Anja Nikolic's departure from the Australasian Institute of Digital Health will be explained away as a well-earned break. [...] The real story is that the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and the Australian Digital Health Agency have stopped funding the one organisation doing serious, practical work on the digital and AI capability of the health workforce, just as that capability starts to matter most.

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Aged care assessment tool under fire

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Karen Burge

Australia's automated aged care classification system used to determine the level of support elderly patients require has come under fire from the Commonwealth Ombudsman, who questioned its fairness and consistency. [...] In response, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DoHDA) said it 'does not accept several propositions that are significant and relate directly to whether a reasonable person would have confidence in the system'.

Continue reading

Robodebt redux: Government automates accountability

The Mandarin, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Dan Holmes

The federal government may be sleepwalking into multiple robodebts, according to a leading integrity think tank. [...] ADM, based on internally produced algorithms, was the catalyst for both robodebt and the more recent case of the Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing's Single Assessment System (SAS).

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Ageing and Aged Care

Premier's aged care summit a 'stunt'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 12 Nov 2026, Brad Crouch, Page 15

Opposition Leader Ashton Hurn has accused Premier Peter Malinauskas of a "stunt" in hosting a summit on aged care which effectively blamed the federal government for chronic ramping. Mr Malinauskas told the summit "ramping will worsen" thanks to the Albanese government's failure to provide sufficiently more aged care beds.

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Merewether residents will be OK: Salvos

Newcastle Herald, General News, 12 Nov 2026, Gabriel Fowler, Page 10

The Salvation Army has made a promise to the 1500 residents of its 19 aged care facilities, including those living at Merewether's Carpenter Court. It said that nobody will be moved.

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Adelaide man Paul Bates demands 89-year-old mother be returned from Port Lincoln Hospital

Adelaide Now, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Brad Crouch

Paul Bates fears his mother Erica, 89, may end up going from hospital to an aged-care home after "falling through cracks" in the health system. Mrs Bates lives alone in Port Lincoln after the death of her husband two years ago and was flown to the Royal Adelaide Hospital after suffering a broken hip in a fall three weeks ago.

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

A beach house for $250 a week: the Southeast Asian hotspots luring Aussie retirees

Canberra Times, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Carla Mascarenhas

Lower living costs, beautiful scenery and the promise of adventure are drawing Australian retirees overseas, with destinations across Asia holding particular appeal. [...] While it was recently added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme back home in Australia, the cost in Thailand is about $17,000.

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

Melbourne aged care facility run by Arcare under police guard after shooting

ABC Online, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Ethan White

A chain of aged care facilities has increased its security across the country, after shots were fired at one of its residences in Melbourne's inner north-west last week. Police were called to Arcare Aged Care on Hampstead Road in Maidstone just before 4:30am last Friday, after two males dressed in black were seen exiting a white SUV.

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Bupa aged care residents asked to pay $42 a day for hot breakfasts

ABC Online, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Anne Connolly

Thousands of people living in Bupa aged care homes will not receive cooked breakfasts unless they sign up for a $42-a-day meal package under a contentious new fee schedule rolling out across the sector. The Higher Everyday Living Fees (HELF) program, introduced as part of the government's "once in a generation" changes, means residents will need to sign up for Bupa's "Enhanced Dining Experience" at $15,330 per year.

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Also reported by: *The Weekly Source*

Mildura high in loneliness risk factors

Sunraysia Daily, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Allan Murphy

One may well be the loneliest number that you'll ever do, but according to research by an aged care and disability support provider, Mildura is one of the loneliest places to be in Australia. Research undertaken by Just Better Care, a government-funded in-home aged care program that helps older Australians live safely and independently at home, found Mildura ranked fifth overall from more than 450 local government areas surveyed across Australia.

Continue reading

Swift TV grows aged care audience as major provider renews

The Weekly Source, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Caroline Egan

ASX-listed Swift TV has extended its relationship with Western Australia's largest private residential aged care provider. Aegis Aged Care, which operates 30 homes and supports more than 3,000 residents, has signed a three-year subscription agreement with Swift TV covering two Western Australian homes.

Continue reading

Bupa offers $100K discount on RADs

The Weekly Source, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Caroline Egan

Despite residential aged care at close to full capacity, one of Australia's largest operators is advertising heavy discounts at three of its homes. Residents moving in to the Bupa's aged care homes in south

Melbourne between 19 October 2026 and 29 November 2026 may be eligible for a $100,000 discount on the home's Refundable Accommodation Deposit (RADs).

Continue reading

The financial lifeline for aged care homes is disappearing

The Weekly Source, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Ian Horswill

The Federal Government has changed the rules to allow aged care operators to earn more from accommodation. But nine years of inadequate funding increases have created a problem that new legislation has yet to resolve.

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Aged Care Residents Face Additional Living Fees

ABC, News Breakfast, TV, 11 Nov 2026, James Glenday & Emma Reballato

Interview with Older Persons Advocacy Network CEO Craig Gear about thousands of Bupa aged care residents being charged an extra $42 daily for cooked breakfasts. Gear warned that unreasonable fees for standard items risk creating a two-tier system between residents. He stated government must fund aged care appropriately, whilst urging residents to contact independent advocates for assistance.

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Aged Care Funding and Budget Decisions Defended

2GB, Drive, AM Radio, 11 Nov 2026, James Willis

Interview with Assistant Treasurer Daniel Mulino about government spending, budget savings and economic policy. Defending fiscal decisions, Mulino stated that removing an additional private health insurance subsidy for people over 65 was intended to responsibly fund more aged care, though the opposition blocked the measure in parliament. He also highlighted significant spending cuts to the NDIS.

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Aged Care Bed Shortages Impact Public Hospitals

2GB, Afternoons, AM Radio, 11 Nov 2026, Michael McLaren

Interview with South Australia's Minister for Health and Wellbeing Blair Boyer about national aged care bed shortages impacting public hospitals. Boyer warned that Australia requires 10,600 additional federal residential places annually over two decades to meet demand. He noted that up to 700 patients could soon occupy acute hospital beds in South Australia while awaiting aged care placements.

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Continuing interview on: ***2GB***

Music Therapy May Aid Dementia Symptoms

3AW, Breakfast, AM Radio, 11 Nov 2026, Ross Stevenson & Russel Howcroft

In an interview with Dr Benjamin Slade, research from Swinburne University of Technology indicates that music therapy may improve memory and cognitive function in people living with dementia. Dr Slade explained that music stimulates neural pathways that target impairments and trigger recall. Researchers now plan to replicate the pilot study's findings with larger cohorts to assess tailored therapies.

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Aged Care Breakfast Fees Spark Malnutrition Concerns

4BC, Drive, AM Radio, 11 Nov 2026, Carla Bignasca

In an interview with Dietitians Australia President Dr Fiona Willer, she discussed concerns over Bupa aged care residents facing additional fees for cooked breakfasts. Willer warned that placing basic nutrition behind paywalls risks exacerbating malnutrition and frailty among older Australians. She advocated for mandated malnutrition screening and assessments by accredited practising dietitians to safeguard residents' health.

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Continuing interview on: ***4BC***

Aged care residents face soaring living fees

4BC, Breakfast, AM Radio, 11 Nov 2026, Jason Matthews

In an interview with CEO of National Seniors Australia Chris Grice, aged care residents are reportedly facing extra charges of thousands of dollars annually for basic comforts under a new higher everyday living fees program. Major provider Bupa is seeking 42 dollars daily for services such as hot meals, prompting concerns over residents' lack of provider choice.

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Aged Care Residents Face Soaring Living Fees

4BC, Drive, AM Radio, 11 Nov 2026, Carla Bignasca

Interview with CEO of National Seniors Australia, Chris Grice, about aged care providers charging steep higher everyday living fees for basic services. Grice criticised daily charges of up to forty-two dollars for items like cooked breakfasts, noting residents cannot choose alternative providers. He called for price caps, greater fee transparency, and more funding to support residential facilities.

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Aged Care Additional Fees Under Scrutiny

ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, AM Radio, 11 Nov 2026, Sonya Feldhoff & Jules Schiller

Interview with COTA CEO Patricia Sparrow about surcharges and extra fees charged by aged care facilities. Sparrow argued that services such as Wi-Fi, free-to-air television and dietary variety, including eggs, should be covered under standard care rather than charged as higher everyday living fees. She called for clear rules to align aged care standards and government funding with community expectations.

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Disability and Carers

Shame & shambles

Northern Territory News, General News, 12 Nov 2026, Lottie Hood, Page 1

Another six NDIS providers have received banning orders and five licences have been revoked in the Northern Territory two receiving lifelong bans due to their criminal history. Two individuals in the Territory

have been permanently banned from supporting vulnerable people in Australia in the past few months while another four have also attracted action from the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission.

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NDIS shame

Northern Territory News, Editorials, 12 Nov 2026, Page 12

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) was originally designed to support people with a permanent and significant incapacity to fully participate in society. Without doubt this is a worthy aim. In reality however it has gone through a decade plagued with problems.

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Serial scammer caring for vulnerable kids on suspended Blue Card

Sydney Morning Herald, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Dan Nolan

A woman who has been exposed for faking terminal illnesses and lying about being assaulted has been caught working with children for an NDIS disability service, despite being banned from child-related work. Jaimie Winder, who also uses the surname Wrigley, is under investigation by the NDIS for continuing to care for disabled minors and adults.

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Blind Qantas passenger was eating lunch when a stranger's remark made her feel like 'an animal in a zoo'

Daily Mail UK, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Joanna Hynds

A blind disability advocate has revealed how a stranger's humiliating behaviour left her too self-conscious to even get up to use the bathroom during an eight-hour flight. Emma Bennison, chief executive of Disability Advocacy Network Australia, said the encounter highlighted the everyday challenges people with disabilities face across the country.

Continue reading

Support Worker Cared for Children Illegally

Channel 9, A Current Affair, TV, 11 Nov 2026, Allison Langdon

Disability support worker Jaimie Winder has continued caring for two vulnerable children with complex disabilities who receive NDIS funding despite having her Queensland blue card suspended in November last year. Classified as a restricted person, Winder faces up to five years in prison for working with children without the legally required clearance.

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Continuing report on: ***Channel 9***, ***Channel 9***, ***Channel 9***

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Primary Care

Allied health staff launch case over 'impossible' wages

Canberra Times, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Sarah Spina-Matthews

Julie Williams has been a speech pathologist in the NSW public health system for 36 years. But under her current agreement, she says she is paid about the same as some fresh graduates working in private practice.

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

Patients keeping GPs in the dark about GLP-1 use, obesity expert warns

Australian Doctor, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Carmel Sparke

Anaesthetists may not be the only doctors left in the dark about their patients' GLP-1 receptor agonist use, with GPs also flagging non-disclosure as a concern. The issue is emerging as patients source prescriptions outside of their regular GPs, such as through corporate telehealth clinics.

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GPs urged to prescribe a daily dose of nature

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Michelle Wisbey

For GPs, writing prescriptions is nothing new, but a fresh RACGP-recognised resource is calling on doctors to add a daily dose of nature to patients' treatment plans. The Nature Dose guide provides GPs with advice on how to prescribe nature in patients' routine care, recommending activities such as noticing nature with all senses, connecting with body, mind, imagination and memory, and caring about the natural world and sustainability.

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Population Health

Alcohol-linked liver disease cases soar since lockdowns

Age, General News, 12 Nov 2026, Melissa Cunningham, Page 5

Hospital admissions for alcoholrelated severe liver disease have soared across Victoria as experts warn that younger patients and more women are being treated for the life-threatening condition. A new study by the Burnet Institute found hospitalisations for alcohol-related hepatitis more than doubled during the coronavirus lockdowns, and admissions have remained high in the years since.

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Also reported by: *The Guardian*

Vow to help kids get a healthy start

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 12 Nov 2026, Carly Douglas, Page 10

A world-f first child health study will geta $20m boost under a major new Coalition election pledge aimed at cracking food allergies, obesity and mental health. The huge cash njection will got the trailblazing Murdoch Children's Research Institute's (MCRI) Generation Victoria, or GenV, if the oppositionis elected this month, backing the giant project tracking 50,000 children and 75,000 parents across Victoria.

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Weighing up BMI: it's time for a better measure of our health

The Australian, Internet, 12 Nov 2026, Dr Steve Robson

I have been a doctor for almost 40 years and, over my career, have found an individual's BMI a useful guide for some people but downright misleading for others. My enchantment with it as a useful clinical tool has fallen over the years, and recent re-evaluations of its utility have confirmed my suspicions. New research has highlighted the limitations of using BMI in predicting health risks and guiding treatment, and has suggested replacing it with something much simpler: a tape measure.

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NSW Police Association advises officers to stop chasing e-bikes, motorbikes over legal risks

7News.com.au, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Demi Huang

Police officers across NSW have been urged to stop chasing e-bike and motorcycle riders after two constables were charged over an alleged collision in Sydney's inner west. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare published national data on e-bike and e-scooter related injuries that found teenage boys are seriously injuring themselves crashing e-scooters.

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Also reported by: *The New Daily*, *Canberra Times*, *Yahoo! News Australia*, *West Australian*, *Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser*, *Daily Liberal*, *Northern Daily Leader*, *Ballarat Courier*, *The Border Mail*, *Warrnambool Standard*, *Illawarra Mercury*, *Newcastle Herald*, *The Senior*, *Daily Advertiser*

A third of babies diagnosed with peanut allergy may be safe to eat peanut, say Aussie researchers

Australian Doctor, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Mojdeh Kashani

A national program has discovered that more than a third of babies thought to have a peanut allergy could safely have the diagnosis removed. More than one-third of babies who had a recent reaction to peanut and a positive allergy test did not react during a supervised oral food challenge, an Australian study has found.

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Concerns Raised Over Dietary Guidelines and Ratings

News24, Credlin, TV, 11 Nov 2026, Peta Credlin

In an interview with Adam Coffey, Deputy Chair, Cattle Australia, Coffey raised concerns about the dietary guidelines review process and the potential mandating of the health star ratings system. He warned the system unfavourably compares whole foods against processed items. Draft guidelines are expected before the Christmas break ahead of consultation in the new year.

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Chronic Conditions and Screening

How weight training helped active mother avoid a knee replacement

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 12 Nov 2026, Kate Aubusson, Page 10

Radiologist Dr John de Campo finds himself staring at useless scans of knees - CT, ultrasound and X-ray - brimming with red herring findings patients won't be able to unsee. "They'll get a shocking list of things that are wrong with their knee, when these things probably have nothing to do with how much pain they're in or how far they can walk," de Campo said.

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Also reported by: *Courier Mail*, *Cairns Post*

Skin cancer cases grow

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 12 Nov 2026, Page 5

New research has uncovered a decades-long increase in the rates of a common form of skin cancer across Australia and Europe. The QIMR Berghofer-led study analysed more than 30 years of data from seven cancer registries across Australia and Europe and found rates of cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) have risen steadily across generations.

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Also reported by: *Yahoo! News Australia*, *Gold Coast Bulletin*

Ovarian cancer campaigner Caitlin Delaney a trailblazing warrior for women

The Australian, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Natasha Robinson

It seemed hard to believe that ovarian cancer would ever steal Caitlin Delaney from this world. Tall, strong and determined, she fought so hard to live, and for almost a decade defied the odds as she sought out novel treatments, at the same time battling and advocating for access to care for other women. On Tuesday night in a Sydney hospital, Caitlin’s journey finally ended.

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Tammy Hembrow reveals secret stage two melanoma battle after discovering suspicious leg spot

Daily Telegraph Australia, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Eleanor Wicklund

Fitness influencer Tammy Hembrow has revealed her terrifying close call with skin cancer, opening up about a secret battle that almost saw the disease spread throughout her body. The 32-year-old mother-of-three quietly fought stage two melanoma in 2023 after discovering a suspicious lesion on her leg.

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Also reported by: *NEWS.com.au*, *Gold Coast Bulletin*

Minister backs donor-conceived woman's plea to notify half-sibling of cancer risk

ABC Online, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Daniel Keane

The case of a donor-conceived woman who desperately wants to warn her unknown half-sister of a family cancer risk has been described by South Australia's health minister as one of the trickiest ethical dilemmas he has faced during his time in the job. Katherine Vine has more than 50 confirmed half-siblings who were conceived from the same donor, and her research into her family tree has led her to identify an elevated bowel cancer risk.

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How one woman's endometriosis battle is helping regional women gain better access

Daily Liberal, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Amy Rees

It took seven years of pleading with health professionals, paying expensive medical bills and being told her symptoms were "normal", before Tegan McKenna finally got an answer. That answer was endometriosis.

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

Life got in the way: Riverina grandmother diagnosed with breast cancer twice

The Border Mail, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Jac Marshall

Carer responsibilities for family members with severe medical conditions led to postponed routine breast screening for a Riverina mum. When 63-year-old Dianne Turner's adult daughters realised she was eight years overdue for a breast screen, they immediately booked her an appointment.

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Also reported by: ***Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser***

Global declaration aims to eliminate rheumatic heart disease by 2040

Medical Journal of Australia, Internet, 12 Nov 2026, Nance Haxton

A new international declaration to be launched at the RHD World Congress in Perth aims to provide a global roadmap for eliminating rheumatic heart disease by 2040, with experts calling for stronger prevention, greater GP awareness and improved care for First Nations communities. It’s hoped a new international declaration committing to eliminating rheumatic heart disease (RHD) will provide the roadmap to ultimately eradicate the disease not only in Australia but also the rest of the world.

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Surge in potentially unnecessary knee scans

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Internet, 12 Nov 2026, Jolyon Attwooll

Unnecessary knee scans for osteoarthritis may be on the rise, the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) has warned, with knock-on effects potentially leading to needless further referrals, tests and surgery. In its Atlas Focus Report: Osteoarthritis of the Knee, released on Thursday, the ACSQHC looked at MBS-funded knee imaging scans for people aged 45 years and over – many of which take place as a result of GP referrals.

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Multidisciplinary approach needed to tackle asthma toll

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Jo Roberts

New data revealing asthma claimed the lives of 484 Australians last year has led the National Asthma Council to bolster its calls for a GP-led multidisciplinary approach to the condition's management. Mortality rates have remained high since the council began releasing annual data 10 years ago, with the 2025 figure near identical to 2024's 481 deaths.

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Donor-Conceived Woman Urges Contact Over Cancer Risk

ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, AM Radio, 11 Nov 2026, Sonya Feldhoff & Jules Schiller

Interview with donor-conceived woman Catherine Bine about her efforts to warn an unidentified Adelaide-born half-sister about a precancerous condition. Bine explained that without checks, their family history of serrated polyposis syndrome carries a 25 to 40 per cent chance of bowel cancer. She urged parents to inform donor-conceived children and use the donor conception register.

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Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

'Australia's forgotten child': Dad condemns forensic mental health system after daughter's death

Daily Telegraph Australia, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Cydonee Mardon

Dominic Porter calls his slain 10-year-old daughter "Australia's forgotten child". While six years have slipped by for the rest of the country since Bridgette "Biddy" Porter was savagely killed on a regional NSW property, for her parents, the trauma has only been compounded by a system they say bends over backwards for killers while abandoning victims.

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

Crisis Support for Australian Veterans' Mental Health

2GB, Mornings, AM Radio, 11 Nov 2026, Mark Levy

In an interview with Lieutenant General Greg Bilton, patron for Wounded Heroes Australia, he discussed the charity's role in providing immediate crisis support to veterans and serving personnel. Belton explained that the organisation addresses emergency needs such as food and accommodation while reconnecting individuals facing homelessness, despair, or mental health issues with services such as Open Arms for psychological support.

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Supporting Veterans' Healthcare and Mental Health Needs

4BC, Breakfast, AM Radio, 11 Nov 2026, Jason Matthews

In an interview with army veteran and Total Veteran Healthcare chief commercial officer Joel Tunstall about supporting veterans, Tunstall highlighted that over 60 percent of veterans have complex chronic disease

management needs. He noted veterans often face chronic pain and mental health conditions, advocating for coordinated, holistic care led by general practitioners to overcome fragmented healthcare services.

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Immunisation

Plummeting coverage rates spark appeal to pharmacy

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Megan Haggan

Pharmacists have a lot of opportunities to check if busy families are up-to-date with whooping cough vaccination, says leading advocate. Whooping cough vaccination rates have hit their lowest national coverage among one-year-olds in more than 25 years, sparking calls from the Immunisation Foundation of Australia (IFA) for people to get protected.

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Health Systems Strategies

No relevant coverage.

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Health Economics & Research

BMI OK? Weight a minute ...

The Australian, General News, 12 Nov 2026, Stephen Lunn, Page 7

Measuring obesity using Body Mass Index alone is underestimating its prevalence by up to 8.6 per cent compared to a proposed new global framework that adds waist circumference and waist-toheight ratio into the calculation. But BMI is also over-estimating obesity prevalence in up to 3.1 per cent of cases compared to the more sophisticated measure, meaning tens of millions of people worldwide may be being either wrongly classified as obese or unnecessarily concerned about their weight, with all the public health and treatment changes that entails, a new report says.

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'Goosebumps': Scott Singleton reveals heartwarming link behind Izzy Neale's last win

The Australian, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Clinton Payne

The deaths of two talented and beautiful young women taken far too soon have been tied together by Izzy Neale's last winner Ole Steele. The tragic passing of two talented and beautiful young women taken far too

soon have been linked together forever by Izzy Neale's final racetrack winner Ole Steele.

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

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First Nations Health

Australia blasted on Indigenous heart peril

West Australian, General News, 12 Nov 2026, Ben Harvey, Page 9

The chair of the World Heart Federation has delivered a blistering critique of Australia's failure to tackle lethal rheumatic heart disease among Indigenous people, telling a global congress in Perth the nation has funded just 4 per cent of its own plan to end the preventable illness. Opening the Second World Congress on Rheumatic Heart Disease on Wednesday night, Jagat Narula said the disease's survival in Australia was "not: a mystery of medicine" but "'a decision, taken by default, renewed by inattention and reversible by will".

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

Campaign for no disconnected power during heat waves

West Australian, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Lloyd Jones

The outback's searing heat can be punishing, even more so when power is cut to remote residents who rely on fans, air-conditioning units and fridges to stay cool. Now, a new campaign has been launched - Don't Switch Us Off This Summer - to ban power disconnections for prepayment electricity customers during times of extreme heat, in line with eastern states.

Continue reading

Also reported by: *Shepparton News Online*, *Kalgoorlie Miner*

Report reveals mistreatment of Indigenous mothers at David Berry Hospital

ABC Online, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Charles Rushforth

An Aboriginal engagement report has revealed the dark history of a colonial-era hospital where First Nations women were "made to give birth on the verandah". The report into David Berry Hospital on the New South Wales South Coast comes as the state government considers the future for the site, which operates as a palliative care unit.

Continue reading

Kununurra Men's Hub trying to buck trend of Aboriginal men not seeking medical help

ABC Online, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Giulia Bertoglio

There can be many barriers to someone seeking medical help, including location, language and cultural sensitivities. This is particularly so for Indigenous men living in northern Western Australia.

Continue reading

First Nations peak body for prevention of family, domestic and sexual violence elects inaugural board

National Indigenous Times, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Jarred Cross

Women's healing, legal, health and family violence organisation leaders are among those appointed to the board of the national peak for First Nations prevention of family, domestic and sexual violence. Our Ways Strong Together, established by the federal government and Coalition of Peaks in March, elected its inaugural board at its first annual general meeting on this week.

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'I'm prepared to give it to him straight' - Noongar Elder Robert Isaacs challenges WA Premier

National Indigenous Times, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Giovanni Torre

Dr Robert Isaacs has fired back at suggestions from WA Premier Roger Cook that the respected Noongar Elder's call for the Aboriginal Affairs Minister to be sacked is politically motivated, and called for a major change to Indigenous policy in the state. [...] "The Aboriginal affairs portfolio does not have a direct responsibility for housing or health or child protection," Mr Punch told the ABC last week.

Continue reading

Survivor support and government accountability in focus on eve of landmark anniversary

National Indigenous Times, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Dechlan Brennan

More than 20 Stolen Generations organisations from across Australia have gathered in Adelaide on Kaurna Country this week to discuss survivor support, intergenerational healing and the future of services ahead of the 30th anniversary of the Bringing Them Home report. [...] Survivors are 2.7 times as likely to have severe or profound disability and 1.9 times as likely to report high psychological distress as other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, according to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data.

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Action Urged on First Nations Heart Disease

ABC, News Breakfast, TV, 11 Nov 2026, James Glenday & Emma Reballato

In an interview with Natalie Raffoul, Head of Clinical Strategy, Heart Foundation, she discussed efforts to eliminate rheumatic heart disease, which in Australia is almost exclusively experienced by First Nations populations. Raffoul noted the condition persists due to poverty, overcrowded housing, and unequal healthcare access. She highlighted that a historic Perth Declaration will commit participants to community-led solutions.

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Public Hospital and Health Reform

Sorry to failed patients

Courier Mail, General News, 12 Nov 2026, Daniel Shirkie, Page 13

One person has died and another is in palliative care after catastrophic administrative failures at a Queensland hospital delayed vital cancer treatment for hundreds of patients. Health Minister Tim Nicholls was forced to apologise on Wednesday after the scathing independent Part 9 investigation revealed 576 patients at Townsville University Hospital were impacted by lost or disrupted care, with six critical "code one" cases suffering serious treatment delays.

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

Unhealthy bid

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 12 Nov 2026, Page 18

It is not an exaggeration to state that the Townsville Hospital and Health Service is engulfed in a crisis one that cannot be cured by clever public relations. Yet, as the systemic failures within our region's most critical medical facility are laid bare, health bureaucrats and politicians appear far more interested in managing the news cycle than managing the hospital itself.

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Doctors 'carry all the blame'

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 12 Nov 2026, Jill Poulsen, Page 7

Queensland's top medical bodies have united in a scathing attack on the state government, accusing health bosses of a glaring "double standard" that protects bureaucrats while scapegoating frontline doctors for a broken system. Responding to the crisis engulfing the Townsville Hospital and Health Service, both the Australian Salaried Medical Officers' Federation Queensland (ASMOFQ) and the Australian Medical Association Queensland (AMAQ) are demanding immediate accountability for a string of catastrophic failures.

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Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office

Nurses back Tasmanian health commission of inquiry as patients avoid packed emergency departments

Northern Territory News, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, David Killick

The nurses union has thrown its weight behind calls for a Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian health system. Labor, the Australian Medical Association and the Health and Community Sector Union have all called on the government for a major inquiry into health.

Continue reading

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

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Health Workforce

Seven new enrolled nurses deploy across South West Queensland under fresh graduate program

Cairns Post, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Erin Blond

Taking their skills to the Queensland regions, seven newly enrolled nurses are heading out west in a newly introduced graduate program. The seven enrolled nurses are undertaking a week of orientation at Roma Hospital before taking up their appointments at facilities across the region.

Continue reading

Also reported by: *Townsville Bulletin*

Nurses and aged care workers priced out of rental market

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Internet, 11 Nov 2026

Essential workers including nurses and aged care workers can only afford a small percentage of rental listings across Australia, new research has revealed. Anglicare Australia's Rental Affordability Snapshot 2026: Essential Workers Report surveyed 48,776 rental listings, testing them for affordability against the maximum affordable rent for 16 essential worker occupations.

Continue reading

APC bolsters accreditation committee

Pharmacy Daily, Internet, 11 Nov 2026

The Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) has welcomed new members to its Accreditation Committee (AC) to help guide evidence-based accreditation decisions that support quality pharmacy education and safe patient care.

Continue reading

Allied Health Workers Seek Pay Rise

ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, AM Radio, 11 Nov 2026, Craig Reucassel

In an interview with Health Services Union State Secretary Gerard Hayes about industrial action, he outlined a landmark case before the Industrial Relations Commission seeking a pay rise of up to 20% for allied health professionals. Hayes said their extended scope of practice delivers preventative care that keeps patients out of hospital and fills regional healthcare gaps.

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Technology Assessment and Access

No relevant coverage.

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Medicare Benefits and Digital Health

No relevant coverage.

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Benefits Integrity

Doctor fined, suspended for records breaches

Courier Mail, General News, 12 Nov 2026, Vanda Carson, Page 17

A top Brisbane doctor who treats women with gynaecological cancer has been reprimanded for misconduct, fined $30,000 and suspended for nine months for improperly accessing medical records. Spring Hill gynaecological oncologist Piksi Singh was found to have accessed records of a former employee on 19 occasions over 16 weeks in 2019.

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Also reported by: *Cairns Post*, *The Courier Mail*, *Toowoomba Chronicle*, *Townsville Bulletin*, *Adelaide Now*

Investigation finds Bendigo hospital did not follow procedure for determination of brain deaths

ABC Online, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Nicole Ferrie

Bendigo Health has referred two deaths to the Victorian coroner after a review of the intensive care unit found procedures for the determination of brain death were not always followed. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, Medical Board of Australia and Safer Care Victoria have all been notified.

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Australian CDC

Bird flu playing chicken with poultry

Launceston Examiner, General News, 12 Nov 2026, Abe Maddison & Andrew Stafford, Page 6

While the number of bird flu events across Australia have plummeted, conservationists fear vulnerable species are at risk of extinction with the true scale of the outbreak hidden. The H5N1 strain was first confirmed on home soil on June 19 after a migrating brown skua washed up on a remote beach near Esperance in WA.

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Bird flu has caused catastrophic die-offs – could a wave of extinctions follow?

The Guardian, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Gloria Dickie

It began with the brown skuas. The migratory seabirds had arrived on the sub-Antarctic island of South Georgia in 2023, harbouring a deadly passenger. Within months, the southern elephant seals that had come ashore to breed became sick.

Continue reading

Young South Australian dies after contracting meningococcal disease amid surge in cases

7News.com.au, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Lauren Thomson

A young South Australian has died after contracting meningococcal disease, marking the state's first recorded death from the serious bacterial infection this year. The Adelaide resident had been receiving life support after being diagnosed with invasive meningococcal disease, identified as serogroup B bacteria, in late October.

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Therapeutic Goods Administration

Sports Integrity Australia reacts after international study claims 10 million underage athletes have been involved in doping

The Australian, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Julian Linden

Sport Integrity Australia has made doping of underage athletes "a key concern" after a damning international report found at least 10 million child athletes have been doped. A shocking new international study that estimates at least 10 million child athletes have been doped has set off alarm bells with Australia's sporting watchdog.

Continue reading

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

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Office of Drug Control

No relevant coverage.

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Food Standards

Experts call for stronger enforcement of ban on human consumption of raw milk with products pushed in online communities

ABC Online, Internet, 11 Nov 2026, Ned Hammond

Medical experts are warning people of the dangers of drinking raw milk, with some products being pushed in online communities and marketed and sold for "cosmetic" and pet use. Raw milk is animal milk that has not undergone pasteurisation, a process of heating food to remove nearly all harmful bacteria and other contaminants from the product before it can be sold for commercial use.

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AICIS

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