



Australian Government
Department of Health,
Disability and Ageing

TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 1st June 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sunday Age \(page 1\)](#)** reports Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan has revealed her struggles with endometriosis, and the time it took to diagnose the illness, as the AIHW estimates over a million Australians suffer from the chronic disease but many say they are ignored as they face medical misogyny, with the Victorian Government set to release a report into the health system's handling of women's pain.
- **[The Sunday Tasmanian \(page 1\)](#)** reports Calvary Lenah Valley Hospital is hiring additional staff and expanding its maternity ward to prepare for delivering an extra 600 babies a year following the closure of Healthscope-run maternity services at Hobart Private Hospital, with \$6 million in federal funding enabling the upgrades.
- **[The Sunday Telegraph \(page 5\)](#)** reports a number of health experts have called for patients on weight-loss drugs like Ozempic to receive regular check-ups amid patients reporting hepatitis, while the TGA has received five accounts of hepatitis or drug-induced liver damage linked to the use of semaglutide weight-loss injectables.
- **[The Sunday Times \(page 5\)](#)** reports the West Australian Government has extended its free RSV vaccination program for young children and infants amid an increase in flu, Covid and RSV cases across the country.

- [The Sunday Mail Brisbane \(page 6\)](#) reports the Lung Foundation has called for the sale of cigarettes in supermarkets to be banned, citing research that estimates 1600 deaths and \$300 million in medical costs can be attributed to cigarettes sold by Coles each year alone. *Also reported by:* [Sunday Tasmanian](#), [Sunday Telegraph](#), [Sunday Times](#)
- [The Guardian](#) reports a new immunotherapy cancer drug, pembrolizumab, has been hailed as one of the biggest breakthroughs in 20 years, doubling the time head and neck cancers are held at bay from previous treatments in clinical trials.

MINISTER BUTLER

Jacinta Allan shares her pain

Sunday Age, General News, 01/06/2025, Wendy Tuohy, Page 1

Since she was an adolescent, Jacinta Allan has lived with a pain that some including one high profile radio host claim to be "made up", but which for many women is life-altering. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says: "Women are suffering unnecessarily.

Also reported by: [The Age \(Online\)](#).

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New COVID strain strikes

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Edition Changes, 31/05/2025, Caitlyn Rintoul, Page 15

Health Minister Mark Butler has urged Australians to get their COVID booster jab after a surge in infections from the new sub-variant NB.1.8.1. The variant is behind surging infections in parts of Asia, with the World Health Organisation reporting it is spreading faster than other circulating strains.

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Warning as variant strikes

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 31/05/2025, Georgie Kibel & Blair Jackson, Page 4

Covid vaccination rates in Queensland are at their lowest since the jabs were introduced five years ago, with health professionals warning that the virus still poses a "serious threat" to the community. [...] The calls come as new data from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing revealed that more than 15,000 Covid cases had been reported in Queensland since January, with almost 3000 people hospitalised with the virus.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Lung Foundation Australia calls for tobacco sales ban at major supermarkets

ABC Online, Other, 31/05/2025, Laura LaVelle

Sarah Waters tried her first cigarette at 11-years-old, pinched from her dad's packet. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the government passed laws in 2023 to "reignite the fight" against tobacco.

Also reported by: [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Dollars, distance, and political power: Inside the barriers obstructing abortion access for Australians

ABC Online, Other, 01/06/2025, Lucy Barbour & Lucy Sweeney

Every week, Australians seeking a legal form of health care are forced to traverse their home states and territories — sometimes crossing borders — to access an abortion. [...] When Labor came to power three years later, Health Minister Mark Butler ruled out returning to the 2019 abortion policy.

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Sydney pharmacist accused of \$7 million Medicare fraud using dead

patients' identities

Hindi Gaurav, Other, 31/05/2025

A Sydney pharmacist with a penchant for luxury cars, including Ferraris, has been accused of defrauding the Australian government of more than \$7 million through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), by allegedly using the identities of deceased individuals to create fake prescriptions. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said in a statement, "This case highlights the need for stronger safeguards in the system.

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Free heart health checks extended as heart disease remains Australia's leading killer

The Indian Sun, Other, 31/05/2025

The Albanese Government will extend funding for free Heart Health Checks for another three years, aiming to catch the warning signs of cardiovascular disease early and save lives. The announcement, made by Health Minister Mark Butler on 29 May, reaffirms the government's focus on prevention in tackling Australia's most common cause of death.

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Sky News Live, Weekend Live , 31/05/2025, Jaynie Seal & Alex Thomas

Interview with Dr Lara Herrero, Virologist and Associate Professor, Griffith University. Herrero comments on Health Minister Mark Butler urging Australians to get their COVID-19 booster following the emergence of a new variant in Australia.

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MINISTER WELLS

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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DEPARTMENT

How to manage bad mould in the home

Sun Herald, General News, 01/06/2025, Angus Dalton, Page 9

Holly Konopka first noticed a drip in her bedroom five weeks ago. [...] But the federal Health Department says there is sufficient evidence to link mouldy and damp conditions to asthma, hay fever, shortness of breath, wheezing, cough, respiratory infection, and the lung disease hypersensitivity pneumonitis.

Also reported by: [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#).

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Warning as variant strikes

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Smoke, mirrors and pressure: a reality check on student vaping

The Australian Council for Educational Research Ltd (ACER), Other, 31/05/2025

A new report by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) and Life Ed looks at smoking and vaping trends among 28,421 secondary students in 135 schools across New South Wales and South Australia. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing identified harm to the developing adolescent brain as a direct risk of vaping.

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VACCINES

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SA's Lutheran Homes Group expands into Victoria with two regional retirement village and aged care home acquisitions

The Weekly Source, Other, 01/06/2025, Lauren Broomham

Adelaide-based aged care, home care, and retirement living provider Lutheran Homes Group (LHG) is expanding beyond South Australia for the first time, acquiring two stand-alone Lutheran aged care and retirement village communities in regional Victoria. From 1 June 2025, Sunnyside Lutheran Retirement Village (pictured below) in Horsham, 300km northwest of Melbourne, and Eventide Lutheran Homes & Hamilton Village in Hamilton, 295km west of the Victorian capital, will officially become Lutheran Homes Group Horsham and Lutheran Homes Group Hamilton.

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DISABILITY

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POPULATION HEALTH

Hotspots for tobacco fine

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 01/06/2025, Andreas Nicola & Brendan O'Malley, Page 21

The worst suburbs for illegal tobacco operations have been revealed as new figures show more than 800 fines have been dished out in less than a year. Data from Queensland Health shows between July 1 2024 to April 30 2025 just 243 businesses have been handed out 819 penalty infringement notices for the supply and possession of illicit product with a value of more than \$10.7m.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 31/05/2025, Fauziah Ibrahim & Thomas Oriti

Interview with Kate Mills, CEO of the Industry Property Foundation. Mills comments on new data revealing more younger Australians are moving away from vaping.

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2GB, Weekends, 31/05/2025, Luke Grant

NSW Health Minister Ryan Parker suggests the number of people in the state who smoke cigarettes has fallen to its lowest level on record, according to NSW Health data.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Break 'loo taboo', says Mel

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 01/06/2025, Fiona Byrne, Page 14

Married At First Sight relationship guru Mel Schilling is urging people to get comfortable with their poo. The bowel cancer survivor wants people to break the loo taboo and check their poop for common

bowel cancer symptoms. Bowel Cancer Australia has partnered with Kleenex to launch an information hub at poocheck.com.au.

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Cancer curse for disabled

Sunday Territorian, General News, 01/06/2025, Page 15

People with disability are more likely to die from cancer than people without disability. The University of Melbourne research shows that people with disability are missing out on screening programs that could help detect cancer early and, after diagnosis, are less likely to survive.

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Canberra's groundbreaking nurse

Sunday Canberra Times, Relax, 01/06/2025, Megan Doherty, Page 18

Most people have heard of the McGrath breast cancer nurses. How about one dedicated to helping people with lung cancer?

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Tumour 'should have been detected years ago'

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 01/06/2025, Tayla Couacaud, Page 31

A Brisbane nurse has been diagnosed with a brain tumour which she believes could've been discovered years earlier with genetic testing. Tess Talolua, 27, suffered multiple seizures, headaches, loss of movement and gaps in her memory and was rushed to hospital on May 22, where a CTE scan revealed a brain tumour and she was advised to act immediately.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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Adelaide mum-of-three's message for all Australians as she faces her 50th round of chemotherapy after dismissing bowel cancer symptoms

7news.com.au, Other, 31/05/2025, Lauren Thomson

An Adelaide mother-of-three is calling on all Australians to change the way they go about a daily habit after her own cancer symptoms were dismissed. [...] Distano is speaking out ahead of Bowel Cancer Awareness month in June, which South Australian-made toilet paper brand Kleenex is using to team up with Bowel Cancer Australia to raise awareness about one of Australia's deadliest cancer.

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Ann Wason Moore: The day my husband Michael learned he had prostate cancer – and what happened next

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 31/05/2025, Ann Wason Moore

The call came on Friday the 13th. Maybe that date should have been warning enough, but my husband and I were simply relieved to hear the news before the weekend, when we would celebrate his 50th birthday.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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PRIMARY CARE

Calvary's baby bonus

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 01/06/2025, Rob Inglis, Page 1

Calvary Lenah Valley Hospital is set to deliver an additional 600 babies each year as it prepares to meet an anticipated spike in demand from expecting mums. It comes three months after Healthscope,

which recently went into receivership, announced maternity services at Hobart Private Hospital would be shuttered.

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'I could've died' after massive womb bleed

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 01/06/2025, Natasha Emeck, Page 9

A Port Pirie first-time mum says she'll never give birth at her local hospital again after a traumatic C-section left her bleeding profusely and fighting for her life. Rachael Bartholomew Giles went into labour on April 26, her baby's due date.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Eating disorder therapy gets personal

Sun Herald, General News, 01/06/2025, Kate Aubusson, Page 6

For years, Stephanie Boulet was told she would never recover from anorexia nervosa. Enduring hospital admissions and residential care through her adolescence and 20s, the treatment which assumed she was motivated by a desire to be thin didn't work.

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Tics need more than lip service

Sunday Times, General News, 01/06/2025, Claire Sadler, Page 11

Anzac McLeod was only 10 when he told his parents he "didn't want to be here anymore" because of his constant tics from Tourette's and the bullying he faced at school. He's not alone. A first-of-its-kind report has revealed one in two children with a tic-related disorder had thought about ending their life, while one in 10 children and one in four adults had attempted suicide.

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Spiralling levels of anxiety something we should worry about

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 01/06/2025, Dr Elizabeth Scott, Page 31

While Australians believe we share a rather laid-back and carefree culture, poor mental health affects at least five million of us each year. Of greatest concern are the rates of anxiety and depression in children and teenagers.

Also reported by: [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#), [Sunday Territorian \(Darwin\)](#).

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More than half of top 100 mental health TikToks contain misinformation, study finds

The Guardian, Other, 01/06/2025, Rachel Keenan & Rachel Hall

More than half of all the top trending videos offering mental health advice on TikTok contain misinformation, a Guardian investigation has found. People are increasingly turning to social media for mental health support, yet research has revealed that many influencers are peddling misinformation, including misused therapeutic language, "quick fix" solutions and false claims.

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NSW government scraps Chief Behaviour Advisor role and parent surveys amid bullying crisis

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 31/05/2025, Eilidh Sproul-Mellis & Suzan Giuliani

A behaviour expert tasked with bullying prevention in public, Catholic and independent schools will no longer act in the role, despite the Minns government heralding her work in announcing a new anti-

bullying agreement with school leaders. Professor Donna Cross was appointed NSW's inaugural 'Chief Behaviour Advisor' in the dying days of the Perrottet government to oversee respectful behaviour in both government and non-government schools, but her freshly expired two-year contract will not be renewed.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Nurses action 'likely' next week in pay bid

Weekend Australian, General News, 31/05/2025, Mackenzie Scott, Page 4

Queensland nurses are on track to take industrial action as early as next week after formally rejecting the Crisafulli government's pay offer. The powerful Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union has alerted Queensland Health it intends to take a stand after rejecting the "subpar" enterprise bargaining offer presented at the eleventh hour by the LNP state government.

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Industry bodies, MPs slam 2025-26 budget for sell-offs and workforce slashes

Adelaide Now, Other, 01/06/2025, Genevieve Holding

It may have been a budget that promised "what matters for Tasmanians", but industry bodies and MPs have labelled the 2025-26 state budget "smoke and mirrors", pushing Tasmania into an inescapable spiral of debt. The state opposition slammed Mr Barnett's budget for its ballooning levels of net debt, which are forecast to rise from \$7.36bn in 2025-26 to \$10.79bn four years later.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Hospital bars doctor over trans rights claims

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 01/06/2025, Des Houghton, Page 12

A child psychiatrist has been told she can't return to work at the Queensland Children's Hospital after

she accused colleagues of becoming transgender activists and using mentally ill children in a "transpride" promotion. The hospital's director of clinical services wrote to Dr Jillian Spencer this week to tell the outspoken psychiatrist it was not appropriate for her to return to "any workplace", a confidential letter obtained by The Sunday Mail has revealed.

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Dead used in PBS rort

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 01/06/2025, Shannon Tonkin, Page 28

A Ferrari-loving Sydney pharmacist accused of rorting \$7m from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme allegedly created fake scripts using the identities of dead people, a court has heard. And it can be revealed authorities raided Ben Huynh's Cabramatta Day and Night Pharmacy in June 2019 four years before his eventual arrest amid concerns of PBS irregularities, but ultimately took no action against him.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#)

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AFP's legal hold on manor after sale attempt

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 01/06/2025, Jonathan Chancellor, Page 76

The Australian Federal Police's Criminal Assets Confiscation Taskforce registered a restraining caveat this week over the title of the Dural abode of pharmacist Ben Huynh. It lobbied just days after the seven bedroom, five bathroom house with tennis court and pool was briefly listed by McGrath West agents Peter Pokorny and Elise Lau for a June auction.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Call to ban cigs in supermarket

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 01/06/2025, Blair Jackson, Page 6

Supermarkets should be banned from selling cigarettes, the Lung Foundation of Australia says. The foundation has floated the ban as a means to stop smokers being tempted to buy a pack or a pouch alongside their groceries.

Also reported by: [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Sunday Times \(Perth\)](#), [Sunday Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#)

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 31/05/2025, Fauziah Ibrahim & Thomas Oriti

It is World No Tobacco Day, and advocates are urging Australia's major supermarkets to stop selling tobacco products altogether. Lung Foundation Australia CEO Mark Brooke comments on how easy access to tobacco products become a factor as to why people remain addicted.

Also reported by: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#)

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SPORT

Gender play gap as girls lag at staying in sport

Sunday Age, General News, 01/06/2025, Bridie Smith, Page 13

It's been called "the gender play gap": girls' participation in sport drops off in their mid to late teens, coinciding with part-time jobs, a burgeoning social life and sport becoming more serious than social. But Girls Sport Victoria, a coalition of 23 private girls' schools, has set itself the challenge of not only stopping the gender play gap but extending female participation beyond the school gates.

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Control is best: knuckle defence

Sunday Times, General News, 01/06/2025, Joe Spagnolo, Page 5

Premier Roger Cook has issued a fresh defence of his Government's handling of a proposed bare-knuckle fight in Perth next month, saying it was better to have a controlled event, rather than it going underground. Mr Cook said he "appreciated community concern" about the championship event a spin-off of the UFC earmarked for RAC Arena in July.

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Time to knuckle down

Sunday Times, General News, 01/06/2025, Page 35

The State Government has copped plenty of criticism in recent weeks over plans under consideration for a bare-knuckle fight in July. The criticism is, in many respects, warranted.

Also reported by: [Sunday Times \(Perth\)](#).

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Viral blood 'sport' is killing kids

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 01/06/2025, Peter Jenkins & Olivia Lancuba, Page 22

A leading concussion expert has slammed the self-styled collision sport known as Run It Straight, saying it is "barbaric" and has no place in a civilised society. Olympic hero and Australian Sports Commission chief executive Kieren Perkins has also spoken out against what he described as "a dangerous activity", while Melbourne Storm prop Nelson Asofa-Solomona has parted ways with the most high-profile of several outfits organising official "challenges".

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Hawks racism saga may be over, but...The damage is everlasting

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 31/05/2025, Jay Clark, Page 84

A lastair Clarkson and David Flood have barely spoken since the eruption of the devastating Hawthorn racism scandal. The former Hawthorn senior coach and his development coach were in each other's bridal parties and were best mates since the age of about 10 as they grew up in neighbouring country Victorian towns, Kaniva and Nhill.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Scooter study shows worrying attitudes

Sunday Canberra Times, Editorials, 01/06/2025, Page 29

It is alarming to read of the flagrant law flouting and general lack of care that many using e-scooters show to themselves and the community. A study conducted by the University of Canberra has confirmed what many of us have observed in the national capital since the introduction of these scooters.

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Three-drug therapy helps women with aggressive breast cancer live longer - trial

A new three-drug combination could help women with a common form of aggressive breast cancer live longer, research suggests. The treatment could also delay the need for gruelling chemotherapy, according to a trial.

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'Breakthrough' breast cancer therapy can slow advance of disease and prolong survival

The Guardian, Other, 31/05/2025, Andrew Gregory

A new triple therapy for aggressive, advanced breast cancer slows the progression of the disease, delays the need for further chemotherapy and helps patients live longer, research reveals. The combination treatment is made up of two targeted drugs: inavolisib and palbociclib, and the hormone therapy fulvestrant. It improved overall survival by an average of seven months, compared with the patients in the control group, who were given palbociclib and fulvestrant.

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'Gift of life': experts hail neck and head cancer breakthrough

The Guardian, Other, 31/05/2025, Andrew Gregory

An immunotherapy drug can ward off head and neck cancers for twice as long as the standard treatment, in the biggest breakthrough in two decades. Pembrolizumab stimulates the immune system to fight cancer, targeting a specific protein that enables the drug to wipe out cancer cells.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

State Government extends free RSV infant jabs

Sunday Times, General News, 01/06/2025, Joe Spagnolo, Page 5

The State Government has extended its free RSV immunisation program for babies and young children, as WA braces for a surge in cases of the potentially life-threatening illness this winter. With the number of respiratory syncytial virus cases for 0-4-year-olds already totalling 688 so far this year, parents are being urged to take advantage of the free immunisations for infants.

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Mum floored by the flu

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 31/05/2025, Tamara McDonald, Page 13

Flu cases are climbing and experts are warning rates of vaccination against the potentially deadly infection are "alarmingly low" as winter hits. Australia has already recorded more than 92,190 laboratory-confirmed influenza infections this year.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

A weight jab to the liver

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 01/06/2025, Danielle Gusmaroli, Page 5

Dozens of Ozempic, Mounjaro and Wegovy users are reporting drug-induced hepatitis, prompting medical experts to call for regular check-ups to avert permanent liver damage. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has also received three reports of hepatitis or drug-induced liver injury (DILI) associated with the active ingredient semaglutide, which is marketed in Australia as Ozempic and Wegovy.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#), [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#)

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Running the red light for health

Sunday Times, General News, 01/06/2025, Angela Pownall, Page 26

Lynda Davies thought she'd tried everything to relieve the excruciating pain in her shoulder caused by bursitis. [...] Professor Arany said there was a critical need for regulatory bodies, like the Federal Drugs Administration in the US and the Therapeutic Goods Administration in Australia, to evaluate devices to make sure they met specifications.

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