



Australian Government  
Department of Health,  
Disability and Ageing

# TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 21st June 2025

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Weekend Australian](#) (page 1) reports pre-surgery immune therapy will be publicly funded for all patients with advanced melanoma as part of a major overhaul of skin cancer treatments.
- The [Weekend Australian](#) (page 1) reports past legal precedent around gender affirming care access may not have been reached in the light of new medical evidence, a former family court judge says. *Also reported by:* [Weekend Australian](#)
- The [Saturday Age](#) (page 1) reports patient wait lists and ambulance ramping may increase, senior doctors have warned, following a decision by the Victorian Heart Hospital to close an operating theatre and six recovery beds. *Also reported by:* [The Saturday Age](#)
- The [Canberra Times](#) (page 1) reports the Federal Government will need to up its long-term investment in healthcare to assist states and territories to afford to run hospitals, ACT Treasurer Chris Steel says.
- The [Weekend Australian](#) (page 4) reports the Federal Government must urgently release 20,000 additional home care packages or risk leaving elderly Australians without proper support, health finance company Australian Unity says. *Also reported by:* [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 4) reports women with physical issues that do not affect men are more likely to have mental health issues and not seek treatment, a new study by the Liptember Foundation and the George Institute of Global Health has found. *Also reported by: [The Saturday Age](#)*
- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 5) reports patients at Sydney's Westmead Hospital are waiting hundreds of days for a diagnosis due an excessive demand for endoscopies, doctors have warned hospital management in a letter.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Court permits Healthscope sale extension

AFR Weekend, Companies and Markets, 21/06/2025, Max Mason, Page 20

The country's second-largest private hospital operator could be left in limbo for a year after administrators of the collapsed Healthscope business won approval to extend negotiations with prospective buyers for months.

*Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#).*

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### Reversal on gender care for children

Weekend Australian, General News, 21/06/2025, Ellie Dudley, Page 23

Three significant Australian legal cases took out of the court's hands the decision of whether a young person could be prescribed gender-affirming medicine. [...] In January Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced Labor's plan to have the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Therapeutic Goods Administration conduct a two-year review into gender therapies and develop new national guidelines.

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

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### Human cost of human error

The Saturday Paper, General News, 21/06/2025, Hannah Bamba, Page 10

The news of another misplanted embryo at Monash IVF has triggered concerns among patients, and a push for reforms to address shortcomings in care across an \$800 million industry. is a writer, peer support worker and reproductive health advocate. [...] Last week Monash IVF's chief executive, Michael Knaap, resigned. Health Minister Mark Butler has since said he is worried about public confidence in the sector.

*Also reported by: [The Saturday Paper \(Online\)](#).*

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### DNA tests would help fix flaws in our fertility industry

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 21/06/2025, Gary Nunn, Page 38

It pains me to say Australia's fertility industry is a mess because it's a system into which I've donated sperm to create humans. [...] Urgent changes are needed, which is why a rapid review of the industry was announced by federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

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

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### Following the vaper trails

Herald Sun, General News, 21/06/2025, Zoe De Koning and Edward Russell, Page 31

Paralympic swimmer Col Pearse is joining forces with five popular Aussie influencers to deter the one in five young people who regularly vape, a habit he said has become far too "normalised". [...] Since the Australian government banned the importation of all vapes last year, approximately 7.8 million

vaping products have been seized by the Australian Border Force and Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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## Free heart checks beat on

Surf Coast Times, General News, 20/06/2025, Ellie Claringbold, Page 44

Free Heart Health Checks will remain available to Australians aged 30 and over for another three years, after funding for the program was extended in this year's federal budget. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said about 2.5 million Australians have a high chance of suffering a heart attack or stroke in the next five years, but many don't know it.

Also reported by: [Geelong Times \(Online\)](#).

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## 40 pharmacists qualify as 'doctors'

Australian Doctor, General News, 20/06/2025, Page 4

Forty graduate pharmacists can already call themselves 'doctor' despite not knowing they would receive the title when they started their degrees. Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler announced last year that pharmacists who completed an extended master's degree could call themselves 'doctors', similar to certain dentists, vets, optometrists and physiotherapists.

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## Why doctors are welcoming reports on high specialist fees

Medical Forum, Other, 20/06/2025

The authors of a new report that looked at specialist fees in Australia have said some of the fees Australians are paying are too high. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler had said \$7million would be put towards the project, doing away with the 'opt in system' that a very small number of specialists had chosen to list their fees on.

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## Eating disorder peaks call for better telehealth regulation

The Medical Republic, Other, 20/06/2025, Holly Payne

People with eating disorders are using telehealth to access weight-loss drugs. What we don't know is how large the problem is. [...] Federal health minister Mark Butler's office told the Australian Financial Review last month that the government was "concerned about reports of unscrupulous and possibly unsafe behaviour by some telehealth providers", and that the TGA had been asked to come up with options to improve telehealth standards.

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## Diabetics to receive free wound care under new government scheme

The Senior, Other, 20/06/2025, Rowan Cowley

A new federal government scheme that will cover the costs of vital care for older Australians living with diabetes-related chronic wounds has been launched. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the scheme had been targeted at older Australians with diabetes because data suggests they are most likely to suffer from chronic wounds.

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## 2SM, Breakfast, 20/06/2025, Ron Wilson

Compere mentions that he has spoken with Health Minister Mark Butler about flu and COVID vaccinations in Australia earlier in 2025. He plays an excerpt of Butler saying that flu vaccinations have always been needed for the longest time, as flu returns on a seasonal basis, but no one yet knows whether COVID will stick around as long as the flu. Butler added that there are still concerns about COVID after the pandemic. Still, he believes they need to get back to remembering the huge benefits that vaccination programmes provide post-COVID period.

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## MINISTER WELLS

### **Brisbane 2032: the greatest Games of all**

Courier Mail, General News, 21/06/2025, Des Houghton, Page 76

Brisbane Olympics tsar Stephen Conry has warned of the troubles ahead and the "roadblocks" likely to threaten the delivery of the 2032 Games.[...] Conry's overarching leadership group includes federal Sports Minister Anika Wells and federal Infrastructure Minister Catherine King, state ministers Bleijie and Tim Mander, Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner and Andrew Liveris, president of the Games organising committee.

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

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## MINISTER MCALLISTER

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## MINISTER RAE

### **Care packages now 'or risk suffering'**

Weekend Australian, General News, 21/06/2025, Sarah Ison, Page 4

A prominent member of the taskforce advising on Labor's agedcare reforms has come out publicly to warn that the government is not releasing enough home care packages, putting at risk to the tens of thousands of elderly Australians. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said the government would roll out 80,000 new places in the first 12 months of the Support at Home program, now due to begin from November 1.

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

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## VACCINES

### What to know about the new 'razor blade' COVID variant

Canberra Times, General News, 21/06/2025, Devi Shastri and Carla Johnson, Page 63

The 'Nimbus' virus is causing painful sore throats What are the symptoms? The COVID-19 variant that may be driving a recent rise in cases in some parts of the world has earned a new nickname: "razor blade throat" COVID. That's because the variant - NB.1.8.1. or "Nimbus" - may cause painful sore throats.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### CDU teaching abroad

Northern Territory News, General News, 21/06/2025, Darcy Fitzgerald, Page 6

Charles Darwin University (CDU) has launched a first of its kind aged care training program in the Top End's closest neighbour, East Timor. The first cohort begun training on May 12, 2025, with Timorese students undertaking a Certificate III in Individual Support. This course will give students Australian-accredited qualifications which will allow them to work in a range of support-based industries including disability, aged care and residential support.

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### Trust is the foundation of aged care

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 21/06/2025, Jenni Hutchins, Page 69

The upcoming Australian aged care reforms are some of the most significant changes our sector has ever seen. These reforms touch every part of how we deliver care and support - from how we work with families, to how we train our staff, to how we hold ourselves accountable to the people who matter most: older Australians.

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### Research reveals new methods

Macarthur Advocate, General News, 01/06/2025, Page 45

Researchers from the National Centre for Healthy Ageing (NCHA), a partnership between Monash University and Peninsula Health, have developed a novel method for improving dementia detection in hospitals by combining traditional methods with artificial intelligence (AI). Approximately 50 million people worldwide live with dementia, a number expected to triple by 2050, according to the World Alzheimer Report.

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### Harbison prepares for busy year of building

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 20/06/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

After receiving global recognition for its virtual cycling program Motiview earlier this year, Harbison is now preparing for two new construction projects and a dementia care clinic. Residential aged care provider Harbison is due to begin construction on a new 72-bed aged care home in Burradoo next month.

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## 83,000 reasons for government to make home care a priority

The Australian, Other, 21/06/2025, Prue Bowden

The government must urgently release new home-care packages. Delaying this lifeline risks leaving tens of thousands of older Australians without the support they need . Postponing the introduction of the Aged Care Act is justified but it must not come at the cost of those already waiting. Jenny\*, 78, from Merrylands, NSW, is one of more than 83,000 older Australians waiting for a home-care package.

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## Hundreds of aged care beds set for release as developments get green light

The Senior, Other, 20/06/2025, Anthony Caggiano

Aged care options across Australia continue to diversify with a range of upcoming developments, spoiling potential residents for choice. Below is a selection of newly released, upcoming and proposed residential aged care sites that could make your new home as of June 2025.

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## Leading with compassion: why St Basil's bet on assisted living is a glimpse into the future of aged care

The Weekly Source, Other, 20/06/2025, Lauren Broomham

As Australia's aged care sector prepares to navigate the incoming wave of Baby Boomers, some providers are not waiting for the future to arrive – they're building it. At the forefront is St Basil's, under the leadership of Diana Horvatovic, who is steering the organisation boldly into assisted living.

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## Care Connect's workforce evolution: Why multidisciplinary teams are key to home care reform

The Weekly Source, Other, 20/06/2025, Lauren Broomham

As Care Connect marks 30 years of supporting older Australians to live independently, the home care provider is doubling down on a future-focused strategy that places workforce development, client empowerment, and multidisciplinary care at the heart of its growth.

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## Strategy is the new buzzword in aged care – but it's time to think bigger

The Weekly Source, Other, 20/06/2025, Lauren Broomham

As operators map out their future in ageing services, the sector must lead a bold transformation – not just play catch-up. Aged care and retirement living operators are ramping up their strategies – from rebrands to bold new marketing campaigns – but what's missing is a national, united vision.

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## Executive spotlight

The Weekly Source, Other, 20/06/2025, Lauren Broomham

Over 3,000 operators provide retirement living, aged care and support in the home to more than 1.5 million older Australians. 360,000 staff and 100,000 suppliers are engaged every day. It's a \$30 billion a year sector delivering vital services for our older citizens. At SATURDAY, we believe we should recognise and celebrate the leaders in this challenging but rewarding sector.

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## Dementia hits at 41: What this dad's story teaches us all

Your Life Choices, Other, 20/06/2025, Lexanne Garcia

When we think of dementia, most of us picture it as a condition that only affects the elderly—a cruel thief of memories that creeps in during our twilight years. But for Fraser, a father and teacher from Australia, dementia arrived shockingly early, upending his life at just 41.

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## DISABILITY

No relevant coverage

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Live and let liver

AFR Weekend, Life and Leisure, 21/06/2025, Luke Benedictus, Page 7

As a clinical nutritionist, Sarah Di Lorenzo helps people to lose weight. Yet when assessing new clients, her first area of focus isn't the width of their waistline, but the state of their liver. "The liver does all these amazing things...

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### Puberty-blocker precedent judge: 'it's now clear the treatment is risky'

Weekend Australian, General News, 21/06/2025, Ellie Dudley, Page 1

A judge who helped decide a landmark case in 2013 giving parents, rather than courts, the authority to approve puberty blockers for their children says the outcome might have been different if today's medical evidence had been available. Former Family Court judge Steven Strickland, who sat on the Full Court in *Re Jamie*, which authorised parents to prescribe children puberty blockers without the court's consent, told *The Australian* that advanced medical evidence had shown it was "pretty clear" the treatment was risky.

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### How can we break our baby drought?

Weekend Australian, General News, 21/06/2025, Tom Dusevic, Page 22

Australia is ageing, and ageing fast. Forty years ago, when Bob Hawke was prime minister and Anthony Albanese was leading campus revolts, the median age was 30; it's now 39. If Albo, last boomer emperor, is still in the Lodge when he turns 100 in 2063 and as Covid babies hit middle age, the nation's median age is expected to be 43.

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

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### Patients wait up to a year for major diagnoses

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 21/06/2025, Angus Thomson, Page 5

A woman who waited 139 days to discover a tumour taking up one-third of her bowel, and another diagnosed with stage 4 colorectal cancer almost a year after her first referral, are among cases that have caused doctors at one of Sydney's biggest hospitals to sound the alarm on their dysfunctional department. [...] About 2.5 per cent of patients who record a positive blood stool sample and have a subsequent endoscopy are found to have cancer, an analysis by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found.

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### Our kids are doing less well

Herald Sun, General News, 21/06/2025, Sharon Goldfeld and Yasmin Harman-Smith, Page 83

A child's early years provide the building blocks for a lifetime of good health, development and wellbeing. So it's vital to know whether children are developmentally on track. Every three years since 2009, teachers have reported on five key areas of children's development in their first year of school as part of the Australian Early Development Census.

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## Is your drinking a problem? Four surprising signs to look out for

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 21/06/2025, Jenny Tucker, Page 10

We all know alcohol is a toxin that messes with our brains. We understand it is calorific and can pile the weight on. Hangovers are no surprise, nor tiredness, interrupted sleep, the jitters or black moods the morning after. Yet when the tendency to drink more and more takes us to a darker place, the warning signs can be murky. We could be slipping into the alcoholic danger zone.

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## Where there's illegal smoke...

Courier Mail, General News, 21/06/2025, Andreas Nicola, Page 5

At least one Queensland tobacconist a day is caught selling illegal products as experts raise alarm bells over the grip organised crime syndicates have over the industry. A Saturday Courier-Mail investigation has revealed 367 shops have been caught selling illegal cigarettes, vapes or tobacco pouches from May 2024 to May 2025 an average of more than one bust each day.

*Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).*

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## PALM workers having abortions due to visa fears

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 21/06/2025, Stephanie Gardiner, Page 17

Migrant women working in rural Australia are carrying unplanned pregnancies, having unwanted abortions or even giving their babies to authorities due to fear, poverty and poor healthcare coverage. This is the "unseen population" that New South Wales general practitioner Trudi Beck wants every Australian to know about.

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## Faces of homeless crisis

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 21/06/2025, Bella Munro and Jack Evans, Page 1

Since he was just 10, Dylan has been learning to survive on the streets. More often than not, the 19year-old would find himself desperately sifting through garbage bins in order to find his next meals. "I'd eat burgers from people's leftover dinners, I didn't give a f how old it was, it was food and I was hungry," he said. He lives in hope that one day he will be able to find permanent accommodation.

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## Anti-wrinkle costs are set to skyrocket

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 21/06/2025, Ashleigh Jansen, Page 29

A Queensland Health crackdown has rocked the cosmetic industry, with clinic owners warning the price of procedures will skyrocket. There are fears clinics could also be forced to close due to regulations requiring nurse-led facilities to employ a doctor, or opt for a pharmacy dispensary model.

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## It's time to put truckies' health first

Big Rigs, General News, 20/06/2025, Warren Clark, Page 44

Ensuring truck driver health is essential for keeping our roads safe for all, and for supporting our drivers. Understanding when a driver has a high-risk condition enables the driver to address the condition, both for their own welfare and to ensure it does not contribute to a crash.

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## Illegal tobacco commissioner Erin Dale refused British American Tobacco's request for meeting

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 20/06/2025, Jon Kaila

Embattled national tobacco tsar Erin Dale refused to meet with a major company who wanted to warn that illicit use was skyrocketing under her watch. British American Tobacco (BAT) is understood to have written to Ms Dale's office last month requesting a meeting after "closely monitoring the growth of the illegal trade".



## Equality Tasmania invites Julie Sladden 'to sit down to talk with trans people' to get informed on gender affirming care

ABC Online, Other, 20/06/2025, Isabel Howard

Rodney Croome from Equality Tasmania says they would like to talk directly with Julie Sladden and any other political candidate with an interest in gender affirming care ahead of the state election. Mr Croome tells Ryk Goddard on Hobart Breakfast that the open letter signed by Liberal candidate for Bass, Julie Sladden, opposing gender affirming care goes against the Liberal Party's stance on the issue and against known best practice.

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## Tales of despair from women who quit Ozempic reveal the brutal reality of these 'non-addictive' jabs - and what really happens when you try to stop: 'These are not rare stories'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 21/06/2025, Faye James

If you listen to the official narrative, you'll hear it on repeat: drugs like Ozempic and Wegovy are not addictive. They're safe. They're well-tolerated. And when used properly, they're a valuable tool in treating obesity and type 2 diabetes. But as an accredited nutritionist who works closely with women over 40, I've come to a different conclusion, not based on medical trials or Big Pharma PR, but from anxious emails, tearful consultations and silent shame women share behind closed doors.

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## Dentist reveals common dental mistake you're making

NEWS.com.au, Other, 20/06/2025, Miranda Wang

Brushing your teeth is an act we do daily, but it seems many of us may have been doing it wrong this whole time. Functional dentist Dr Victoria Sampson has made some bold claims about the proper way to brush your teeth, and it's sent the internet in a spiral. Dr Sampson appeared on Steven Bartlett's The Diary of a CEO podcast and claimed that you should never rinse your mouth after brushing your teeth.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Aussie scientists rewrite cancer script

Weekend Australian, General News, 21/06/2025, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

The treatment of advanced melanoma will be radically overhauled in Australia, with immune therapies to be given before surgery instead of after a shift set to improve survival rates greatly. The pre-surgery use of combination immunotherapy for high-risk melanoma, a strategy that will now be publicly funded for all Stage 3 patients, is being described as "a revolution in cancer therapy" and is set to be replicated across the globe as well as transforming the treatment of a suite of other cancers.

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

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### Freedom from stigma of hidden illness

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 21/06/2025, Lauren Ironmonger, Page 20

Two years ago, 15-year-old Sienna Warren was diagnosed with severe Crohn's. She has also had colitis, or inflammation of the large intestine. The diagnosis has meant months away from school and a slowing down of the active life she led before. "I still get pretty bad brain fog that interferes with school, and fatigue, which interferes with activities I want to do," Sienna says.

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

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## Health scare for top TV chef

Daily Telegraph, General News, 21/06/2025, Fiona Byrne, Page 29

MasterChef judge Gary Mehigan has opened up about a terrifying heart scare, one that he feared was "payback" for pushing himself to the limit as an ambitious young chef. Mehigan revealed he began to feel "nauseous and not quite right" during Victoria's Covid lockdowns, something he initially chalked up to his body adjusting to not being constantly on the go.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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## Packs bring joy in 'ordinary situation'

Hobart Mercury, General News, 21/06/2025, Genevieve Holding, Page 23

Within 24 hours, the Support, Hope and Education (SHE) Gynaecological Cancer Group received responses from 25 volunteers to help put together much-needed SHE care packs for women recently diagnosed with gynaecological cancers. Each of the 80 care packs assembled contain comfort or wellness items, including toothbrushes and heat packs, designed to help women through the challenges of cancer treatment.

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## Throwing haymakers to KO the disease that gripped The Greatest

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 21/06/2025, Justin Langer, Page 40

Parkinson's was one opponent Ali couldn't defeat, and now a Perth pugilist and neurologist are taking up the fight to help others beat it Muhammad Ali is iconic. Few wear that tag. But there are two clear images of the greatest-ever fighter.

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## Ivy's got a big four years ahead of her

Daily Liberal, General News, 21/06/2025, Ciara Bastow, Page 3

Ivy Reardon was born with a leg discrepancy that left her with one leg 11 centimetres shorter than the other. For the next four years, the 11-year-old will undergo lengthening treatments of her femur to try and get the length increased. Ivy's mother Nicole said when her daughter was born, her leg difference was approximately two centimetres, and now at 11 the difference is about 11 centimetres.

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## Janine's heartbreaking struggle to live

Newcastle Herald, General News, 21/06/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 8

Janine Aqil doesn't know how long she has to live. Mrs Aqil, of Maitland, has incurable bile duct cancer. The 28-year-old was studying to be a teacher for children with special needs before she was diagnosed last year. "It's extremely hard. I'm trying to stay positive and not constantly think about the negative," she said.

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## This woman isn't pregnant - but her belly is speaking volumes

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 20/06/2025

Scroll past the powerful photos on Chelsea BreeAnn Hardesty's "Getting the Better of Endometriosis " Facebook page, and you might assume she's celebrating a pregnancy. That beautifully rounded belly, gently curved and soft, could easily be mistaken for a baby bump. But scrolling deeper, the caption shatters that assumption: this isn't joy - it's endo belly , the swollen, painful abdomen caused by endometriosis.

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## Fireys to complete massive trek across SEQ to raise awareness of the dangers on the job

The Courier Mail, Other, 20/06/2025, Jessica Klein

Meet the fireys changing mindsets here. A passionate Queensland firefighter and two of his fellow

colleagues will trek more than 300km to raise money for firefighters battling cancer. As a frontline worker and first officer of Marburg Fire Station, Stephen 'Macca' McDermott knows all too well the dangerous environments firefighters face on a daily basis. It's a high-risk job which has the potential to expose fireys to toxic chemicals, leading to a heartbreaking cancer diagnosis.

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## New guidelines for early detection of prostate cancer are on the way

Medical Forum, Other, 20/06/2025

Final amendments are being made to Australia's first national clinical guidelines for the early detection of prostate cancer. The Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA) has said Australia is set to become the first country in the world to introduce such guidelines, with feedback on a draft document currently being worked through.

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## Diabetes costs health system \$9.1b annually

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 20/06/2025

Australia's diabetes epidemic is costing the health system \$9.1 billion each year, which is almost three times more than previously thought, according to updated estimates from Diabetes Australia. With more than two million people living with all types of diagnosed and undiagnosed diabetes, it is considered to be one of the greatest health challenges facing Australia.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### 'Madness' as \$600m heart hospital cuts theatre, beds

The Saturday Age, General News, 21/06/2025, Broede Carmody and Henrietta Cook, Page 1

Patients with life-threatening conditions will wait longer for treatment after the state's new \$600 million cardiac hospital decided to axe an operating theatre and six recovery beds, Melbourne's top doctors have warned. The Victorian Heart Hospital, which recently celebrated its two year anniversary, is reducing the number of cardiac catheter laboratories it operates from six to five to become more "fiscally sustainable".

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

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### Budget targets hospitals

Canberra Times, General News, 21/06/2025, Jasper Lindell, Page 1

The spike in pressure on Canberra's hospital system will not be a one-off shock and the budget will need to meet the cost of ongoing high demand, the Treasurer says. Chris Steel, who will on Tuesday unveil his first budget, said the federal government would need to make a significant investment in the public health system so states and territories could continue to afford running hospitals.

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### Back to the old jail for medical treatment

Herald Sun, General News, 21/06/2025, Carly Douglas, Page 6

The state's largest jail hospital at Port Phillip Prison will remain open when the maximum security prison shuts, in a bid to keep killers and rapists out of public hospitals. Some of the state's worst prisoners, soon to be transferred from Port Phillip to the new Western Plains Correctional Centre, will be driven 45 minutes back to the old jail for medical treatment.

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### CT scanner boost for St Helens area

Hobart Mercury, General News, 21/06/2025, Alison Foletta, Page 24

The St Helens region will have access to a new CT scanner as part of the \$40m regional hospital fund, Premier Jeremy Rockliff announced on Friday. Mr Rockliff said access to healthcare in rural and regional areas was "crucial" as he committed to the \$2m funding for the scanner. "We will install and indeed fund a brand new CT scanner for the local area," he said.

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

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## Hospital crisis

The Nightly, General News, 20/06/2025, Nathan Schmidt, Page 31

The NSW Government will have the power to terminate the operating contract of the embattled Northern Beaches Hospital as if a default had occurred under proposed legislative amendments, following the tragic deaths of two children. Two-year-old Joe Massa and newborn Harper Atkinson both died at the Sydney hospital in unrelated incidents since September, leading the State Government to ban any future public-private partnerships (PPPs) for acute care hospitals.

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## Discussions for new NT hospital are long overdue

Northern Territory News, General News, 21/06/2025, Matt Cunningham, Page 20

The closure of maternity services at Darwin Private Hospital has put the Finocchiaro government in the unenviable position of having to put its hand out to Canberra for more cash. The government wants \$35m to upgrade maternity services infrastructure at the Royal Darwin Hospital. It's a reasonable ask, save for the fact that the federal government has not long ago helped fund a new hospital about 20 minutes up the road with a maternity ward that has never seen a baby born.

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## Doctors rely on cafe link

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 21/06/2025, Lucy Crock, Page 7

Doctors at Geelong hospital were forced to access patient records from the hospital cafeteria during an overnight IT outage at Barwon Health. A text message seen by the Geelong Advertiser was sent out by Barwon Health's medical workforce unit just after 10pm on Thursday. "Due to the IT outage tonight, you can access BOSSnet (digital patient records) in the cafeteria," it said.

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## Pair begin to Build the Base

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 21/06/2025, Alistair Finlay, Page 1

Two prominent Mildura residents have started a public push calling on the Victorian State Government to build a new Mildura Base Public Hospital. Going by the name Build the Base and branding itself a "community campaign", the effort is being spearheaded by political staffer and healthcare bureaucrat Stephen Parr and former Mildura MP Ali Cupper.

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## Hybrid theatre opens its doors

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 21/06/2025, Josh Mercer, Page 5

In an Australian first, Townsville University Hospital has received a \$17m hybrid theatre, which is set to cut down the long wait times for North Queensland patients. The hybrid theatre was originally announced by then deputy premier Steven Miles in 2020 as part of the \$25m promise for upgrades to the hospital.

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

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## Parking win at hospital

Weekend Post, General News, 21/06/2025, Emma Cam, Page 9

Hospital staff will have access to a new designated parking area and larger shuttle bus in less than two weeks. From July 1, Cairns Hospital staff will have access to 95 reserved parking spots in the Bunda

Street Car Park, at the corner of Spence and Bunda streets. Each spot will require a valid permit. Once staff have parked, they can get on a shuttle bus and be dropped at the hospital.

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## Bathurst's budget wishlist

Western Advocate, General News, 21/06/2025, Bradley Jurd, Page 11

Funding to have more car parking spaces built at the Bathurst Hospital will be Paul Toole's wish for the upcoming budget. The 2025-26 budget is set to drop on Tuesday, June 24, with a focus expected to be on reprioritisation of existing budgets.

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## Halls Creek renal centre moves forward as shire donates land for life-extending facility

West Australian, Other, 20/06/2025, Sarah Crawford

Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services says plans to establish a renal facility in Halls Creek have passed a significant milestone with the Shire of Halls Creek voting to hand over land to the Department of Health to build the centre. Councillors voted unanimously at their most recent meeting to hand over 95 Welman Road to the department.

[Read More](#)

## Burnie's new health hub under construction, with 24-hour pathology lab set to open in July

ABC Online, Other, 20/06/2025

For the past three years, the former University of Tasmania (UTAS) campus in Burnie has sat empty — but that's starting to change. Brothers Jack and Jerome Muir Wilson, a pharmacist and GP respectively, have plans to transform the site into a multidisciplinary health hub combining primary care, allied health and social services.

[Read More](#)

## The legal status of assisted dying in different countries

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 20/06/2025

British lawmakers will vote on Friday on whether to proceed with legislation to legalise assisted dying for the terminally ill, in what would be the biggest social reform in the country for a generation. [...] Voluntary assisted dying for the terminally ill or those with a condition that is causing intolerable suffering is legal in most Australian states, after being introduced first in Victoria in 2019.

[Read More](#)

## How nine GP clinics addressed gaps in palliative care

Medical Forum, Other, 20/06/2025

A pilot program operating in Western Australia is enhancing processes and approaches to palliative care. While the Palliative Care Champions in General Practice pilot has been operating across nine GP clinics for the past 12 months, it has resulted in the creation of several resources that will be of wider benefit.

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 20/06/2025, Rory McClaren

Interview with Peter Subramaniam, President, AMA SA. Compere says the AMA warns that possible financial pressure on SA's private hospitals could endanger the whole health system and could impact people waiting for elective surgery. Subramaniam says the financial pressure is getting worse in Adelaide and other SA hospitals over the last few years. He adds that smaller private hospitals are slowly becoming unsustainable.

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## Healthcare system failing women when they need it most, report says

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 21/06/2025, Kate Aubusson, Page 4

Australia's "gender-neutral" healthcare system is failing women in their most vulnerable stages of life, according to a new report that found dramatically higher rates of mental illness among women with physical conditions that don't affect men. More than half of Australian women now live with mental health issues, and one in four have severe mental health conditions, according to the latest report by advocacy group the Liptember Foundation and the George Institute of Global Health.

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

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## ADHD treatment plan hailed as a 'life saver'

Hobart Mercury, General News, 21/06/2025, Rob Inglis, Page 4

Tasmanian GPs will be trained to diagnose, treat, and manage people living with ADHD if the Liberal government is re-elected. Premier Jeremy Rockliff says the policy will facilitate quicker access to medication and reduce costs for patients. Under the proposed plan, the government would work with GPs and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners to make sure GPs are given the required training and supervision to support child and adult patients living with ADHD.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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## 'Don't be afraid to ask for help'

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 21/06/2025, Katrina Lovell, Page 7

Sue Cody first developed an eating disorder at the age of 22, but when the Kirkstall woman hit peri-menopause, it spiralled out of control and led to a four-week Melbourne hospital stay. Mrs Cody - who describes herself as being in "quasi-recovery" - decided to openly share her story after answering the call to help set up a new program through Eating Disorder Victoria, which has put the spotlight on menopause.

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## How sitting down with a blue slushie is helping crush mental health stigma

The Border Mail, Other, 20/06/2025, Madilyn McKinley

Kylie Barton isn't trying to reinvent the wheel. She is a co-founder of Wangaratta Area Suicide Prevention [WASP], a group passionate about wanting to make a difference, break the stigma and prevent suicide. The group engages the community in conversations about mental health and wellbeing while promoting support services, programs and community resources for people at risk.

[Read More](#)

## South Australian government to allow GPs to diagnose ADHD

ABC Online, Other, 20/06/2025, Thomas Kelsall

Some general practitioners in South Australia will from next year be able to diagnose patients with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), in a move the state government says will cut wait times and costs for those seeking a diagnosis. Currently, adults in South Australia seeking an ADHD diagnosis must be assessed by a psychiatrist, while children must see a paediatrician.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### NSW parents welcome funding for midwife-led care after birth trauma

## **inquiry**

ABC Online, Other, 20/06/2025

Parents involved in a landmark inquiry into birth trauma are welcoming an almost \$45 million investment in maternity care described as the "gold standard". The NSW government has allocated \$83 million to maternity care in the upcoming state budget.

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## **HEALTH WORKFORCE**

### **Relief for regional town left without a doctor for 18 months**

Daily Liberal, General News, 21/06/2025, Dane Wilson, Page 6

Gulgong is a town facing it all when it comes to the strain on regional health. Eighteen months without a GP, leaning on the emergency department for basic medical assessments, and locked out of Mudgee's surgeries - all whilst the town experiences an influx of nearly 1000 temporary workers. Finally, though, some relief is on its way.

Also reported by: [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#).

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### **Premium hike hits \$69,000**

Australian Doctor, General News, 20/06/2025, Page 3

The indemnity premiums of bariatric surgeons now average \$69,900 a year, a survey shows, triggering claims that the surgery's future is unsustainable. Researchers questioned 115 surgeons working in private practice, with one revealing they were faced with a \$500,000 premium.

Also reported by: [Australian Doctor \(Online\)](#).

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### **Police reassure GPs over gun checks**

Australian Doctor, General News, 20/06/2025, Page 8

Police in WA say doctors signing off a patient as fit to hold a gun licence will not be responsible if they subsequently misuse their firearm. The State Government introduced controversial new laws requiring gun owners to submit health assessment certificates signed by their GP in March.

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### **Pharmacy consults reach 1350**

Australian Doctor, General News, 20/06/2025, Page 10

Queensland pharmacists have conducted 1350 consults for medical conditions such as shingles, impetigo and reflux in their first year of prescribing S4 medicines. So far, some 118 of the state's 7800 pharmacists have received approval to diagnose and prescribe, having undergone 12 months' training, which includes a period where they shadow another prescriber.

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

### **WA Budget 2025: Pharmacists \$1.3m shot in the arm**

West Australian, Other, 20/06/2025, Kate Emery

Plans to alleviate WA's healthcare crunch by giving pharmacists more power to prescribe more kinds of medication are moving forward, with a \$1.3 million shot in the arm for training. The money will be used to train community pharmacists, who are ultimately likely to be allowed to prescribe as many as 20 different types of medication — although the State Government has yet to confirm that final number.

Also reported by: [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#), [Australian Journal of Pharmacy \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

### **Psychiatrist body holds firm on 25% pay bid but NSW Health says**

## shortages are 'more nuanced'

The Guardian, Other, 21/06/2025, Kate Lyons

Closing submissions have been heard in the long-running dispute between psychiatrists – who are pushing for a 25% pay increase – and the New South Wales department of health, bringing to a close a landmark legal action brought by the psychiatrists, who argue psychiatric care in NSW is facing "collapse" because of poor pay and conditions. Over two days this week, the Industrial Relations Commission court in Sydney heard closing submissions from lawyers, before the full bench retired to consider their decision.

[Read More](#)

## GP registrar take home pay set to increase with indexation next month

Medical Forum, Other, 20/06/2025

GP registrars on the lowest level of wages will soon get an additional \$2000 per year under new base rates. The minimum base rate of pay for a full-time GP registrar will increase to a little more than \$94,000, as of 1 July. Updated National Terms and Conditions for the Employment of Registrars (NTCER) for 2025–2026 have just been released, a fortnight ahead of the new financial year.

[Read More](#)

## GPs are working on the frontline to address domestic violence

Medical Forum, Other, 20/06/2025

The WA chair of the RACGP has reiterated calls for increased Medicare rebates for longer appointments with GPs in the light of new insight into domestic violence in Australia. Ten to Men is the title of a report released earlier this month by the Australian Institute of Family Studies' (AIFS).

[Read More](#)

## Top eight things shaping the future of general practice

The Medical Republic, Other, 20/06/2025, Jeremy Knibbs

There's more change coming the way of GPs than ever in the history of the profession. No one likes change, but as the saying goes, things don't change, we do. Who Moved My Cheese is one of my favourites of the potboiler management books of the late 1990s. Like all those books I mostly just read the dustcover. The ground-breaking (not) idea in this one is change and people don't go together very well.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### Government's inexorable growth is killing incentive

Weekend Australian, General News, 21/06/2025, Judith Sloan, Page 22

Too many politicians forget the lesson children are taught early: wants and needs are different. There is little doubt that our Prime Minister is a believer in big government. According to his thinking, "This a time when government has to step up. [...] Social spending covers the NDIS, childcare, Medicare, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, aged care and electricity concessions.

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

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### ACSS payments automated

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 20/06/2025

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) has advised that Additional Community Supply Support (ACSS) will be automated from 01 Jul 2025, after which time ACSS payments for eligible supplies will be included with regular PBS online claims payments. Payments for the periods ending 30 Mar 2025 and 30 Jun 2025 will continue to be made manually, after the PBS online system payments solution is in place.

[Read More](#)



## ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 20/06/2025, Chris Bath and Dom Knight

Compere is joined by Brett Worthington, Federal Political Correspondent, ABC, speaking about the impacts of US President Donald Trump's decisions around prescription drug pricing. Compere mentions that Trump has signed an Executive Order stating that US consumers must not pay more than other people from around the world for the same medicine. He added that drug companies are not submitting their drugs to the PBS because they don't want to sell them cheaply in America.

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### Too many of us are not as lucky as me

Canberra Times, General News, 21/06/2025, Jenna Price, Page 63

My gp bulk bills me. My status has been grandmothered. It's a bloody miracle and I'm grateful. I'd personally like to thank former prime minister Gough Whitlam. Medibank, the forerunner to Medicare, was his brainchild. It began in July 1975. But after the Whitlam government was dismissed, the Fraser government buggered it up. Levies on incomes unless you were privately insured.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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### COVID-19 vax items up sticks

Australian Doctor, General News, 20/06/2025, Page 14

After more than 30 million claims, more than \$1 billion dollars in rebates and much controversy, the Medicare items for COVID-19 vaccination are departing. The Federal Government says the 13 remaining MBS items will end on 1 July as it moves to "business as usual", with no mandatory bulk-billing requirements and GPs expected to use typical time-tiered consultation items.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### IVF clinics stay mum on their number of mistakes

Herald Sun, General News, 21/06/2025, Robyn Riley, Page 4

Some IVF clinics across the country are staying mum about if they have also made shocking embryo, egg or sperm errors, after two were revealed at fertility giant Monash IVF in as many months. The Herald Sun reported in April a catastrophic mix-up at Monash IVF's Brisbane clinic that led to a woman being implanted with a stranger's embryo.

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### Nurse shopped with patient's credit card

Daily Liberal, General News, 21/06/2025, Allison Hore, Page 11

A nurse has been found "unfit" for practice after she used a dementia patient's bank card to buy alcohol and cigarettes. Kim Marie King, who previously worked in a dementia ward at a regional hospital, was ruled unfit to practise nursing in a decision handed down by the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal on Thursday, May 8.

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

### GP cleared over love affair

Australian Doctor, General News, 20/06/2025, Page 1

A GP in a small town accused of misconduct for starting a relationship with a patient a few weeks after

their therapeutic relationship ended has been cleared. The Medical Board of Australia spent three years investigating the relationship. By the time of the tribunal hearing in April this year, the pair had had a child together.

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## Chiros repay \$300,000 for their X-ray vision

Australian Doctor, General News, 20/06/2025, Page 3

Two chiropractors who were "unacceptably incentivised" to order X-rays were each ordered to repay Medicare over \$300,000, the Professional Services Review says. In some cases, the chiropractors did not even see the patients, the Professional Services Review (PSR) said.

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## GP who botched face lift to treat acne scarring had never practised the surgery: tribunal

Australian Doctor, Other, 20/06/2025, Heather Saxena

A gp without training in invasive cosmetic procedures who performed a face lift for acne scarring that breached the patient's occipital artery has been struck off. The Brisbane doctor's only experience with face lift surgery had been "assisting" another doctor during two procedures seven years earlier, the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal heard.

[Read More](#)

## 'He was concerned that his patients would think he was unwell'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 20/06/2025, Megan Haggan

The fear of a pharmacist calling out his name in-store was a factor in a psychiatrist's self-prescribing under another name, a tribunal has heard. The Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal has heard the case of a psychiatrist who self-prescribed S8 drugs, including dexamphetamine, using the identity of another person.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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## SPORT

### AFL to buy Waverley

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 21/06/2025, Page 5

The AFL is understood to be on the cusp of locking in the purchase of Waverley Parkhome of the 1991 Grand Final from the Hawthorn Football Club. It would be the league's second major piece of infrastructure, after it bought Marvel Stadium in Docklands for more than \$30m in 2016.

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### High-flyer Wiz's hard descent

Herald Sun, General News, 21/06/2025, Alice Coster, Page 12

A brief, colourful and mostly inappropriate history of the life of Swans bad boy Warwick Capper ... and his feud with fellow footy villain Wayne Carey The rollercoaster life of Warwick Capper hit another slippery slope this week to a collective eye roll from those of us beyond surprise at the antics of the one-time AFL cult hero.

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## Pathways on roll for Park and Street

Courier Mail, General News, 21/06/2025, Tayla Couacaud, Page 15

A skateboarding competition has launched in South East Queensland in a bid to foster Olympic athletes for the Brisbane 2032 Games. Queensland skateboarders competed in Street competitions at Pizzey Park in Miami, Gold Coast, earlier this week and will continue in Redbank Plains, Ipswich, on Sunday, with the Park competition.

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## Referees call for more to be done to prevent increasing abuse and violence on pitches and sidelines

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 20/06/2025, Madeline Crittenden and Matthew Benns

Almost three violent incidents a week are taking place on NSW sports grounds despite a major NSW Government initiative aimed at de-escalating the crisis. Figures from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research show violence on playing fields and sports centres has returned to pre-Covid levels and is getting worse.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Stroke of good fortune as WA biotech lands cash bump

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Business News, 21/06/2025, Cheyanne Enciso, Page 160

The Federal Government is pumping \$1 million into WA biotech Argenica Therapeutics to advance global clinical trials for its potentially life-saving stroke drug. Argenica told investors on Friday it had been awarded the funding from MTPConnect, the country's life sciences innovation acceleration program established by the Government.

Also reported by: [The Nightly \(None\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Kalgoorlie\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#)

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### Survivors' good news

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 21/06/2025, Page 13

Breast cancer survivors may be less likely to develop Alzheimer's disease in the years after surgery. Seoul National University College of Medicine scientists in South Korea used data from 70,000 Korean breast cancer surgery patients and compared it with about 140,000 people of a similar demographic who did not have breast cancer.

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### 'Start MMR vax at four months'

Australian Doctor, General News, 20/06/2025, Page 3

Deferring the first routine MMR vaccination to 12 months could put babies at unnecessary risk of measles amid a national outbreak of at least 77 cases this year, researchers say. A systematic review, led by Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI), suggests that vaccinating children as early as four months warrants consideration as only 30% of babies of that age are still protected by maternal antibodies.

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### Study backing OsteoStrong 'bone-strengthening' exercise program should be retracted: experts

ABC Online, Other, 20/06/2025, Anna Salleh

A study claiming a popular exercise regimen called OsteoStrong can help strengthen bones in post-menopausal women has been criticised by scientists, with some saying it should never have been published. The research, which was accepted for publication in the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism (JCEM) in February this year, was hailed as "groundbreaking" by the international franchise behind the exercise program.

## Carotenoids head off screen eyes

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 20/06/2025

New Australian research has reported that two natural antioxidants in the carotenoid family, lutein and zeaxanthin, may support the eye health of people who spend long hours in front of digital screens. The trial investigated the effects of taking Lute-gen extract (lutein and zeaxanthin) for six months in 70 healthy adults who reported using screens for more than six hours per day.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Death in custody case under scrutiny as ministers meet

Canberra Times, Other, 20/06/2025, Lloyd Jones

An Indigenous death in custody case is being closely watched by the federal government after a territory leader vigorously opposed an independent inquiry. Senator Malarndirri McCarthy said ahead of a meeting of the Joint Council on Closing the Gap in Darwin that deaths in custody had to end and the Commonwealth was deeply concerned about the issue.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

### 2025 applications open for \$5.9 million First Nations cancer scholarships

National Indigenous Times, Other, 20/06/2025, Alexandra Giorgianni

Applications are now open for the 2025 First Nations Cancer Scholarships Program, a federal government-backed initiative supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership and Indigenous-led strategies in cancer control. Delivered through a partnership by Aurora Education Foundation and Cancer Australia, four scholarships will be awarded to eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, health professionals or early career researchers enrolled in full-time postgraduate study or research in a cancer-related field.

[Read More](#)

### Coalition of Peaks urges Commonwealth to lead on youth justice reform, tie funding to real action

National Indigenous Times, Other, 20/06/2025, Dechlan Brennan

The Commonwealth must lead efforts to stop the incarceration of 10-year-old children, according to the Coalition of Peaks, who say federal funding should be tied to meaningful justice reform. Acting Lead Convenor Scott Wilson made the comments to reporters in Darwin on Larrakia Country before a meeting of the Joint Council on Closing the Gap, which follows the recent deaths of two Indigenous people in custody — a tragedy that has triggered national protests after the Northern Territory Government refused calls for an independent investigation.

[Read More](#)

### Additional support for First Nations brain and mental health programs in NSW

National Indigenous Times, Other, 20/06/2025, Alexandra Giorgianni

Two health programs which support First Nations communities across New South Wales have received a combined \$250,000 grant from the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation. In its latest round of grants, the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation (NPCF) focused on addressing First Nations health disparities through culturally safe, community-led initiatives, awarding Neuroscience Research Australia's (NeuRA) Deadly Brains program \$200,000, while Coast & Country Primary Care will receive \$50,000 for their Culture Connect pilot program.

[Read More](#)

## NSW Government commits nearly \$450 Million to Closing the Gap amid ongoing criticism and calls for reform

National Indigenous Times, Other, 20/06/2025, Dechlan Brennan

The New South Wales government has committed \$246.8 million over the next four years as part of its Closing the Gap obligations through an additional \$202.4 million allocated in the 2025–26 budget. The announcement, which follows an audit last month that found governance arrangements for the National Agreement on Closing the Gap in NSW are not operating effectively, will see funding to support 14 Closing the Gap initiatives.

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### How the sniffles can turn deadly

Canberra Times, General News, 21/06/2025, Tu Nguyen, Page 57

Winter is here, along with cold days and the inevitable seasonal surge in respiratory viruses. But it's not only the sniffles we need to worry about. Heart attacks and strokes also tend to rise during the winter months. In new research out this week we show one reason why. Our study shows catching common respiratory viruses raises your short-term risk of a heart attack or stroke. In other words, common viruses, such as those that cause flu and COVID, can trigger them.

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### Hospital mask-up directive as flu hits

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Edition Changes, 21/06/2025, Claire Sadler, Page 3

Two Perth hospitals have given a directive to staff to wear masks after an unprecedented influx of influenza and COVID-19 cases. On Thursday, Joondalup Health Campus staff were asked to wear masks in all clinical areas to reduce the transmission of respiratory viruses. It is understood St John of God Midland Hospital has also encouraged staff to wear masks in clinical areas.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#)

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### WA Health issues measles warning after confirmed case in returned traveller

West Australian, Other, 20/06/2025, Hannah Cross

Health authorities have issued a public health alert after a measles case was confirmed in a returned traveller from Afghanistan. The infected person visited several stores at a northern suburbs shopping centre on Friday after being infectious on an international flight arriving in Perth last Thursday.

[Read More](#)

### Health experts warn Sydneysiders to stay vigilant after new measles case recorded

7news.com.au, Other, 20/06/2025, Sarah Keszler

A new health alert has been issued following a confirmed case of measles in Sydney's inner south. NSW Health urges people to stay alert for signs and symptoms of the highly contagious infectious disease after a confirmed case was identified travelling through Sydney International Airport on Monday.

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

[Read More](#)

### The Bali rabies risk and what you need to know about the disease

The New Daily, Other, 20/06/2025, Dan Baumgardt

The rise in the number of rabies-positive dog bites in Bali this year is a sobering reminder of the risks posed by this almost universally fatal disease if untreated. Leaders in the Indonesian province are working to vaccinate as many dogs as possible and tourists are being reminded to take the risks of rabies seriously while on holiday on the island.

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 20/06/2025, Steve Austin

According to Qld Health, respiratory infections are still increasing across the State among all age groups. This prompted them to remind people to check their up-to-date vaccinations.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Reversal on gender care for children

Weekend Australian, General News, 21/06/2025, Ellie Dudley, Page 23

Three significant Australian legal cases took out of the court's hands the decision of whether a young person could be prescribed gender-affirming medicine. [...] In January Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced Labor's plan to have the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Therapeutic Goods Administration conduct a two-year review into gender therapies and develop new national guidelines.

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

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

### Following the vaper trails

Herald Sun, General News, 21/06/2025, Zoe De Koning and Edward Russell, Page 31

Paralympic swimmer Col Pearce is joining forces with five popular Aussie influencers to deter the one in five young people who regularly vape, a habit he said has become far too "normalised". [...] Since the Australian government banned the importation of all vapes last year, approximately 7.8 million vaping products have been seized by the Australian Border Force and Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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### Call to join B6 class action

Australian Doctor, General News, 20/06/2025, Page 2

Lawyers are investigating a potential class action against vitamin giant Blackmores after patients who took vitamin B6 supplements allegedly developed peripheral neuropathy. [...] The TGA issued two safety alerts about B6 supplements and the risk of peripheral neuropathy in 2020 and 2022.

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### TGA approves dementia drug

Australian Doctor, General News, 20/06/2025, Page 16

The TGA has registered an Alzheimer's disease treatment to slow progression in patients with confirmed amyloid plaque in the brain and specific genetic profiles. Eli Lilly's donanemab (Kisunla) is indicated for patients with mild cognitive impairment who do not carry apolipoprotein E 4 (ApoE 4), which is linked to a higher risk of brain swelling and bleeding.

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### Carer overdose warning

Australian Doctor, General News, 20/06/2025, Page 16

A series of accidental liquid risperidone overdoses in children last year often involved babysitters or extended family members administering the antipsychotic, the TGA has warned. Of the 22 paediatric

oral risperidone overdoses reported in 2024, the watchdog says most involved children who received 10 times the prescribed dose, such as 5mL instead of 0.5mL.

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## Wagga CSU Allied Network welcomes changes to blood donor rules

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 20/06/2025

For years, Wagga's Cliff Lewis has wanted to help save lives - and soon he will be able to. From July 14, Lifeblood will remove most sexual activity wait times for plasma donations, allowing gay and bisexual men and transgender women to start making donations. Lifeblood is also working on changes to eligibility for blood and platelet donations after the Therapeutic Goods Administration approved a submission to remove gender-based sexual activity rules.

[Read More](#)

## Choice sunscreen saga a lesson in handling a media s\*\*\*storm

Crikey, Other, 20/06/2025, Daanyal Saeed

The cosmetics world has been turned upside down as a result of sunscreen testing by consumer group Choice, plunging popular brand Ultra Violette into chaos. The Choice sunscreen saga prompted long-winded first-person explainers, think pieces and interviews aplenty. [...] On the matter of testing itself, the issue of whether the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), the government body responsible for regulating sunscreen, had a flaw in its own systems, has been raised as part of the coverage of the saga.

[Read More](#)

## Lizzo reveals secret to her weight loss and finally sets the record straight on Ozempic use

NEWS.com.au, Other, 21/06/2025, Riley Cardoza

Lizzo has spoken about her weight loss journey - and clarified her Ozempic use - months after clapping back at rumours about the drug. [...] According to the TGA in Australia, "Ozempic has been included in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods for the treatment of type 2 diabetes.

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## TGA takes publications to court over cannabis advertising

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 20/06/2025, Kate Cowling

The authority alleges four companies, including Mamamia and Body + Soul publisher News Life Media, unlawfully advertised medicinal cannabis, using testimonials from health professionals. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has launched proceedings in the Federal Court against natural therapies company Atlus and its sole director Dr Shimal Jobanputra, media website Mamamia, Body + Soul publisher...

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## Eating disorder peaks call for better telehealth regulation

The Medical Republic, Other, 20/06/2025, Holly Payne

People with eating disorders are using telehealth to access weight-loss drugs. What we don't know is how large the problem is. [...] Federal health minister Mark Butler's office told the Australian Financial Review last month that the government was "concerned about reports of unscrupulous and possibly unsafe behaviour by some telehealth providers", and that the TGA had been asked to come up with options to improve telehealth standards.

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## New standards for nicotine vapes

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 20/06/2025

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has advised that starting 01 Jul 2025, strengthened standards will come into effect for all therapeutic vaping goods for smoking cessation and nicotine dependence, with existing supplies in pharmacies likely to be affected. Pharmacies can only supply

vapes that meet the TGA's stronger safety and quality product standards, which include stricter requirements for ingredients, flavours, packaging and labelling.

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