



Monday, 9th June 2025

Minister Butler | Minister Wells | Minister McAllister | Minister Rae |

Assistant Minister McBride | Assistant Minister White | Special Envoy Repacholi
| Department | Vaccines | Ageing and Aged Care | Disability
| Population Health | Cancer, Hearing and Chronic Conditions | Primary Care
| Mental Health and Suicide Prevention | Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office |

Health Workforce | Technology Assessment and Access
| Medicare Benefits and Digital Health | Benefits Integrity. |

Health Systems Strategies | Sport | Health Economics and Research
| First Nations Health | Interim Australian CDC | Therapeutic Goods Administration
| Office of Drug Control | Food Standards | AICIS

LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The <u>Daily Telegraph (page 4)</u> reports that the number of Australians on the priority waiting list for Support At Home Packages has grown to 82,960, a 189 per cent rise compared to June 2023. Health Minister Mark Butler said that the Federal Government's aged care reforms would see 107,000 Support At Home Packages delivered over the next two years.
- The <u>Daily Liberal (page 3)</u> reports that 14 current and former staff members of the Dubbo Regional Aboriginal Health Service delivered Orange Aboriginal Medical Service CEO Jamie Newman a letter of no-confidence in September 2024, following claims of misusing funds. Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler and the Federal Health Department are investigating whether the Aboriginal Medical Service is using funds in line with their grant agreements.
- The Australian (page 25) reports that a Department of Health spokesperson has confirmed
 that the Federal Government has abandoned the MAIF Agreement in February after finding it
 not fit for purpose and intends to "introduce mandatory controls on infant formula marketing".
- Northern Territory News (page 1) reports that a 68-year-old First Nations Australian has died
 in the Royal Darwin Hospital after being taken into custody by the Australian Federal Police,
 becoming the second death in custody to spark an investigation in 12 days.

- The Australian (page 3) reports that health experts have called for Australia to increase early
 detection and treatment initiatives for chronic kidney disease, claiming that it would decrease
 all-cause mortality by 7.3 per cent.
- The <u>Daily Telegraph (page 3)</u> reports that a paper by Relationships Australia NSW has found that 15 per cent of elderly people in Australia are currently experiencing elder abuse, with 52 per cent of alleged perpetrators being the victim's children.
- The <u>Canberra Times (page 3)</u> reports that only 24.24 per cent of Australians have received influenza vaccinations while Covid boosters for Australians aged 75 and over have fallen from 38 per cent to 32 per cent.
- The <u>West Australian (page 3)</u> reports that the WA State Government has rejected calls for bare-knuckle fighting to be banned in the state following the Australian Medical Association labelling it a "blood sport", but has declined the permit application for a scheduled fight in Perth.
- <u>The Guardian (online)</u> reports that recent flooding events in Hunter and mid-north coast of New South Wales may cause issues with mould across the region, with experts warning that the winter weather will prevent residents from eradicating the mould.

MINISTER BUTI FR

Elderly made to wait for support

Daily Telegraph, General News, 09/06/2025, Lachlan Leeming, Page 4

[...] Coalition spokeswoman for health and aged care Anne Ruston took aim at Health Minister Mark Butler over the accompanying delay to the reform.

Also reported by: <u>Adelaide Now (Online)</u>, <u>The Courier Mail (Online)</u>, <u>Herald Sun (Melbourne)</u>, <u>Daily Telegraph</u> (<u>Sydney</u>), <u>Daily Telegraph (Sydney</u>), <u>Courier Mail (Brisbane)</u>, <u>The Mercury (Online)</u>, <u>Daily Telegraph Australia</u> (<u>Online</u>), <u>Herald Sun (Online)</u>

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Letter of no-confidence filed in 2024

Daily Liberal, General News, 09/06/2025, Ciara Bastow, Page 3

[...] Investigation ongoing Minister for Health and Ageing, Mark Butler and his department are actively investigating the allegations to ensure funding to the Aboriginal Medical Service is being appropriated correctly in line with their grant agreements.

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One in 10 young children on NDIS as new disability scheme stalls

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 08/06/2025, Natassia Chrysanthos

[...] New Disability Minister Mark Butler and junior NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister met their state counterparts on Friday to progress planning on a new disability system, called "foundational supports", which was recommended by the 2023 review and agreed to by the states.

Also reported by: WA Today (Online), The Age (Online), Brisbane Times (Online)

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Highest to lowest: Every NSW aged care home food rating and ranking revealed

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/06/2025, Julie Cross and Adella Beaini

[...] Minister Mark Butler said older Australians have "worked their whole lives, they deserve tasty, nutritious food in aged care".

Also reported by: <u>Gold Coast Bulletin (Online)</u>, <u>Adelaide Now (Online)</u>, <u>The Mercury (Online)</u>, <u>The Courier Mail</u> (<u>Online)</u>, <u>Herald Sun (Online)</u>

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Highest to lowest: Every Victorian aged care home food rating and

ranking revealed

Herald Sun, Other, 08/06/2025, Adella Beaini and Julie Cross

[...] Minister Mark Butler said older Australians have "worked their whole lives, they deserve tasty, nutritious food in aged care".

Also reported by: <u>The Mercury (Online)</u>, <u>Adelaide Now (Online)</u>, <u>Daily Telegraph Australia (Online)</u>, <u>The Courier Mail (Online)</u>

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Highest to lowest: Every Qld aged care home food rating and ranking revealed

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Cheaper complementary health treatments are on the way

Canberra Times, Other, 08/06/2025, Sebastian Tan

[...] The additional good news is that pilates-goers like Mr Hill can soon expect their classes will be cheaper after federal health minister Mark Butler promised during the election campaign that private insurers would be obliged to cover some complementary treatments.

Also reported by: <u>Illawarra Mercury (Online)</u>, <u>Daily Liberal (Online)</u>, <u>Northern Daily Leader (Online)</u>, <u>The Senior (Online)</u>, <u>CityNews (Online)</u>, <u>West Australian (Online)</u>

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'I'm not done fighting': diagnosed with MND, Victorian MP Emma Vulin still has a lot to achieve

The Guardian, Other, 09/06/2025, Benita Kolovos

[...] Vulin has also written to the federal health minister, Mark Butler, lobbying for changes to telehealth to allow VAD services, and for better support for people with MND over 65 who aren't eligible for the NDIS.

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Biosecurity rules being reviewed in hope of exemption from US tariffs

WEB Region Canberra, Other, 08/06/2025, Chris Johnson

[...] Health Minister Mark Butler has confirmed the review, stating that it will specifically examine beef from Mexico and Canada that is slaughtered in the US.

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MINISTER WELLS

MINISTER MCALLISTER

One in 10 young children on NDIS as new disability scheme stalls

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 08/06/2025, Natassia Chrysanthos

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Also reported by: WA Today (Online), The Age (Online), Brisbane Times (Online)

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MINISTER RAE

Delay buys time for folks to dodge aged-care hikes

West Australian, Business News, 09/06/2025, Nick Bruining, Page 45

[...] The new Minister for Aged Care Sam Rae said that getting the system right was the Government's priority.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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DEPARTMENT

Baby formula ad rules stricter than booze

The Australian, General News, 09/06/2025, Danielle Long, Page 25

[...] However, the MAIF agreement was abandoned in February after it was deemed "no longer fit for purpose", according to a spokesperson for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

Also reported by: The Australian (Online)

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Morrison handed King's honour

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 09/06/2025, Shane Wright, Page 1

[...] Dr Bridget Gilmour-Walsh For outstanding public service in the development of new legislative regulation on vapes.

Also reported by: Age (Melbourne)

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'Outstanding contribution': the public servants and emergency service workers recognised

Canberra Times, General News, 09/06/2025, Megan Doherty, Page 6

[...] Dr Bridget Gilmour-Walsh received the Public Service Medal for outstanding public service in the development of new legislative regulation on vapes.

Also reported by: Canberra Times (Online)

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King's birthday honours list 2025: from broadcasting luminary Phillip Adams to a PM and a film-making couple

The Guardian, Other, 08/06/2025, Daisy Dumas

[...] A meritorious award goes to the ACT's Dr Bridget Gilmour-Walsh, an architect of new federal vaping legislation.

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I suspect this blog will only be of interest to about half my readers!

Australian Health Information Technology, Other, 08/06/2025

[...] The federal Department of Health and Aged Care in its examination of the link between smoking and ED notes that "one in five men over the age of 40 have some problem with erections and one in 10 men over 40 are unable to get an erection".

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Honours: Who got the local King's Birthday gongs?

CityNews, Other, 08/06/2025

[...] Dr Bridget Gilmour-Walsh, ACT, for outstanding public service in the development of new legislative regulation on vapes.

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VACCINES

2GB, Healthy Living, 08/06/2025, Dr Ross Walker and Ned Green

Interview time of the year to top up your measles vaccine if you haven't already. But if you need any more reason to get a jab, have a listen to this one.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Politicians dismiss Gen Z despair at their peril

The Australian, General News, 09/06/2025, Nick Cater, Page 13

[...] Aged care will increase from 1.1 per cent to 2.5 per cent, the National Disability Insurance Scheme from 0.9 per cent to 2.1 per cent, and interest payments from 0.9 per cent to 1.4 per cent.

Elder abuse rife in NSW

Daily Telegraph, General News, 09/06/2025, Madeleine Bower, Page 3

A staggering 15 per cent of elderly people in Australia are currently experiencing abuse, according to a new report that warns the state lacks the services needed to combat the silent scourge.

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Honour our elders with love and care

Daily Telegraph, Editorials, 09/06/2025, Page 40

There are any number of ways to measure society's levels of intrinsic decency. We can judge them personally by considering how many acts of kindness and generosity we either perform or witness every day.

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A united front, until it wasn't

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 09/06/2025, Peter Farago, Page 18

[...] As an example, the councillors having decided on no new borrowing for four years even with the enormous amount of work ahead, were asked to consider handing over a \$1.1m-loss-making at-home aged care service, one of the last remaining council-run in Victoria, to private service providers.

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Unlikely friends connect

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 09/06/2025, Bella Munro, Page 7

Growing up, Nathan Thomas had always been close with his grandparents, and when they passed away he struggled to cope with the loss.

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'Geographic narcissism': the battle to fund aged care providers in rural Australia

The Guardian, Other, 08/06/2025, Dellaram Vreeland

In the final stages of Angiolina Moro's dementia journey, she would revert to speaking Italian. "She was in her late 20s when she arrived in Australia," her son, Joe Moro, says.

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 08/06/2025, Fauziah Ibrahim and Thomas Oriti

Interview with Forrest Research Foundation director James Arvanitakis, discussing disparities in aged care services between cities and rural areas, following a headline by The Guardian that described it as "geographic narcissism." Despite the growing elderly population in rural areas, Arvanitakis notes the severe funding inequality, with regional residents missing as much as \$850 per person in healthcare access compared to city dwellers. He says rural areas face limited options and inadequate support from policymakers. As a result, Arvanitakis says many local communities are developing smaller, flexible aged care centres tailored to their needs.

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DISABILITY

Hard decisions must be made on NDIS future

Sydney Morning Herald, Editorials, 09/06/2025, Page 28

The latest quarterly health check on the National Disability Insurance Scheme makes for sobering reading, and should act as a much-needed wake-up call for political leaders who must do more to

ensure the scheme remains financially sustainable for those who rely on it most.

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Eating at least five grams of butter a day can reduce the risk of Type 2 diabetes and heart disease

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 08/06/2025, Pat Hagan

They found tucking into at least five grams a day – or roughly a teaspoonful – reduced the risk of Type 2 diabetes, a major cause of heart disease, by almost a third.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Smoke signals being closely watched

Northern Territory News, Business News, 09/06/2025, Nathan Schmidt, Page 23

In a debate being keenly watched by businesses nationwide, NSW Premier Chris Minns says law-abiding citizens are being "dragged into the black market" by the federal government's tobacco tax and he wants that to change.

Also reported by: Cairns Post (Cairns), Geelong Advertiser (Geelong)

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GPs on the frontline of domestic violence after bombshell DV report

West Australian, General News, 09/06/2025, Kate Emery, Page 4

Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner Micaela Cronin says GPs could play a bigger role in tackling violence against women by intervening when they see men who display red flags.

Also reported by: West Australian (Online), Kalgoorlie Miner (Online)

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Microplastics have been found in human placentas. Could they be causing harm to babies?

The Australian, Other, 08/06/2025, Steve Robson

Recent research has confirmed the worst fears of many of us involved in pregnancy and birth.

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New SA food and drink policies to tackle obesity

Cairns Post, Other, 08/06/2025, Lynn Cameron

A new policy to combat childhood obesity by limiting junk food advertising on South Australian public transport has won support from health experts as a step towards better health.

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Australia's newest rice mill funded largely by farmers

ABC Online, Other, 08/06/2025, Tim Lee

A new \$10 million rice mill in southern New South Wales is being hailed as a bold step towards food security and rural sustainability.

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Meagan White chose surrogacy in order to become a mother, and now has two children

ABC Online, Other, 08/06/2025

Maree Arnold has an extra special connection with her three-year-old grandson Winston and his newborn sister Phoebe.

Sleep becoming major health issue for Australians as insomnia and sleep apnoea on the rise

ABC Online, Other, 08/06/2025, Ellen Coulter

Four in every ten Australians aren't getting enough sleep, sparking fears that a lack of funding to treat the issue could see wider-ranging health problems become more prevalent.

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'I flew overseas for breast implants. As soon as I got home, I ended up in emergency.'

Mamamia, Other, 08/06/2025, Nicole Madigan

In 2012, years after having medical breast implant surgery to correct asymmetry, Megan* noticed a new sort of asymmetry had developed — one side sat high, while the other had naturally dropped with time.

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The question of why some people need less sleep than others has fascinated scientists for years.

The New Daily, Other, 08/06/2025, Kelly Sansom and Peter Eastwood Health

Ever noticed how some people bounce out of bed after just a few hours of sleep while others can barely function without a solid eight hours?

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

The silent killer stalking three in four of us

The Australian, General News, 09/06/2025, Natasha Robinson, Page 3

It's the silent, progressive disease slowly killing millions of Australians but most don't know they have it.

Also reported by: The Australian (Online)

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Grief inspired Liza to keep going

West Australian, General News, 09/06/2025, Jessica Page, Page 8

Liza Harvey's ambition to make the State she loves even better didn't end when her political career was cut short.

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PRIMARY CARE

Bare-knuckle brawls not out for count

West Australian, General News, 09/06/2025, Jessica Page, Page 3

[...] The Government has rejected a push by Opposition Leader Basil Zempilas for bare-knuckle fighting to be permanently banned, after the Australian Medical Association branded it a "blood sport".

Also reported by: Kalgoorlie Miner (Kalgoorlie), West Australian (Online)

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Geelong doc has the right dose

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 09/06/2025, Page 5

Newtown's Dr Stephen Bolsin has been an innovating and dynamic presence in Geelong's medical community for decades, and has been recognised with an Order of Australia medal for his service to medicine as an anaesthetist.

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Picking up the pieces

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 09/06/2025, Cameron Bates, Page 1

A young North Queensland girl who suffered critical injuries in a horror horse-riding -accident has bravely battled back after a year of care at Townsville University Hospital (TUH).

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Patient care must not be compromised by bureaucratic benchmarks

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 08/06/2025

Every three months, the residents of NSW are given a status update on the performance of their state's public health system.

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Hospitals 'buffing' surgery wait times to hit KPIs, doctors warn

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 08/06/2025, Kate Aubusson

NSW hospitals are refusing to accept patients for cancer surgery and other time-critical procedures, pressuring surgeons to downgrade the seriousness of urgent cases to meet their publicly reported targets.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Brightening lives from beyond the spotlight

Age, General News, 09/06/2025, Carolyn Webb, Page 1

For years, Jennefer and John Houghton have "been there" for disadvantaged people in Wangaratta, even on cold winter nights.

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 08/06/2025, Fauziah Ibrahim and Thomas Oriti

Ongoing drought conditions have seen an uptick in farmers seeking mental health services. Rural Aid CEO John Warlters says mental health services providers like them have seen increased demand, with his group alone reporting a 55% rise in referrals over the past year. Mental health advocates like psychologists Steph Schmidt and Dr Kate Gunn called for more funding for services while urging people to visit their GPs if they feel like doing so. Farmer Andrew Shepherd, co-founder of the Naracoorte chapter of Fat Farmers, stressed the importance of group exercise as a mental health lifeline. He urged fellow farmers to take the time to look at their mental health and assured them that they wouldn't be alone.

<u>Play Now</u>

2GB, Healthy Living, 08/06/2025, Dr Ross Walker and Ned Green

Interview with psychiatrist Dr Tanveer Ahmed, discussing the disproportionate representation of older women when it comes to eating disorders. While typically associated with younger women, Dr Ahmed says the onset of anorexia in middle-aged women often stems from earlier struggles. Contributing factors include increased longevity, societal pressures to remain youthful, and challenges such as grief, health issues, or depression. He also notes that many of today's older women may have gone untreated in their youth due to the lack of awareness and effective therapies at the time.

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Port Stephens woman's sacred end-of-life wish

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 08/06/2025

When Port Stephens woman Jennifer Mason died at age 70, she had an unusual plan. She wanted to be brought home to Anna Bay for a few days.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Glen's \$15k windmill joy flight

Courier Mail, General News, 09/06/2025, Hayden Johnson, Taylah Fellows and Chris Burns, Page 1

Those keeping up with the news this week would be aware that Queensland's nurses and midwives began protected industrial action their first strike action in over two decades. No biggie.

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'It's a joy to give back': nurse's work is a mission of the heart

Newcastle Herald, General News, 09/06/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 5

When Catherine Johnson started work in cancer care in 1990, it was a different world. "It was very difficult, treatment was very limited, and it wasn't always successful," she said.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

'Headbutts', threats in an industry off the leash

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 09/06/2025, Jordan Baker, Page 2

Tempers were running high at the Richmond greyhound track. A trainer and his partner were unhappy with a racing steward's direction, and they made their displeasure known in what was described by a witness as "terribly insulting language".

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

No relevant coverage

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

AFP death in custody

Northern Territory News, General News, 09/06/2025, Nathaniel Chambers and Zizi Averill, Page 1

A 68-year-old man has died after being taken into "protective custody" at Darwin airport, sparking a second death in police custody investigation in just 12 days.

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Standing up for rights: a lifetime of advocacy honoured

Canberra Times, Other, 08/06/2025, Keira Jenkins

Growing up on an Aboriginal mission, every aspect of Aunty Millie Ingram's life was controlled. So when she challenged an unfair dismissal at the chocolate factory where she worked in the 1950s, Ms Ingram surprised herself.

Also reported by: <u>Illawarra Mercury (Online)</u>, <u>Ballarat Courier (Online)</u>, <u>Daily Mail Australia (Online)</u>, <u>West Australian (Online)</u>

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Indigenous man dies in police custody in Northern Territory

The Guardian, Other, 08/06/2025, Josh Taylor

An Indigenous man has died in police custody in the Northern Territory, the same day as hundreds protested in Sydney and Brisbane over the death of 24-year-old Indigenous man, Kumanjayi White, in Alice Springs last month.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Vaccine call to beat winter to the punch

Canberra Times, General News, 09/06/2025, Page 3

With a marked dip in immunisation rates for flu and COVID-19, Australians are being urged to get the jab before winter sets in. Vaccine coverage for influenza sits at just 24.24 per cent nationally and 14 per cent for those under the age of 50.

Also reported by: West Australian (Perth), Kalgoorlie Miner (Kalgoorlie), West Australian (Perth), Kalgoorlie

<u>Miner (Kalgoorlie)</u>, <u>Daily Advertiser (Wagga Wagga)</u>, <u>Burnie Advocate (Burnie)</u>, <u>Launceston Examiner</u> (<u>Launceston)</u>

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The NSW floods were bad enough. But then came the mould, and getting rid of it in winter is 'almost impossible'

The Guardian, Other, 08/06/2025, Kate Lyons

Nadia Zarb can already see, and smell, the mould in her art gallery in Taree. The building on Victoria Street was inundated during flooding that hit the Hunter and mid-north coast of New South Wales at the end of May.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

2GB, Weekends, 08/06/2025, Luke Grant

Interview with Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Diabetes Specific Interest Network chair Dr Gary Deed, discussing growing public concern over the use of diabetes drug semaglutide, or Ozempic, in weight loss. Despite the small number of patients suffering serious side effects like partial blindness and hepatitis, Dr Deed says these cases are being closely monitored and may be linked to other health conditions like diabetes or hypertension. He urged people to consult with their GP before, during, and after medication and urged responsible use of the drug.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 08/06/2025, Fauziah Ibrahim and Thomas Oriti

Interview with ABC Insiders compere David Speers, discussing the possibility of relaxing Australia's biosecurity laws in a bid to ease US tariffs on the country. Speers believes that the Albanese Government is unlikely to relax the country's biosecurity laws just to appease the Trump administration. He says imports would only be likely to resume if the US improves its cattle traceability to meet Australian standards.

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2GB, Weekends, 08/06/2025, Luke Grant

Australian Medical Association president Dr Danielle McMullen believes that the cost-of-living crisis makes it more difficult for Australians to achieve a healthy, balanced diet. News Corp's Lighthouse Consumer Tracker for April shows that 55% of Australians prioritise price over all other factors when making food choices at the supermarket, while 29% consider nutrition and health, and 51% prioritise flavour.

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