



Australian Government  
Department of Health,  
Disability and Ageing

# TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 15th June 2025

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [\*\*Sunday Age\*\*](#) (page 1) reports Victoria's Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission says that drastic funding cuts in last month's state budget jeopardise its operations, while mental health sector workers prepare to strike on Tuesday to protest chronic low pay and understaffing.
- The [\*\*Sun Herald\*\*](#) (page 2) reports that medical non-profit Omico is pushing to give cancer patients greater access to genome profiling that can match them with experimental precision therapies. Minister for Health Mark Butler in March announced \$30.8 million to fund Omico's ProSPeCT program through 2027.
- The [\*\*Sunday Tasmanian\*\*](#) (page 2) reports that AMA Tasmania opposes a state Liberal Party policy to support pharmacies to open longer and allow them to prescribe more treatments. *Also reported by: [Canberra Times](#)*
- The [\*\*Sunday Canberra Times\*\*](#) (page 4) reports that medical professionals are cautiously optimistic about the ACT's plans to give GPs more power to diagnose and manage ADHD.
- The [\*\*Sunday Canberra Times\*\*](#) (page 5) reports that GP gap fees in the ACT have risen 11 per cent in the last year, doctors saying that new payroll tax obligations are a major factor.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Charity urges tests for new cancer treatment

Sun Herald, General News, 15/06/2025, Kate Aubusson, Page 2

Beth Ivimey OAM dislikes the word "hope". The oncology nurse has seen too many patients intensely invested in hope, only to be shattered by the reality of disease. [...] In March, federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced an additional \$30.8 million for ProSPeCT to extend the program to the end of 2027.

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### Ready to work hard in ambitious agenda

New Norfolk and Derwent Valley News, General News, 13/06/2025, Rebecca White MP, Page 21

[...] As Assistant Minister, I will work to support the efforts of the Minister for Health, Mark Butler, and the Minister for Women, Katy Gallagher, as we implement our agenda from the election, including a record investment in Medicare to expand bulk billing to make more doctor appointments free, as well as continue the good work that started over the last three years.

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### Mothers are calling for urgent reform after IVF error leads to youth suicide attempt

Sydney Star Observer, Other, 14/06/2025, Michael James

In a powerful plea to the federal government, two Australian mothers are calling for urgent legislative reform of the nation's fertility industry after claims that an 11 year old boy attempted to take his own life following the discovery of a IVF error. Anastasia Gunn , a Queensland mother, and Katherine Dawson, a national advocate for donor-conceived rights, have penned an emotional letter to federal Health Minister Mark Butler demanding the establishment of national laws and a donor database to regulate IVF procedures and prevent further heartache.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

### Ready to work hard in ambitious agenda

New Norfolk and Derwent Valley News, General News, 13/06/2025, Rebecca White MP, Page 21

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## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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## DEPARTMENT

### 'It's every mum's worst fear - what will happen when I die?'

Mamamia, Other, 14/06/2025, Josephine Agostino

"Night night", Rachel said tenderly to her baby boy, Jason, as she gently placed him in his cot. "Nigh nigh", he would cutely utter back to her as they exchanged loving glances. [...] Having benefited from a course herself, Rachel is now an advocate for the Stepping Stones Triple P Online program, which is free due to support from the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care under the Parenting Education and Support Program.

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## VACCINES

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### PTSD in our elderly is a lesser-known side effect of extreme weather events

The Senior, Other, 14/06/2025, Desiree Savage

A forgotten side effect of extreme weather events , debilitating our elderly, is finally being brought into the light in a push for older Australians to be better cared for. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and social isolation due to displacement and homelessness is not often talked about in mainstream media reports of such events like the Lismore floods or Cyclone Alfred

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## DISABILITY

### Help is at hand for disabled youth

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 15/06/2025, Katelyn Catanzariti, Page 36

When an NDIS support worker bent Jessi Hooper's customised manual wheelchair trying to force it into a car boot, the physical damage was only the beginning. "There were a lot of issues that entire shift and the entire time I was messaging one of my usual support workers saying, 'I don't feel safe, I don't feel comfortable with what's going on'," the 25-year-old said.

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### Minister 'silent' in wake of death

Sunday Territorian, General News, 15/06/2025, Zizi Averill, Page 10

The Territory's disability minister has claimed it was not his "responsibility" to ask questions after a vulnerable young man under a guardianship order died in police custody. Disability Minister Jinson Charls has been questioned over his silence following the death in custody of 24-year-old Kumanjayi White, a Warlpiri man with complex disabilities who died 70 minutes after being forced to the ground at the Alice Springs Coles two weeks ago.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Queensland second in world to identify women living with metastatic breast cancer

ABC Online, Other, 14/06/2025, Lexy Hamilton-Smith

Brisbane mother Larissa Erzitech describes herself as an "invisible" cancer sufferer who, until now, had been absent from official statistics. Until recently, Queensland did not track how many people were living with metastatic breast cancer — also known as stage 4 — where the cancer has spread from its initial tumour to other parts of the body.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### 'No quick fix' for ADHD diagnosis

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 15/06/2025, Lanie Tindale, Page 4

There is a dramatic moment in every medical drama show when the doctor, surrounded by a chaotic emergency room, is suddenly able to focus. Canberra father-of-three Christopher compares this to taking medication for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) for the first time. [...] The ACT government plans to give general practitioners more power in diagnosing and treating ADHD in the hope it will lower barriers to access.

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### 'We warned them': Cost to see GP jumps

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 15/06/2025, Dana Daniel, Page 5

There are concerns the ACT government's GP payroll tax could undermine the Albanese government's pre-election commitment to lift bulk-billing rates, with new data showing Canberrans are forking out an average \$62.39 to visit the doctor as out-of-pocket fees continue to rise. Canberra GPs and their peak bodies have told The Canberra Times that significant cost increases, including the ACT government's payroll tax, are behind the latest hike.

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## Doctors warn of risks in Libs' pharmacy bid

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 15/06/2025, Alison Foletta, Page 2

A Liberal policy that extends pharmacy hours and treatments, and aims to reduce the pressure on GPs, has been branded "dangerous" and a risk to patient care. The Liberal Party recommitted its support for pharmacies with extended hours on day two of the state election campaign, with Premier Jeremy Rockliff saying the move will ease pressure on GPs.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), Similar coverage: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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## Libs' cash vow for 'critical clinic'

Sunday Examiner, General News, 15/06/2025, Joe Colbrook, Page 10

The Liberals say they are best-placed to deliver expanded healthcare services for women, promising to invest in Launceston's specialist clinic, The Bubble. Premier Jeremy Rockliff said the \$3.8 million investment, funded as part of the 2025-26 state budget, would allow the clinic to expand its service offerings and employ more staff.

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## Radio National, Health Report, 14/06/2025, Dr Norman Swan and Tegan Taylor

Interview with Monash University health economist Dr Sean Docking on corporatisation in Australia's medical imaging sector. Dr Docking's research found that three in five private radiology clinics in Australia are owned by for-profit corporations. He says there are concerns that business interests can affect clinical decisions, outcomes and costs – for example by incentivising overservicing – but more research is needed. He says private equity activity loads the sector with debt and risk, raising fears of failures like Healthscope's. He says that being primarily funded by Medicare, these corporations should be transparent and accountable.

Continues: [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#).

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Mental health crisis looms

Sunday Age, General News, 15/06/2025, Chip Le Grand and Grant McArthur, Page 1

Victoria's mental health watchdog has blown the whistle on "drastic" cuts to its budget, warning they will leave it unable to meet its primary responsibility holding the state government to account for the performance of the mental health system. The move comes as nurses, social workers and other mental health professionals prepare to walk off the job on Tuesday over what they claim are unfairly low pay rates and chronic staff shortages five years after a royal commission made sweeping recommendations on the sector.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

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### Fly-in to rescue of new parents

Sunday Times, General News, 15/06/2025, Rhianna Mitchell, Page 13

Vicky Pellowe says she fell through "every crack possible" as she navigated the first few months of

motherhood, resulting in a postnatal depression diagnosis when her daughter was five months old. As a fly-in, fly-out worker of six years whose husband was also FIFO, she thought she would be well equipped to adjust to the lifestyle as a new mother.

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

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Putting the bite on dodgy docs

Sunday Times, General News, 15/06/2025, John Flint, Page 24

Medical practitioners have been warned the regulator is on the hunt for any doctors and dentists abusing the safety net that allows patients early access to superannuation to pay for vital treatments. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the Dental and Medical Boards of Australia issued a joint statement expressing concern some practitioners were putting profits ahead of patient care.

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

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### The IVF industry is under the microscope after Monash IVF apologised for a second embryo bungle. How rare is a mistake?

ABC Online, Other, 14/06/2025, Kate McKenna and Janelle Miles

The IVF industry is under the microscope after major fertility provider Monash IVF apologised for a second embryo bungle. [...] "The medical laboratory professionals in Australia chose to set up this self-regulated scheme because the Australian Government decided not to include Medical Scientists and Technical Officers in the professions covered by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) when it was established in 2010.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Bowled, Shane!

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 15/06/2025, Robert Craddock, Page 13

When she passes Shane Warne's statue on her way to work, Naomi Daley gently touches a little stone beneath it and says "thanks for saving my life". [...] That, according to new research, is the number of lives saved or prolonged by the free four-minute Shane Warne Legacy Health Check, which measures key metrics such as blood pressure and resting heart rate, and enables participants to understand their risk of heart disease, diabetes or high cholesterol.

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

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### Pharmacists push for new bowel screening approach

Canberra Times, Other, 15/06/2025, Melissa Meehan

As Australia falls short of its national cancer bowel screening targets, pharmacists are calling for a revamped approach. The latest National Bowel Cancer Program monitoring report found of the 6.28 million Australians invited to take part, nearly six in 10 aged between 50 and 74 did not return their free bowel cancer screening test.

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## SPORT

### Elite hockey in shambles

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 15/06/2025, Erin Jones, Page 13

The state's leading hockey program that develops and supports athletes seeking Australian selection has been slashed by its government department amid complaints of bullying and cultural issues. A source previously involved in the program has revealed the culture within the South Australian Sports Institute program, including athletes being in tears at training and one having "whore" written on her car.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Shingles vaccine link to risk of mild cases

Sunday Age, General News, 15/06/2025, Liam Mannix, Page 14

Preliminary new evidence suggests the new shingles vaccine temporarily increases the risk of developing a mild case of shingles in the weeks following the first jab. The Victorian scientists who spotted the perplexing new signal say their data still shows strong protection from the Shingrix jab: an 83 per cent reduction in new shingles cases, even including the small temporary increase.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### US experts fear all vaccines at risk as Trump officials target mRNA jabs

The Guardian, Other, 15/06/2025, Melody Schreiber

As top US health officials turn against some mRNA vaccines, experts fear for the country's preparedness for the next pandemic and worry that other vaccines will be targeted next. Donald Trump's administration recently canceled a \$766m award to Moderna on the research and development of H5N1 bird flu vaccines, and officials have announced new restrictions and regulations for Covid mRNA vaccines – actions that signal a move away from the breakthrough technology.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### A slip, slop, slap in the face to get burned like this

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 15/06/2025, Madonna King, Page 60

If we can't trust what the Cancer Council says, who can we trust? Revelations that some of its sunscreen products are not protecting us as they promise shows a reckless disregard for so many; donors and volunteers and cancer survivors who spend so their time and money helping to build its reputation. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration is charged with the regulation of sunscreens.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Sunday Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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## AICIS

### Australia's 'forever chemical' blind spots — and what could reduce your levels

SBS, Other, 14/06/2025, Ewa Staszewska

An inquiry into the regulation of 'forever chemicals' has revealed vast blind spots in science data. Here's what you need to know — and whether there's cause for alarm.

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