



Australian Government
Department of Health,
Disability and Ageing

TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 17th June 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Mercury](#)** (page 9) reports that new data shows only one in 1,686 vape sales occur legally through pharmacies without prescription, and the Department of Health has confirmed it has no documents of feasibility study or modelling before launching the pharmacy-only vape scheme. Health Minister Mark Butler earlier said that the vaping laws are working and they have “choked off supply at the border, seizing more than 8 million vapes.” *Also reported by: The Canberra Times, ABC Online*
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 24) reports that Melbourne-based medtech start-up IMRA, founded by Professor Tony Costello, has developed hyper-realistic surgical models as alternative to using animals or cadavers in surgical training. IMRA also developed an AI-powered algorithm with the CSIRO and RMIT to assess a surgeon's skill.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 2) reports that Christina Lackmann, an aspiring cancer researcher, died from caffeine toxicity after waiting more than seven hours for an ambulance. Coroner Catherine Fitzgerald heard Ambulance Victoria was struggling to meet demand at that time, and Ms Lackmann's triple-zero call was classified as “non-urgent.” *Also reported by: The Age*
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 3) reports that Australian scientists have led a world-first trial of a new endoscopic procedure called ReCET, which uses electrical pulses to regenerate gut cells and may offer a one-off treatment for type 2 diabetes.

- **The Courier Mail** (page 2) reports that interim Illicit Tobacco and E-cigarette Commissioner, Erin Dale, is expected to be replaced amid growing criticism over the surge of black market tobacco and vapes in the country. *Also reported by: The Daily Telegraph, The Herald Sun*
- **The Courier Mail** (page 5) reports that data from Finder found that two-thirds of Australians are spending up to \$261 a week on fast food, alcohol and vapes, with Australian Medical Association Queensland president Dr Nick Yim saying people should reduce consumption of these products.
- **The Mercury** (page 5) reports that a re-elected Liberal government in Tasmania pledged to open four new BreastScreen clinics in Kingborough, Devonport, Triabunna and Glenorchy to provide free breast screening access to women aged 50 to 74.

MINISTER BUTLER

Plan for vapes up in smoke

Hobart Mercury, General News, 17/06/2025, Rory Williams, Page 9

The Albanese government's vape scheme is in disarray with new figures revealing just one in every 1686 vape sales, excluding those involving prescriptions, occur legally through a pharmacy. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler says the country is "turning the corner" on vaping, with youth smoking at record lows.

Also reported by: Townsville Bulletin (Townsville), Toowoomba Chronicle (Toowoomba), Geelong Advertiser (Geelong), Daily Telegraph Australia (Online), Herald Sun (Online), The Courier Mail (Online), Northern Territory News (Online).

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Mental health hit hardest amid exorbitant doctor fees

Newcastle Herald, General News, 17/06/2025, Allanah Sciberras & William Ton, Page 8

Psychiatry has topped the list of extreme fee-charging medical specialties, with those seeking vital mental health care among the hardest hit. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said health insurers and specialists needed to do more to protect patients from exorbitant bills.

Also reported by: Lithgow Mercury (Online), The Senior (Online).

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

Aged care reforms pushed back

Financial Standard, General News, 16/06/2025, Jamie Williamson, Page 1

The government is delaying the implementation of the new Aged Care Act until November 1 following widespread concerns that stakeholders weren't given enough time to prepare. [...] "The Albanese government has made no secret of the fact that this is an incredibly ambitious reform," ministers for health and ageing Mark Butler said.

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Low pharmacy vaping uptake fuels black market fears

Canberra Times, Other, 16/06/2025, Alex Mitchell

Fewer than 200 non-prescription vapes are being sold through pharmacists each day, fuelling speculation a massive black market continues to thrive. [...] But Health Minister Mark Butler insisted the laws had been effective, because smoking prevalence data had Australia's rates at all-time lows across all age groups.

Also reported by: Oberon Review (Online), Namoi Valley Independent (Online), Ballarat Courier (Online), Bega District News (Online), Blayney Chronicle (Online), Redland City Bulletin (Online), Newcastle Herald (Online).

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Perth girl Leena Housseini diagnosed with extremely rare and aggressive cancer

West Australian, Other, 16/06/2025, Lucy Murray

A five-year-old Australian girl with a rare and aggressive cancer has had her hopes of treatment in the US dashed. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler telling 7NEWS his government is still committed to bringing Proton Therapy to Australia.

Also reported by: [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Albany Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Kimberley Echo \(Online\)](#), [Narrogin Observer \(Online\)](#), [Pilbara News \(Online\)](#), [Midwest Times \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Great Southern Herald \(Online\)](#).

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Beth's time 'could have been extremely short'. A new approach to cancer treatment is giving her hope

WA Today, Other, 16/06/2025, Kate Aubusson

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 their 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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Specialists charging excessive fees should be stripped of federal funding, according to new report

ABC Online, Other, 16/06/2025, Stephanie Dalzell

Specialists charging too much should be named, shamed and stripped of federal funding according to a new report, which has found more than 20 per cent of Australians who visited a specialist were slapped with an exorbitant fee. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the private health sector needed to do more to protect patients from exorbitant bills.

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Monash IVF bungles spark transparency, regulation questions in growing industry

ABC Online, Other, 16/06/2025, Elise Kinsella

When *Sarah and her partner needed fertility testing, it was Monash IVF that the pair turned to. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler shared his concerns with the ABC, saying he was worried about public confidence in the sector taking a hit.

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Specialists charging excessive fees should be stripped of federal funding, according to new report

MSN Australia, Other, 16/06/2025

Specialists charging too much should be named, shamed and stripped of federal funding according to a new report, which has found more than 20 per cent of Australians who visited a specialist were slapped with an exorbitant fee. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the private health sector needed to do more to protect patients from exorbitant bills.

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'The system is broken': Report recommends outing specialists with excessive fees

SBS, Other, 16/06/2025

About 1.9 million Australians are delaying or skipping critical medical care due to exorbitant fees for specialist doctors, a report by public policy think tank Grattan Institute has found. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said private health insurers and specialists needed to do more to protect patients from exorbitant bills.

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Time to implement rural health reform, no more pilots, no more excuses: Susi Tegen, National Rural Health Alliance

Australian Rural & Regional News, Other, 16/06/2025

With a renewed mandate in hand, the Albanese Government and its new Cabinet will have no barriers for further delay to implement the many health, disability and ageing sector reviews, reforms and recommendations it worked on with stakeholders in its first term of government. The Government has a renamed Cabinet for Health, Ageing and Disability with Minister for Health and Ageing and Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme Mark Butler, and Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride.

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‘The real tragedy’: Shadow health minister Anne Ruston says youth pushed to crime networks for vapes under Labor

Sky News Australia, Other, 16/06/2025, Oscar Godsell

The opposition has accused the Albanese government of driving young people into the arms of organised crime after new data revealed less than one per cent of vapes are purchased legally. [...] The government's vaping reforms—championed by Health Minister Mark Butler—were intended to reduce youth uptake and ensure access for adults trying to quit smoking.

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Shocking report reveals how excessive specialist fees are hitting your wallet

Your Life Choices, Other, 16/06/2025, Don Turrobia

If you've ever felt a sting in your wallet after a specialist appointment, you're not alone—and you're certainly not imagining things. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has said the government will upgrade the Medical Costs Finder—a tool designed to help patients compare specialist fees—and is committed to working with stakeholders to improve cost transparency.

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Rising specialist fees: Is Medicare failing Australians?

Your Life Choices, Other, 16/06/2025, Lexanne Garcia

If you've recently tried to book an appointment with a specialist—say, a dermatologist or rheumatologist—you might have felt a sting that had nothing to do with your skin or joints. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has called on the private health sector—including insurers and specialists—to do more to protect patients from 'exorbitant bills'.

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ABC News, ABC News Day, 16/06/2025, Miriam Corowa

A new report from the Grattan Institute says specialists charging patients too much should be named, shamed and stripped of Federal funding. Health Minister Mark Butler called on the private sector to do more to protect patients from exorbitant bills.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News at 4, 16/06/2025, Gertie Spurling

Grattan Institute's new report suggests specialists who charge much higher fees than their colleagues should be named and shamed. The report revealed that more than 20% of Australians who visited a specialist were charged an outrageous fee. Grattan Institute Director Peter Breadon and Federal Health Minister Mark Butler have commented on the issue. Meantime, the Australian Medical Association is defending the high out-of-pocket costs, claiming that the cost of treating patients is not covered enough by the Medicare rebates.

Also reported by: [Channel 7 \(Brisbane\)](#).

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ABC NewsRadio, Drive, 16/06/2025, Laura Tchilinguirian

A new report from the Grattan Institute suggests specialists who are overcharging patients should be named, shamed and stripped of Federal funding. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has called on the private sector to do more to protect patients from exorbitant bills.

ABC Radio Darwin , Late Breakfast, 16/06/2025, Lyrella Couzens

Australian Medical Association President Danielle McMullen agrees workforce issues are a problem. She adds for years, the Medicare rebates have fallen below inflation. Meantime, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler calls on the private sector to do more to protect patients from exorbitant bills.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, 06:00 News, 16/06/2025

A Grattan Institute report is calling on specialists who charge patients too much to have their Medicare rebates withdrawn and be publicly named. The report found that more than one in five Australians were charged a fee deemed extreme when they saw a specialist in 2023. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the private sector has to do more to protect patients from high bills, and that work to bolster the specialist workforce is underway.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Canberra \(Canberra\)](#), [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [ABC Radio Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [ABC Radio Melbourne \(Melbourne\)](#).

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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DEPARTMENT

Desperate Aussie Olympian breaks down as she pleads for help to care for her ill grandma

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 16/06/2025, Ed Carruthers

Australian Olympian Dominique du Toit and her mother Christy have issued a heartbreaking plea to the Australian government for help to care for the rugby star's grandmother, who has been diagnosed with dementia. [...] Daily Mail Australia has contacted The Department of Home Affairs and The Department of Health and Aged Care for comment.

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VACCINES

No relevant coverage

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Drawing a line on elder abuse

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 17/06/2025, Carwyn Monck, Page 1

Local primary school students and senior residents united on Monday to recognise mistreatment of older people and prevent further abuse. Eastern Goldfields Community Centre was awash with the colour purple to mark World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

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Planning for upcoming aged care act changes

Aged Care Insite, Other, 16/06/2025, Todd Gorsuch

With the government affording providers extra time before the new Aged Care Act comes into force, optimising processes and practices to ensure the delivery high quality care is critical. Responsible for supporting 258,374 older individuals in their own homes and a further 190,688 in residential care, providers continue to face a range of financial and operational challenges, according to the KPMG's 2024 Aged Care Market Analysis.

[Read More](#)

Don't get caught for wage theft

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 16/06/2025, Damien Durston

The underpayment of employees, commonly called wage theft, is an escalating concern across Australia's aged care sector. Since the aged care royal commission's findings, the Federal Government has been rolling out significant reforms to improve the quality of care and enhance transparency and accountability across the sector.

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How to get aged care support if you're broke

HelloCare, Other, 16/06/2025, Jakob Neeland

From 1 November 2025, the Australian Government will implement new financial hardship assistance measures to support individuals who struggle to afford aged care costs under the forthcoming Aged Care Act. Originally slated for a 1 July launch, the Act's commencement has been deferred to

November, bringing with it updated provisions to help eligible Australians access residential and in-home aged care services without financial strain.

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DISABILITY

Businesses battle after NDIS cuts

Newcastle Herald, General News, 17/06/2025, Gabriel Fowler, Page 9

Allied health professionals say their situation has become dire, with businesses on the brink of collapse thanks to NDIS-related price cuts. Regional areas are being hit the hardest thanks to a 50 per cent reduction in hourly travel rates, clinicians say.

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Concerns over NDIS

Gippslands Gold, Other, 16/06/2025

National Disability Insurance Scheme participants in Gippsland will be cut off from allied health providers under cuts proposed by the Albanese Government. Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester has written to the Minister for Health Mark Butler, urging him to intervene in a plan to continue freezing the rates of pay for allied health providers and cut their travel allowance in half.

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

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POPULATION HEALTH

Cook 'sat on hands' as guests ailed, court told

Age, General News, 17/06/2025, Erin Pearson, Page 1

For the sake of very ill family members, Erin Patterson should have been doing everything she could to try to remember the source of what made them dangerously unwell. Instead, prosecutors claim, the accused triple murderer sat on her hands and peddled a fictitious story.

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'Invisible' tobacco tsar to be replaced

Courier Mail, General News, 17/06/2025, Jon Kaila & Jade Gailberger, Page 2

Australia's tobacco and vape tsar is set to be dumped amid a surge in black-market smokes and e-cigarettes across the country. Erin Dale was tasked with ramping up the fight against illegal nicotine products, after being announced as the interim Illicit Tobacco and E-cigarette Commissioner (ITEC) in July 2024.

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

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Aussies splurge \$261 a week on quick-fix treats

Courier Mail, General News, 17/06/2025, Anooska Tucker-Evans, Page 5

In a worrying trend for our wallets and waistlines, two-thirds of Aussies are splashing out big money on little luxuries such as booze, fast-food and food delivery and vapes, forking out up to \$261 a week or more than \$13,500 a year. The data by comparison site Finder from 1013 Australians revealed about 14.1 million of us were indulging in at least one of the four short-term dopamine hits across seven days.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser](#)

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Landlords of illicit tobaccoists to face jail under new laws

C&I, General News, 01/07/2025, Page 88

Landlords in Queensland who knowingly lease premises to illegal tobacco and vape traders could face fines of up to \$161,300 or one year in prison. Under proposed new laws unveiled by the Queensland Government, non-compliant businesses would see interim closure orders extended from 72 hours to three months, allowing landlords to terminate leases of tenants involved in illegal tobacco or vape trading, and introducing a new offence for landlords who knowingly allow their premises to be used for illegal activity.

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'Wake up call': more Aussie kids missing milestones

Canberra Times, Other, 16/06/2025, Stephanie Gardiner

Nearly half of all Australian children are not meeting physical, emotional, social and communication developmental milestones by the time they start school, as calls for a universal early education system intensify. Only 53 per cent of children are developmentally on track when they start school, a slight decrease since 2021, according to the Australian Early Development Census.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Australian women 'have a right to be angry' that period tracking apps are selling their personal data

9News, Other, 16/06/2025, Maddison Leach

Up to 50 million people have downloaded a period or cycle tracking app (CTA), many without realising that all the personal data they punch into it may be sold to third parties for advertising and research purposes. Now experts have warned that data could be dangerous in the wrong hands and Australian women "have a right to be angry" about it, one expert says.

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Struggling to sleep? Top tips for getting more ZZZs

The New Daily, Other, 16/06/2025, Laura Dare

Ever bragged about pulling an all-nighter or surviving on four hours' sleep and a triple-shot latte? We've all been there. But it turns out getting decent sleep isn't just for babies and Boomers.

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Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 16/06/2025, Laura Jayes

Interview with Shadow Health Minister Anne Ruston. Ruston comments on new report by Daily Telegraph, which revealed about one in 1700 vapes are actually being bought through the pharmacy. She says the policy the Federal Government implemented is not working.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 16/06/2025, Sally Sara

Federal and State Education Ministers have signed off on a new swathe of safety measures to protect children in childcare services. The changes set to come into effect in September will tighten rules around digital technology use, shorten the timeframe for reporting abuse allegations to 24 hour, and ban vaping at all childcare campuses.

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Kick diabetes in the gut

Herald Sun, General News, 17/06/2025, Robyn Riley, Page 3

A new way to treat type 2 diabetes has been shown to not only work, but potentially to offer a one-off treatment to control the disease and eliminate daily insulin injections. Developed by a team of international and Australian scientists, the results of a trial of the procedure will be presented at the American Diabetes Association Conference in Illinois this week.

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

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Updated clinical guideline improves detection of rheumatic heart disease

National Indigenous Times, Other, 16/06/2025, Giovanni Torre

Menzies School of Health Research and the Heart Foundation of Australia have released an updated clinical practice guideline that includes fundamental changes to support improved diagnosis of rheumatic heart disease and prevent disease progression, based on international standards. This brings Australia in line with the World Heart Federation's criteria for RHD diagnosis and supports clinicians who care for people living with, or at risk of, acute rheumatic fever (ARF) and RHD - conditions that significantly impact Indigenous communities.

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PRIMARY CARE

Aspen at heart of medical services

The Australian, Special Report, 16/06/2025, Sian Powell, Page 8

It took just 72 hours for Aspen Medical to set up a comprehensive clinic to support fleeing Afghan nationals after the Taliban overran Afghanistan in August 2021. The chaotic mass evacuation known as the Kabul Airlift began within days of the Taliban takeover, and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) contracted Aspen Medical to set up the clinic for Afghan evacuees.

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Caffeine OD death 'preventable'

Age, General News, 17/06/2025, Melissa Meehan, Page 7

The caffeine overdose death of an aspiring cancer researcher who waited more than seven hours for an ambulance was preventable, a coroner has found. Christina Lackmann, 32, died in her Melbourne apartment in April 2021 after calling triple zero because she couldn't get off the floor and felt dizzy, light-headed and numb.

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Soaring fees are a pain but doctors have another problem

Age, General News, 17/06/2025, Jenna Price, Page 23

If you have a history of medical mayhem in your family, specialists are part of your life from early on. Sure, you might feel fine. But my darling GPs have a different vibe. Feeling fine means nothing to them. So it is, with still a good six months to go in 2025, that I've nearly reached my safety net.

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

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Death a concern for 000

Herald Sun, General News, 17/06/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 2

The death of a talented biomedical student who waited seven hours for an ambulance may have been prevented by earlier treatment, a coroner has ruled. Christina Lackmann, 32, failed to answer 14 call-back attempts after she called 000 in April 2021, and was found dead on arrival from caffeine toxicity after an "unacceptable" ambulance delay.

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'Let GPs manage ADHD'

Hobart Mercury, General News, 17/06/2025, Bridget Clarke, Page 7

The peak body for GPs has called on the Tasmanian government to expand powers to allow doctors to diagnose and treat ADHD after reforms were introduced interstate. The WA government committed to allowing specialist GPs to diagnose and treat ADHD in February this year, removing the need for patients to be diagnosed exclusively through psychiatrists or pediatricians.

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Community heroes

Daily Advertiser, General News, 17/06/2025, Maryam Sulaiman, Page 1

Volunteers are to be The Rock's first responders in emergencies, but some say an ambulance station is still needed. NSW Ambulance has established a community emergency response team (CERT) in The Rock with the first training session on Friday. Senior manager of clinical volunteers Desiree O'Brien was at The Rock Community Centre.

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Mayhem, miracles all in a day's work

Daily Advertiser, General News, 17/06/2025, Jac Marshall, Page 2

From the highs of treating people in the 2011 Japan tsunami, to miracles in Wagga, paramedic Eamonn Purcell has seen it all and still loves his job. Mr Purcell is the duty operations manager - Riverina, based at the Wagga ambulance station along with his wife Maggie.

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Lazarus Centre 'at risk'

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 17/06/2025, Gemma Carter, Page 3

A critical lifeline for Geelong's most vulnerable residents is at risk of closure as volunteers abandon the vital charity service amid a parking dispute with the City of Greater Geelong. Lazarus Community Centre, which provides essential food, clothing and support to people in crisis, warns its future hangs in the balance as fed-up volunteers quit.

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Wonder why your medical specialist is so pricey? Here are four fixes

Australian Financial Review, Other, 16/06/2025, Peter Breadon & Dominic Jones

How's your health? Have you seen a specialist lately? If so, you probably faced an unenviable choice: pay a hefty fee to see a private doctor or endure a long wait in the public system.

[Read More](#)

Push for GPs to prescribe ADHD meds, diagnose disorder

The Mercury, Other, 16/06/2025, Sarah Booth

Victorian general practitioners are calling for the right to diagnose ADHD and prescribe medication for the disorder, in line with other states. The peak body for GPs is pushing for change, warning months-long waitlists to see a psychiatrist or pediatrician – on top of high out of pocket cost – is leaving patients without care.

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

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‘We trusted them’: Bellamy Nieto's family to sue Barwon Health over Swanston Centre death

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 16/06/2025, Mark Murray

The family of a patient who took their own life inside a Geelong psychiatric unit claims the facility basically "handed them a loaded gun" amid a probe into the grim tragedy. The family of a patient who took their own life inside a Geelong psychiatric unit says the government-run facility basically "handed them a loaded gun" amid a probe into the grim tragedy.

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

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Rural maternity care crisis reaches NSW Health Minister

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 16/06/2025, Jonathan Hawes

Health advocates have vowed to keep ringing the alarm on the rural maternity care crisis and are planning their next steps now that the issue has made it to the desk of the NSW Health Minister. Armidale mental health clinician and host of the Her Herd podcast Jen Laurie is the driving force behind the Bush Babies 2025 campaign, successfully submitting a nearly 2000-strong petition to the state parliament.

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Vic, Tas GPs urge greater ADHD role

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 16/06/2025

The Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) has called on governments in Victoria and Tasmania to allow GPs to diagnose and prescribe for ADHD after announcements in Western Australia, the ACT and NSW. The RACGP pointed out that ADHD is within the scope of general practice, with education available for GPs through the current curriculum for RACGP GP training.

[Read More](#)

Use GPs to ease strain on specialist care: Report

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 16/06/2025

General practice should be part of the solution to address spiralling non-GP specialist fees and widespread access issues, according to the Grattan Institute. The recommendation comes in a new report, 'Special treatment: Improving Australians' access to specialist care', which was published by the independent policy thinktank on Sunday.

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ADHD reforms 'past due'

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 16/06/2025

The RACGP says GPs' scope in treating attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) must be expanded nationwide to ensure all patients have equitable access to care. On Monday, the college ramped up its advocacy for national consistency in ADHD diagnosis and treatment, saying GPs in all states and territories must be allowed to practice to their full scope.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 16/06/2025, Susannah Carr & Rick Ardon

A Grattan Institute report into the nation's healthcare system, has suggested specialists overcharging patients should be named, shamed and stripped of Federal funding. Some specialist doctors now charging triple the Medicare rate.

[Play Now](#)

SBS, World News Australia, 16/06/2025, Janice Petersen

A Grattan Institute report has revealed cost barriers are preventing millions of Australians from receiving specialist care. Grattan Institute Health Programme Director Peter Breadon comments on the report.

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Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 16/06/2025, Tom Connell

Interview with Dr Rachel David, CEO, Private Healthcare Australia. David comments on the Grattan Institute report revealing the skyrocketing costs of having to see a specialist doctor in Australia.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 16/06/2025, Rory McClaren

Interview with Chris Picton, SA Health Minister. Picton discusses SA Government's spending on health. He also responds to callers' questions regarding the health services in the state. Picton also comments on what would happen to the system if SA Health took the private system out of the equation.

Continuing interview on: [ABC Radio Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 16/06/2025, Kylie Baxter

Interview with Dr Tim Jones, Tasmania Deputy Chair of RACGP. Jones discusses the RACGP's calls for changes that might change the way ADHD is diagnosed and treated in Tasmania. Jones discusses the challenges faced by GPs when it comes to diagnostics and ongoing support for people with ADHD in Tasmania.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

The mental health condition that is misunderstood

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 17/06/2025, Carly Dober, Page 13

Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) is a complex mental health condition that is often misunderstood. People with it are frequently discriminated against and stigmatised.

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How the housing crisis is fuelling a mental health catastrophe

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 16/06/2025, Ehsan Noroozinejad

Every day more Australians are forced to spend a huge share of income on rent or mortgages, putting them under intense stress. In 2024, all major cities hit record rental unaffordability: the National Shelter/SGS Rental Affordability Index reports that rents have surged so much that householders on JobSeeker or basic pensions now find every market "critically unaffordable".

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Doing it for our youth: Headspace lifting up mental health in Darwin one push-up at a time

The Courier Mail, Other, 16/06/2025, Lottie Hood

Tired and in aching pain, Himanshu Rai said his arms have never been so sore in his life. But that is what happens when you attempt to do 3,214 push ups in 23 days. The community engagement team leader at Headspace Darwin is just one person to take on the hefty arm workout in the name of mental health.

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

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Yamba: Wayne and Noah Smith inquest calls for enhanced mental health and firearms safety measures

Northern Territory News, Other, 16/06/2025, Catherine Piltz

An inquest into the deaths of Wayne and Noah Smith has determined the dad did fatally shoot his son before killing himself, and highlighted the need for improved firearm safety measures for those with

poor mental health. In Lismore on Friday, closing submissions in the inquest criticised the lack of detailed clinical notes by Wayne's doctor and the deficiencies in the firearms licensing process, which allowed the Yamba father's license to be reinstated despite his significant history of mental instability.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Lismore Northern Star \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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'We trusted them': Bellamy Nieto's family to sue Barwon Health over Swanston Centre death

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 16/06/2025, Mark Murray

The family of a patient who took their own life inside a Geelong psychiatric unit claims the facility basically "handed them a loaded gun" amid a probe into the grim tragedy. The family of a patient who took their own life inside a Geelong psychiatric unit says the government-run facility basically "handed them a loaded gun" amid a probe into the grim tragedy.

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

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

No relevant coverage

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

How 'fake' humans created a \$25m company in Melbourne

The Australian, Technology, 17/06/2025, Jared Lynch, Page 24

Tony Costello envisions a world where animals don't need to be slaughtered or dead bodies used to train surgeons, developing new technology in Melbourne that can do the same job for a fraction of the cost. Professor Costello founded IMRA a medtech start-up that has developed hyper-realistic surgical models in 2021 and has already signed on clients, including Medtronic, Johnson & Johnson, Olympus and Intuitive Surgical.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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How an X-ray's \$170k revelation sparked the idea for a \$20m fund

Australian Financial Review, Other, 16/06/2025, Cecile Lefort

An 80-year-old patient of cardiothoracic surgeon Michael Vallely was a walking marvel of modern medicine. His X-ray revealed a collection of pacemakers, stents, and valves worth an estimated \$170,000.

[Read More](#)

Artificial intelligence breaks new ground for Australians with epilepsy

9News, Other, 16/06/2025, Mark Santomartino

Australians are finding surgical cures for epilepsy in as little as two years, thanks to advancements in artificial intelligence. The technology, developed at the Australian Epilepsy project, crunches decades of data and compares it with a patient's medical imaging, family history, cognitive and genomic markers.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Final ironic legacy lies before us

Canberra Times, General News, 17/06/2025, Crispin Hull, Page 15

On March 2 this year, I wrote on these pages: "Bulk-billing GPs have borne the brunt of the Coalition's stealth attack on Medicare." "They should have a very substantial catch-up, and in a way that makes bulk-billing pretty much universal," I said.

Also reported by: [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#).

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Poorer and rural Australians are sicker, yet they get less healthcare. It's a broken system

The Guardian, Other, 16/06/2025

When it comes to health, Australia is an unfair country. Poorer Australians die about 7.5 years earlier than the wealthiest, and spend more years living with chronic disease. People from some communities, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, face an even higher risk of illness.

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2CC, Canberra Live, 16/06/2025, Leon Delaney

Interview with Dr Rebekah Hoffman, Chair for NSW and ACT of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. Hoffman comments on the cost of seeing the GP. She also discusses the issue of improving bulk billing rates in the ACT. She recalls the Federal Government announcing \$8.5b into Medicare, and urges them to examine how exactly they are going to spend the funding.

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ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 16/06/2025, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Dr Brigid Corrigan, AMA WA's Private Practice Specialist Committee. Corrigan comments on the new report by the Grattan Institute which revealed one in five patients who visited a specialist, were hit with fees which on average are more than three times the Medicare rebate.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Riverland SA, Breakfast, 16/06/2025, Matt Stephens

SA Government is proposing 10 policy changes to the Federal Government to help unblock aged care and keep elderly people out of hospitals. Meantime, a new Grattan Institute report has called for specialists charging Australian patients too much to be publicly named and have their Medicare rebates withdrawn.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Warning over dentist

West Australian, General News, 17/06/2025, Claire Sadler, Page 9

The medical watchdog has taken the unprecedented step to name a suspended Perth dentist, who they believe is continuing to work while unregistered. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency warned consumers about Peter Terzi, also known as Peter Taylor, who has been suspended from practising in both dentistry and nursing since February 26 this year.

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

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Health watchdog warns public warned about suspended dentist Peter Terzi

The Australian, Other, 16/06/2025, Emma Kirk

The public have been warned about a dentist who was suspended by the health watchdog but may still be operating on patients. Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) released its first public statement under new laws to warn consumers about Peter Terzi, also known as Peter Taylor, who held a dual dentist and nurse registration.

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

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Hobart surgeon's botched haemorrhoid surgery appeal

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 16/06/2025, Genevieve Holding

A Tasmanian judge has rejected a general surgeon's appeal against a \$755,000 damages award for a botched haemorrhoid removal surgery while also dismissing the patient's appeal for more compensation for suffering. Dr Tony Patiniotis, a general surgeon at Hobart Private Hospital carrying out colorectal procedures, was ordered by the Supreme Court in June last year to pay a female patient \$755,475 for negligence in a haemorrhoidectomy.

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

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Controversial GP resumes 'David v Goliath' battle over Covid-19 vaccines

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 16/06/2025, Rohan Smith

A sign on the window at Dr Mark Hobart's clinic in Melbourne's west reads: "The Victorian Government has banned patients from entering this surgery because Dr Hobart refused to surrender your private and confidential patient files." It was erected in 2021, during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic where the Daniel Andrews Government had imposed some of the harshest lockdowns on the planet.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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RACGP flags scope concerns in prescribing review

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 16/06/2025

Prescribing practices are currently under the spotlight, with the second edition of the Prescribing Competencies Framework under review by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). Originally developed by NPS MedicineWise and published in April 2021, the RACGP has broadly backed proposed changes in AHPRA's consultation paper, but has raised concerns about a proposed updates to how scope of practice is defined.

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Liberals promise more breast screening clinics

Hobart Mercury, General News, 17/06/2025, David Killick, Page 5

A re-elected Liberal government would deliver four new BreastScreen clinics across Tasmania, party leader Jeremy Rockliff said on Monday. The new clinics would be at Kingborough, Devonport, Triabunna and Glenorchy, providing free breast screening for eligible Tasmanians, prioritising those aged 50 to 74.

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

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SPORT

'Great time' to build smaller Games venues

The Australian, General News, 17/06/2025, Mackenzie Scott, Page 10

Construction on smaller venues required for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games should begin as soon as possible to take advantage of new gaps in Queensland's big build infrastructure pipeline, a leading industry figure says. Master Builders Queensland chief executive Paul Bidwell agreed with Premier David Crisafulli that essential infrastructure for the Games including the new 63-000 seat Victoria Park stadium and national aquatic centre could be delivered in the seven years before the Games, but stressed the need to bolster the construction workforce.

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Clot scare ends star's Tour

The Australian, Sport, 17/06/2025, Page 26

Australian cycling star Michael Matthews is out of the Tour de France after team doctors discovered signs of a pulmonary embolism. Matthews, who has won four stages at the world's most prestigious race and also took out the green points classification in 2017, was at a Jayco AlUla altitude training camp when team doctors first saw signs of the issue.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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'Rocky decision not a stretch despite crocs'

Courier Mail, General News, 17/06/2025, Taylah Fellows, Page 8

Premier David Crisafulli is adamant Olympic and Paralympic rowing will be held in Rockhampton, vowing to keep the event on the Fitzroy River regardless of the outcome of a global-standards technical assessment. There is speculation that the Rockhampton proposal won't pass an upcoming assessment by World Rowing president Jean-Christophe Rolland and a suggestion by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese that 2032 rowing be relocated to Sydney.

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Labor doing dodgy on stadium, say Greens

Hobart Mercury, General News, 17/06/2025, Duncan Abey, Page 4

Greens leader, Rosalie Woodruff, has called on Labor counterpart, Dean Winter, to clarify his party's position on delivering a new stadium for Hobart, after accusing the Opposition Leader of wavering on a previous commitment to support fast-tracked legislation through parliament. With the Tasmanian election campaign moving into full swing on Monday ahead of the July 19 poll, Dr Woodruff claimed Labor was the only party yet to provide Tasmanian voters with clear policy positions about how the stadium should be approved, funded, or even located.

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Lilly's gentler obesity drug shows promise in study

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 17/06/2025, Madison Muller, Page 20

An experimental weight-loss drug from Eli Lilly & Co helped patients lose weight with few side effects, according to the summary of a small study that suggests the company has another foothold in the obesity market.

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Potential cure for multiple myeloma

Australian Financial Review, General News, 17/06/2025, Page 32

A group of 97 patients had long-standing multiple myeloma, a common blood cancer that doctors consider incurable, and faced a certain, and extremely painful, death within about a year.

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'Excellence': clinical trials project at Charlestown a first for the region

Newcastle Herald, Other, 16/06/2025

A \$5 million clinical trials operation set to open at Charlestown in August has been described as an "extremely important" project for the region and its people. Novatrials will operate a phase 1 clinical trials facility from the site, creating about 50 jobs.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Meet the new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander CSI lead

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 16/06/2025, Chloe Hava

Chastina Heck MPS finds solace at sea when off-duty from roles as a hospital pharmacist and the new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Practice Community of Specialty Interest (CSI) Chair.

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Patrick Dodson condemns decades of inaction on suicide hanging points in Australian prisons

The Guardian, Other, 17/06/2025, Ariel Bogle & Christopher Knaus

The former Labor senator and Aboriginal deaths in custody royal commissioner Patrick Dodson has condemned inaction on known hanging points as "totally unacceptable" and joined calls for national leadership on justice reform. Guardian Australia revealed last week that 57 Australians had died using hanging points that prison authorities knew about but failed to remove, often despite their use in repeated suicides and explicit warnings from coroners.

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Bobbi was denied access to an Aboriginal midwifery program in her last pregnancy – and nearly lost her life

The Guardian, Other, 17/06/2025, Sarah Collard

After a life-threatening three-day labour, Bobbi Lockyer woke up alone in a single room in the intensive care unit of a Perth hospital with an IV drip in her arm. She had lost five litres of blood and had been rushed to intensive care for an emergency hysterectomy. Her new baby had been discharged while she was unconscious into the care of her now ex-partner.

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Fitzroy to get first pill-testing centre

Age, General News, 17/06/2025, Kieran Rooney, Page 14

An inner-Melbourne pill-testing centre will open within weeks as the state government expands the rollout of its promised drug reforms amid mounting concerns about deadly synthetic opioids. Mental Health Minister Ingrid Stitt confirmed yesterday that Victoria's first fixed location drugchecking facility would run out of the Brotherhood of St Laurence site in Brunswick Street, Fitzroy.

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

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'We were never told it was an experimental program': Mad cow disease hell

Newcastle Herald, Other, 16/06/2025

Verna Dabrowa has lived for 40 years with the terrifying knowledge that she has a higher risk of contracting a mad cow-type disease. Living under this shadow caused her severe mental strain, including suicidal thoughts, depression, a lot of anger and lack of sleep.

Also reported by: [Dungog Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Gloucester Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Muswellbrook Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Port Stephens Examiner \(Online\)](#), [Port Macquarie News \(Online\)](#), [Macleay Argus \(Online\)](#), [Hunter Valley News \(Online\)](#), [Maitland Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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Euroa bird flu outbreak is over

Shepparton News Online, Other, 16/06/2025

The bird flu response in Euroa has finished. The avian influenza outbreak at Euroa has ended. The outbreak, which began in February, affected four commercial poultry properties.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 16/06/2025, Rosanna Mangiarelli &Will Goodings

South Australian taxpayers have spent \$100,000 on a new campaign, pleading with parents to vaccinate their children against the flu. More than 100 children under five years old have become dangerous ill this season. SA Chief Public Health Officer Prof Nicola Spurrier comments on the campaign.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Aussie scientist breaks down what CHOICE's bombshell sunscreen SPF results REALLY mean - and it might surprise you

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 16/06/2025, Sharon Hunt

An Australian scientist has weighed in on CHOICE's bombshell sunscreen report - breaking down exactly how the SPF testing process works and reassuring the public that the results aren't as alarming as they initially seem. The consumer advocacy group released their investigation results last week, reporting that 16 out of 20 popular sunscreens tested failed to meet the SPF protection claims on their labels, including big brands such as Cancer Council, Neutrogena, Ultra Violette, Coles and Woolworths.

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Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 16/06/2025, Laura Jayes

New data has revealed that fewer than 1% of vapes are legally sold throughout Australia, through the

Albanese Government's pharmacy scheme. The TGA estimates that 10 million vapes per month are sold on the black market.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Mornings, 16/06/2025, Steve Austin

The Therapeutic Goods Administration say strong enforcement action, including retail inspections and warrant activity, continue to be undertaken by the TGA to deter and disrupt the unlawful possession and supply of vapes. The TGA says the Australian Government's vaping reforms protect the health of young Australians by limiting access to therapeutic vapes for smoking cessation and nicotine dependence.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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FOOD STANDARDS

Activists secretly film at Cowra abattoir

Western Advocate, General News, 17/06/2025, Rural Eliza Spencer, Page 1

A regional meat processing plant has been the latest site thrust into the spotlight by activists, on a nationwide trespass and surveillance tour across 30 locations. The Farm Transparency Project - formerly known as Aussie Farms - say they covertly filmed at Cowra Meat Processors throughout November 2024.

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

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AICIS

Southern Highlands students develop technology to help detect PFAS in grocery items

ABC Online, Other, 16/06/2025, Mikayla McGuirk

When a group of high school students learnt that elevated levels of PFAS were detected in their local river, they became worried. The five senior students from Bowral High School in the NSW Southern Highlands decided to take matters into their own hands and develop an app to detect the so-called forever chemicals in everyday products.

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