



Australian Government
Department of Health,
Disability and Ageing

TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 20th June 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[ABC Online](#)** reports that thousands of eligible applicants are being turned away from medical schools annually, despite the Department of Health predicting a national GP shortage of 8600 by 2048. The federal government has pledged \$48 million for 100 new medical places annually from 2026.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 1) reports that a woman in Bailleston, Victoria, died while waiting up to five hours for an ambulance due to a stand-off between police and paramedics, highlighting ongoing concerns about information sharing and police involvement in mental health crises.
- **[Northern Territory News](#)** (page 3) reports that The NT Health Minister and CEO claimed that Royal Darwin Hospital has not called a Code Yellow since August 2024, attributing this to improved processes, although the Territory's AMA president argued that more funding and beds were still needed.
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 3) reports that South Australian doctors are threatening to strike after receiving an offer for a ten per cent pay rise over three years, with the union demanding an annual ten per cent raise for three years.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 4) reports that the NSW government will invest \$83 million in maternity care, including increasing midwifery services in regional NSW and supporting family

care centres.

- **The Sydney Morning Herald** (page 6) reports that NSW Health is investigating an outbreak of Legionnaire's disease in Sydney's east, inspecting water cooling towers in the area and urging business to disinfect their systems. *Also reported by: Daily Mail Australia*
- **The Australian** (page 9) reports that the newly-formed Cannabis Council Australia aims to improve the credibility of the medical cannabis industry, although the independent advocacy group's three directors all have ties to an alternative medicine company facing legal action from the Therapeutic Goods Administration.
- **The Guardian** reports that government voucher programs aimed at increasing participation rates in children's sports have been unsuccessful, with the cost of taking part in popular sports like football, cricket and basketball rising to an average of \$500 per year.

MINISTER BUTLER

Free heart checks beat on

Bellarine Times, General News, 20/06/2025, Ellie Claringbold, Page 36

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

Also reported by: Armstrong Creek Times (Victoria).

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Our mental health system is broken

Temora Independent, General News, 19/06/2025, David Lee, Page 7

WITH the percentage of Australians being diagnosed with a mental health condition on the rise each year, the access and treatments available within the health system are wavering, with experts concerned about the future of patients who are in need of adequate treatment. [...] Australian Minister for Health, Mark Butler was also contacted and refused to make comment on the matter.

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“People, not products”: There are ethical questions concerning IVF that go deeper than the recent scandals

ABC Online, Other, 19/06/2025, Xavier Symons

After two incidents involving women who were implanted with the wrong embryos — including one case where a woman gave birth to the child of a complete stranger — the Australian IVF industry is facing a long-overdue reckoning. [...] Federal health minister Mark Butler said the national review was focused on "independence and transparency around the accreditation of providers".

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New wound scheme to support better health outcomes for patients

Australian Medical Association, Other, 19/06/2025

The Australian Medical Association today welcomed the start of a new wounds consumable scheme — having first raised the need for patients to have better access to support with former health minister Greg Hunt in 2017. [...] "We applaud Health Minister Mark Butler and the government for introducing this scheme, which will greatly help patients affected by chronic wounds.

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Stark differences in Medicare co-payments revealed

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 19/06/2025, Karen Burge

Exactly where patients face barriers to affordable GP care has been laid out in a national snapshot, but GPs say comparing out-of-pocket costs doesn't tell the whole story. [...] ' While Federal Health and

Ageing Minister Mark Butler is not convinced this new survey adds value to the conversation, he concedes that many low-income patients are still paying a gap fee.

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Reaping what we sow: No aged care beds. Now what? Time for Plan T

The Weekly Source, Other, 19/06/2025, Lauren Broomham

Australia's aged care sector is in crisis – and no one should be surprised. [...] Speaking on ABC Radio Adelaide last week, Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler acknowledged the "bed block" crisis and the need to improve the sector's "investability."

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise 5AM News, 19/06/2025, Monique Wright

A scathing audit has condemned governments for failing to deliver on a promised project for cancer treatment. Last year, the SA Government tore up the contract with the company supplying the proton therapy machine over funding issues. An audit has found significant gaps in the way the government managed the project. Health Minister Mark Butler says there will be a significant taxpayer loss because of the failure of the project signed onto, by the former Marshall Liberal Government in SA and the Turnbull Liberal Government at a national level.

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MIX 104.9, 360, 19/06/2025, Katie Woolf

Interview with Member for Solomon Luke Gosling on potential additional funding for NT Health. Gosling says discussions are already underway about extra funding for NT Health, which will be used to increase maternity capacity at Royal Darwin Hospital. He adds that Federal Health Minister Mark Butler recognises NT's historic underfunding and backs it up with a 30% funding increase for the next financial year.

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FIVEAA, Mornings, 19/06/2025, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler on the government's plans to improve youth mental health. Butler says the government aims to expand existing services and introduce new ones targeting the 'missing middle' that support complex needs. He adds that the government is focusing on prevention by addressing the underlying causes of mental distress, which he believes is social media. He says the phone ban in schools has already improved student behaviour, communication, and learning.

Interview continues on: [FIVEAA \(Adelaide\)](#), [FIVEAA \(Adelaide\)](#).

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FIVEAA, Mornings, 19/06/2025, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler. Butler states the Federal Government is focused on implementing the promises they made for the Australian people. He notes they promised to extend bulk-billing support to all Australians and bring it back to 90%, as well as policies for cheaper medicines.

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MINISTER WELLS

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MINISTER RAE

ABC makes cameo appearance in celebrity cavoodle legal drama

WA Today, Other, 19/06/2025, Kishor Napier-Raman & Stephen Brook

The case of Oscar , the million-dollar celebrity cavoodle who has launched several very long, costly and acrimonious legal battles, has been a subject of rich satisfaction to CBD and its readers. [...] Columbia Law School educated Sharyn Broomhead will be chief of staff to Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae .

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DEPARTMENT

Eligible medical school candidates turned away in their thousands each year

ABC Online, Other, 19/06/2025, Charlotte Wilkes

Australia has a shortage of doctors, especially in regional areas, yet every year medical schools turn away thousands of eligible Australian applicants. [...] The federal Department of Health and Aged Care has forecast that Australia will need a further 8,600 GPs by 2048 Monash University academic teams say that with more funding they could admit more eligible students to be trained in medicine.

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President's update: workshops, meetings with the department, private health and more

Australian Medical Association, Other, 19/06/2025, Dr Danielle McMullen

Hello, and happy Friday! I'm momentarily back home after a few days in Canberra following our terrific Darwin visit last week, and I'm Canberra-bound again this weekend — the puffer jacket is getting a workout at the moment! [...] I also met with the Secretary of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, Blair Comley.

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Macquarie Capital invests in automated systems and AI integrator xAmplify

Business News Australia, Other, 19/06/2025, Matt Ogg

Automation systems and AI integrator xAmplify has received a "significant equity investment" from Macquarie Capital Principal Finance to accelerate the Canberra-headquartered company's national expansion, and strengthen its capability to deliver digital transformation services to government and enterprise clients. [...] With clients including the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, xAmplify understands how building sovereign digital capability influences Australia's ability to remain globally competitive.

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New tobacco laws retailers need to be aware of

Convenience & Impulse Retailing, Other, 19/06/2025, Thomas Oakley-Newell

From 1 July 2025, all tobacco products sold in Australia must comply with new federal legislation, marking the most significant overhaul of tobacco regulations in more than a decade. [...] "All tobacco products (other than those for export out of Australia) must comply with the new tobacco laws from 1 July 2025," the Department of Health and Aged Care said.

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Community-led health service in Mareeba calls for urgent infrastructure funding support

Medianet, Other, 19/06/2025

Community volunteers in Mareeba, Far North Queensland, are urging Federal and Queensland health authorities to recognise and invest in the homegrown healthcare solutions they've built from the ground up to meet local needs. [...] The National Rural Health Commissioner, Professor Jenny May and Department of Health, Ageing and Disability officials met the community today to hear about their deadly innovative approach.

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In Practice: Registration open for GP25

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 19/06/2025, Morgan Liotta

The RACGP's annual general practice conference promises an engaging three-day program, with the high-profile keynote speakers confirmed. [...] The detailed presentation from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, facilitated by RACGP President Dr Michael Wright, aims to clarify any uncertainties so members are well-prepared to incorporate these changes into clinical workflows.

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ASD signs \$70 million AWS cloud contract

WEB IT News Australia, Other, 19/06/2025, Eleanor Dickinson

The Australian Signals Directorate (ASD) has signed a \$70-million deal with Amazon Web Services, bringing the cloud provider's renegotiated government-wide deal to around \$364 million in total value. [...] Meanwhile, the Department of Health and Aged Care also handed AWS a \$22.9 million contract in April, but under a separate DTA standing arrangement.

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ABC Ballarat, Australia Wide, 19/06/2025, Sinead Mangan

Report by ABC reporter Charlotte Wilkes on the need for more government-funded medical school places. Accessing a GP in regional and remote areas remains difficult, and attracting doctors to these communities is an ongoing issue. The Federal Department of Health and Aged Care projects a need for 8600 more GPs by 2048. Medical education experts are urging the federal government to fund more medical school places to train local students and help address regional shortages.

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ABC Sunshine Coast, Mornings, 19/06/2025, Sarah Howells

Some doctors say not enough GPs are being trained in Australia. Medical education experts say the Federal Government needs to fund more medical school places for local students amid a dire shortage of GPs. The Federal Department of Health and Aged Care has forecast that Australia will need a further 8,600 GPs by 2048. And this comes as thousands of high-achieving students are turned away from med school each year.

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VACCINES

COVID and flu cases rising, as NSW Health issues warning

Newcastle Herald, General News, 20/06/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 16

Covid cases have risen by 22 per cent and influenza cases by 32 per cent in a week in Hunter New England, health data shows. "The upswing in COVID has come at the same time as influenza is on the rise," a NSW Health statement said.

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

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NSW Health's urgent warning as COVID makes nationwide comeback amid flu season

7news.com.au, Other, 19/06/2025, Demi Huang

COVID cases are rising again across NSW, just as flu season starts to bite. A total of 3475 people were confirmed to have COVID in the week ending June 14, which was a 10 per cent increase on the previous week, NSW Health revealed on Thursday.

[Read More](#)

Covid rates creep back up

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 19/06/2025, Megan Haggan

Covid cases are again on the rise, authorities warn, encouraging the general public to get a booster shot. NSW Health has issued a statement saying that it is urging the community to do "everything they can" to protect themselves from COVID, including getting vaccinated, as cases rise across the state.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 19/06/2025, Michael Usher & Angie Asimus

Researchers from Melbourne's Murdoch Children's Research Institute have found that common viruses like COVID-19, flu, and RSV can trigger heart attacks and strokes. They say viral inflammation may raise the risk of blood clots in arteries to the heart and brain.

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

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Channel 9, Nine News, 19/06/2025, Peter Overton

New Australian research finds that viruses like COVID-19, RSV, and flu may temporarily raise the risk of heart attacks and strokes. The study highlights that vaccination could help reduce this risk, especially for older people.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#).

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FIVEAA, Afternoons, 19/06/2025, Leith Forrest

Interview with University of Melbourne PhD candidate Tu Nguyen on a new research linking common respiratory viruses to a higher short-term risk of heart attacks and strokes. Nguyen explains that earlier studies are mostly focused on influenza, but the new review includes a broader range of respiratory

viruses like COVID-19 and RSV. She says the findings show these infections, many of them vaccine-preventable, can affect cardiovascular health.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Older people continue to die waiting for care

Aged Care Insite, Other, 19/06/2025

A grieving widow has issued an emotional plea for the federal government to address the longstanding shortfall in home care packages after her husband died while on the home care waiting list last month. Tasmanian Margaret Poulter said her late husband, Tony, who suffered from Parkinson's disease and had experienced several bouts of cancer before dying in palliative care, was assessed as requiring the highest level of home care support in May last year.

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SA demands Canberra fix aged-care blockages

Aged Care Insite, Other, 19/06/2025, Stefanie Schultz

The South Australian government has announced it plans to allocate 55 new hospital beds to older people transitioning to aged care, in an attempt to ease the state's significant bed-block problem. Premier Peter Malinauskas said that the newly refurbished Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre will become a "70-bed specialised care and bridging service for older South Australians transitioning out of hospital.

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Advertised room prices rise across sector

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 19/06/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Mirus Australia has added the 'changes to advertised room prices' metric to its data summary, with further changes to pricing activity expected in July. Aged care technology and advisory firm Mirus Australia said there has been a considerable amount of providers putting up their advertised room pricing since January 2025, noting the average room price is up by 6.51 per cent for this calendar year.

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DISABILITY

Insolvent NDIS firm has \$52m debt bill

Daily Telegraph, General News, 20/06/2025, John Rolfe, Page 26

Incompetent and insolvent NDIS provider Cocoon owes hundreds of creditors more than \$52m, it can be revealed. A document prepared by the sole director of the company behind Cocoon has disclosed debts of \$7.7m to secured creditors including employees, plus \$44.4m due to unsecured creditors.

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Cuts to NDIS travel costs for occupational therapists leaves regional Tasmanians with no services

ABC Online, Other, 19/06/2025, Isabel Howard

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has decided to freeze the pricing available for occupational therapy through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) for the sixth consecutive year. This means that occupational therapists (OTs) are being asked to deliver the same level of care at 2019 rates, despite rising operational costs.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Tobacco giant snubbed by tsar

Daily Telegraph, General News, 20/06/2025, Jon Kaila, Page 12

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

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Vine-covered car parks helping to cool Western Sydney's urban heat islands

ABC Online, Other, 19/06/2025, Declan Bowring

A new approach to providing shade at notoriously hot car parks has been shown to slash surface temperatures by up to half on summer days in Western Sydney. [...] Extreme heat has killed 300 people and hospitalised more than 7,000 across the country over the past decade, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

[Read More](#)

Queensland minister calls on federal government to crackdown on illegal tobacco trade

ABC Online, Other, 19/06/2025, Liam Walsh

Queensland's health minister has called on the federal government to tighten laws after revelations about how largely unregulated private ATMs are helping fuel illegal tobacco sales. An ABC investigation on Wednesday detailed how private ATMs — including those from a company whose major backer is prestigious investment bank Macquarie Group — were being installed in stores selling black-market tobacco.

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Local GP says e-scooter misuse is contributing to mounting pressure on Geraldton health system

West Australian, Other, 19/06/2025, Stuart Quinn

Intoxicated and underage e-scooter riders are adding pressure to an already-stretched local health system, according to a Geraldton doctor. GP anaesthetist Richard Taylor warned that e-scooter misuse locally was leading to an increasing number of injuries and that stricter regulation of e-rideables was key to reducing harm.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Live and let liver

Australian Financial Review, Life and Leisure, 20/06/2025, Luke Benedictus, Page 7

Give this hardworking organ a break. As a clinical nutritionist, Sarah Di Lorenzo helps people to lose weight.

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Is 'lifting heavy' the solution to perimenopausal changes? Meet the women choosing weights.

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 19/06/2025, Sarah Berry

As she stands up, mouthing an ecstatic "yes", Leah Simmons drops the 100-kilogram barbell she has just deadlifted, raises her arms in celebration and embraces the other women cheering her on. [...] Post-menopausal women (those who have not had their period for 12 months or more) have the highest risk of osteoporosis.

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'I thought my life would change': Overcoming the invisible disease to get back into sport

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 19/06/2025, Lauren Ironmonger

Two years ago, 15-year-old Sienna Warren was diagnosed with severe colitis, or inflammation of the large intestine. The diagnosis has meant months away from school and a slowing down of the active life she led before.

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Steve donated his kidney to a stranger and set an Australian record

9News, Other, 19/06/2025, Emily McPherson

Decades ago, Melbourne man Steve Liston heard a story on the radio about the need for kidney donors. He never forgot it. [...] In Australia, there are around 1400 people in need of a kidney transplant, with the waitlist time averaging about 2.2 years, according to Kidney Health Australia.

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What is bone mineral density, and how is it tested?

ABC Online, Other, 19/06/2025, Anna Salleh

When Debra cracked both a tooth and a bone in her foot in the same year, she thought something was not right. But it wasn't until she sought help from her doctor for brain fog and tiredness due to perimenopause that the topic of bone health came up.

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Will AI put skin cancer doctors out of work? This dermatologist says no

Australian Doctor, Other, 19/06/2025, Jamie Thannoo

Professor Victoria Mar said AI could be 'an efficient filter system so dermatologists and GPs will see the patients that really need their attention'. Jokes about the rise of AI often have radiologists at the butt of them, but even as the AI hype grows, radiologists remain in business.

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Chronic wound scheme targets care delays

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 19/06/2025, Kate Cowling

A new program is set to bring down the cost of managing chronic wounds for eligible First Nations people over 50 and senior Australians with diabetes, the Federal Government says. The Chronic Wound Consumables Scheme will subsidise the cost of dressings, bandages and adhesives for eligible patients with wounds lasting 30 days or longer.

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Constipation warning as woman develops gut problem linked to colon cancer due to not going enough

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 20/06/2025, Zoe Hardy

A gut expert has warned of the long-term dangers of constipation, after the common problem triggered a nasty digestive issue that's been linked to bowel and pancreatic cancer in a 35-year-old patient. Despite only having one bowel movement a week for 15 years, the unnamed patient was not concerned about her gut health and had no idea her infrequent gut emptying was abnormal.

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Call to start conversation on continence

With World Continence Week running from 16-22 Jun, Continence Health Australia is calling on pharmacists to start a conversation with people to help support early management of incontinence. "Too many people suffer in silence, and it doesn't have to be that way," Continence Health Australia CEO, Jim Cooper said.

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Diabetes costing health system more than \$9 billion

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 19/06/2025, Anastasia Tsirtsakis

Updated estimates from Diabetes Australia have revealed the annual cost of diabetes to be almost three times the amount previously reported. It is estimated up to 3.6 million people could be living with diabetes in Australia by 2050.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 19/06/2025, Mike Amor & Karina Carvalho

Doctors warn that chronic wounds are becoming a growing health issue in Australia, affecting 450,000 people each year. The condition leads to serious complications and costs the health system \$6.6b annually.

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

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PRIMARY CARE

Deadly mix-up

Herald Sun, General News, 20/06/2025, Shannon Deery, Page 1

A woman has been left to die while waiting up to five hours for an ambulance due to an emergency services stand-off. Paramedics were called late on Tuesday, requesting police assistance because the woman had been violent with emergency service workers in the past.

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Gauze in wound 'led to ongoing dialysis'

Herald Sun, General News, 20/06/2025, Ryan Bourke & Alexander Blain, Page 21

Barwon Health is being sued for negligence after gauze in a wound allegedly left a woman requiring ongoing dialysis following a battle with a deadly bacterial infection. Nicole Timms, 49, presented to Geelong hospital on April 8, 2022 with a lower body abscess a painful infection requiring the abscess to be cut and drained via an invasive procedure.

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Ambos stretched

Herald Sun, Editorials, 20/06/2025, Page 32

Frontline emergency services have to be adaptable enough to react to unfolding emergencies. But, if the resources are stretched too thin, too often, performance is undermined and lives are put at risk.

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Bed shuffle avoids crisis

Northern Territory News, General News, 20/06/2025, Lottie Hood, Page 3

Comments on a lack of Code Yellows called at Royal Darwin Hospital from the NT Health Minister and NT Health chief executive have been criticised as misleading and focused on semantics. In Tuesday's Estimates Committee, Health Minister Steve Edgington said Royal Darwin Hospital used to be "plagued" by code yellows, but due to work done by clinicians and hospital staff, there had not been one called since August 2024.

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

Minns to deliver \$83m boost for bush maternity care

Daily Telegraph, General News, 20/06/2025, Madeline Crittenden, Page 4

Mums in the bush will have better access to midwives during their pregnancies, as part of an \$83m injection into maternity care to be announced in the Minns government's state budget next week. The investment package will include \$44.8m to increase access to midwifery care models, including an additional 53 full-time equivalent midwives in regional NSW.

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This may be far from sexy, but it does deliver on the essentials

West Australian, General News, 20/06/2025, Jessica Page, Page 5

Rita Saffioti promised a Budget that was not sexy but delivers the election essentials. [...] Labor has included funding to get started on planning for upgrades of Royal Perth Hospital and St John of God Midland, but neither project has a completion date within sight.

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Scandal-hit hospital set to have contract ended

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 20/06/2025, Alexandra Smith, Page 5

The NSW Labor government is laying the groundwork to terminate its contract for the Northern Beaches Hospital, which would see compensation paid to private operator Healthscope or an independent umpire appointed if an agreement on costs cannot be reached. In a major escalation in negotiations between Healthscope and the government, Labor will next week move to amend a private members' bill, introduced by Wakehurst independent MP Michael Regan, to give ministers the power to end the hospital's public-private partnership contract as if a hospital operator default had occurred.

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'Distressing' stories from workers

Canberra Times, General News, 20/06/2025, Stephanie Gardiner, Page 16

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

Also reported by: [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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Shocking toll of callouts

Border Mail, General News, 20/06/2025, Anthony Bunn, Page 1

The huge strain on Albury-Wodonga's health system has been made shockingly clear with the small town of Chiltern supplying its ambulance for Twin City cases 462 times in 2024. The massive number was revealed by Victorian Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas in response to a parliamentary question on notice from Benambra MP Bill Tilley.

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Good to see palliative service expanding

Central Western Daily, General News, 20/06/2025, Phil Donato, Page 3

It's great to see work getting under way for the expanded palliative care beds at Orange Health Service, and I'm looking forward to this project now taking shape. Community feedback has helped inform the design, ensuring patient bedrooms have a home-like feel with access to plenty of natural light and fresh air.

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Schools and buses are headline items in early budget promises

Daily Liberal, General News, 20/06/2025, Tom Wark, Page 5

NSW Labor government pledges: [...] Health: \$700 million towards construction of the new Bankstown Hospital (and relocation of Bankstown TAFE), \$492 million investment in a statewide pathology hub at Westmead, \$23 million to cover an extra 3500 surgeries in the next year.

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

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Private hospital upgrade

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 20/06/2025, Catherine Piltz, Page 43

St Vincent's Hospital Lismore will undergo a rejuvenation throughout 2025-2026, with plans for its sale now paused. The hospital aims to enhance patient care and staff opportunities through ongoing investment.

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Bulk-billing GPs to be rewarded in budget, ACT govt says

Canberra Times, Other, 19/06/2025, Lanie Tindale

GP clinics that promise to bulk-bill children will be offered grant money, the ACT government says. A \$1.5 million grants program will be piloted over two years to support general practices that commit to bulk-billing all children under 16.

[Read More](#)

MICA paramedic crews sent from Melbourne to cover country Victoria

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 19/06/2025, Shannon Deery

Specialist ambulance paramedics were offline across large parts of the state overnight as Melbourne crews were sent to respond to cases in regional Victoria. The Herald Sun has been told up to seven elite MICA paramedic crews were unstaffed across Melbourne overnight, with crews sent to patients in Wonthaggi, Morwell and Wattle Glen.

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

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'Treat the cause of high specialist fees, not the symptoms,' says RACP president

Australian Doctor, Other, 19/06/2025, Paul Smith

The physicians' college says high specialist costs are a symptom of an unhealthy system but is yet to respond on whether greedy specialists are partly to blame. The Royal Australasian College of Physicians has issued a media release following the publication of a new Grattan Institute report this week that takes aim at "extreme fee chargers" — specialists whose fees are typically three times the average MBS schedule fee.

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US doctor tours Australia spruiking IVF sex selection: 'People should not need government approval for family decisions'

Australian Doctor, Other, 19/06/2025, Mohana Basu

More than a hundred couples gathered in parks and conference rooms this week to meet a man offering something that is illegal in Australia: choice of their baby's sex. Australian guidelines ban pre-implantation genetic tests for sex selection based on concerns around gender bias, social imbalance and the psychological effect on these children.

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Bid to fund after-hours general practices gains momentum

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 19/06/2025, Jo Roberts

A college plan for South Australian general practices to be paid to extend their opening hours has received backing from the state's Opposition. RACGP SA has reiterated calls for the State Government to fund a trial of extended operating hours for general practices.

Channel 7, Seven News, 19/06/2025, Susannah Carr & Rick Ardon

WA Treasurer Rita Saffioti delivers the state's economic plan with \$1.4b allocated to address the health crisis. This includes \$829m for hospital services and funding to begin planning upgrades at Royal Perth Hospital and St John of God Midland Hospitals.

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6PR, Drive, 19/06/2025, Oliver Peterson

Interview with WA Treasurer Rita Saffioti on the state's budget. Saffioti says this year's budget includes over \$800m in additional funding for hospitals. She says the government is adding more beds to support transitional care and moving patients from hospitals to aged care. Saffioti adds that new reforms will support emergency departments, including technology upgrades and care hubs for older Western Australians.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 19/06/2025, Saskia Mabin

The ACT government will remove payroll tax on bulk-billed GP consultations in next week's budget. The budget also includes \$7m over four years for bulk billing incentives, GP wellbeing, professional development, and junior doctor placements in ACT clinics.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Loneliness back in top causes of raised suicide risk

Canberra Times, Other, 19/06/2025, Tess Ikonomou

Isolation and loneliness are back among the top factors for elevated suicide risk following the COVID-19 pandemic, a major report reveals. Cost of living and personal debt lead the list for distress, followed by family and relationship breakdowns, findings from Suicide Prevention Australia's Community Tracker quarterly survey show.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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What does it mean to be overstimulated?

ABC Online, Other, 19/06/2025, Kellie Scott

It's 5pm. The dog is barking. [...] Overstimulation, also called sensory overload, is when the brain receives sensory input at an intensity or duration that exceeds an individual's capacity to effectively process it, says Sara Quinn.

[Read More](#)

We tracked Aussie teens' mental health. The news isn't good – and problems are worse for girls

Medicine Today, Other, 19/06/2025, Scarlett Smout & Katrina Champion

We know young people in Australia and worldwide are experiencing growing mental health challenges. The most recent national survey from the Australian Bureau of Statistics found nearly two in five (38.8%) 16- to 24-year-olds experienced symptoms of a mental disorder in the previous 12 months.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 19/06/2025, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Emyria chief scientific officer and director Dr Michael Winlo on Medibank agreeing to fund a treatment program for customers with PTSD. Winlo says the deal marks a world first for a major

private health insurer to cover all costs of such an intensive program. He also explains that the program includes around 90 hours of therapy, psychiatrist supervision, and extensive care coordination.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Doctors strike threat

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 20/06/2025, Erin Jones, Page 3

South Australian doctors remain committed to walking off the job demanding a wage increase after a "smoke and mirrors" pay hike offer of 10 per cent over three years, its union says. The SA Salaried Medical Officers Association chief industrial officer Bernadette Mulholland lashed out at the government's offer on Thursday saying it was "not new".

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

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

CDU launches aged care support TAFE course in East Timor

Northern Territory News, Other, 19/06/2025, Darcy Fitzgerald

Charles Darwin University (CDU) has launched a first of its kind aged care training program in the Top End's closest neighbour, East Timor. [...] This course will give students Australian-accredited qualifications which will allow them to work in a range of support-based industries including disability, aged care and residential support.

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

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 19/06/2025, Tiffany Warne

Doctors in Adelaide's public hospitals reject the SA government's latest pay offer, setting the stage for strike action next week. The offer includes a 10% increase over three years and a \$4000 base pay rise for junior interns, but falls short of the 10% per year requested.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 19/06/2025, Rosanna Mangiarelli & Will Goodings

SASMOA rejects the SA government's latest pay offer, warning it may lead to strike action. The union wants a 30% pay rise over three years, while the government is offering 10% over the same period, plus a \$4000 base wage increase for junior doctors.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 19/06/2025, Brenton Ragless & Kate Collins

SA's public doctors receive a new pay offer, but SASMOA remains disappointed. The offer includes a 10% pay rise over three years, a \$4000 base wage increase for junior doctors, and longer breaks between shifts. The union welcomes support for junior doctors but says the offer falls short of the 30% increase it is seeking to reflect current pressures on the health system.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 19/06/2025, Spence Denny

Interview with South Australian Psychologists Association president Deborah McLean on a new enterprise agreement offer for psychologists and allied health professionals in SA. McLean says they have now received an offer under the Allied Health Enterprise Agreement negotiations, which gives allied health workers a voice in bargaining for pay and conditions. She says the wage component is disappointing but confirms members have voted to endorse the offer.

Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Sonic Healthcare to lift stake in Microba Life Sciences

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 20/06/2025, Page 16

The \$12.7 billion diagnostics giant Sonic Healthcare is set to lift its stake in biotech Microba Life Sciences to beyond 19.9 per cent, the maximum permissible shareholding allowed in a listed company in the absence of a takeover bid.

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

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Health Check: On Garfield the Cat Day, the biotech sector purrs with deals and breakthroughs

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 19/06/2025, Tim Boreham

In a busy reporting day for biotechs, Orthocell notes promising results of a follow-up study of its nerve repair device Remplir. Orthocell says its Remplir nerve device blitzes the stitches Singular Health inks US physician network deal.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Doctor banned after facelift leaves patient 'bleeding too much'

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 19/06/2025, Catherine Strohfeldt

A Brisbane-based doctor has been deregistered after a patient seeking treatment for acne scars left the clinic in an ambulance with uncontrolled bleeding from a damaged artery. The patient had consulted Dr Shahram Sadeghi – who owned and operated Elinay Cosmetic Surgery in Grange at the time – on May 1, 2019, and was recommended a facelift for acne scarring in that session.

[Read More](#)

Queensland doctor deregistered after botched face lift at suburban clinic

ABC Online, Other, 19/06/2025, Janelle Miles

A Queensland doctor has been deregistered for professional misconduct, after damaging a man's artery during a face lift at a suburban cosmetic surgery clinic in 2019. [...] Australian Health Practitioner

Regulation Agency (AHPRA) CEO Justin Untersteiner said the tribunal's decision sent a strong message.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Cost of children's sport rises in Australia as voucher programs fail to budge participation

The Guardian, Other, 20/06/2025, Jack Snape

Parents of young cricketers, footballers and basketball players are now paying more than \$500 a year on average for their children to play, plus more on equipment, according to a national survey highlighting Australia's most expensive codes, as state governments pledge hundreds of millions of dollars to ensure sport is not just for the wealthy. But new research from the University of Sydney has found subsidising families' sporting costs through the use of government vouchers alone is not enough, after two prominent recent examples – including a high profile New South Wales scheme – failed to increase sport participation at scale.

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SPORT

Stadium will make its mark

Courier Mail, General News, 20/06/2025, Alastair Richardson, Page 73

Some of Brisbane's best minds will meet at a Committee for Brisbane long lunch next Friday to debate how best to tell our city's story to the world. [...] That's a message our 2032 Olympic planners need to take to heart when they shape the look, feel and legacy of the facilities that will host the Brisbane Games.

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

Soccer dementia fears

The Nightly, General News, 19/06/2025, Page 39

Heading a soccer ball alters brain chemistry, but more studies are needed to prove if the activity can be clearly linked to dementia, researchers have found. World-leading research driven by Sydney University showed "subtle but measurable" effects when players headed a ball 20 times in as many minutes.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#)

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ABC, ABC News, 19/06/2025, Nakari Thorpe

New research finds that heading a soccer ball changes the brain's chemistry and electrical activity. The study detects elevated levels of two blood biomarkers linked to head trauma and dementia, even when there are no concussion symptoms.

[Play Now](#)

SBS, World News Australia, 19/06/2025, Janice Petersen

University of Sydney researchers find that repeatedly heading a soccer ball can change brain chemistry even without visible concussion symptoms. Their study simulates repeated headers and detects elevated levels of two biomarkers, GFAP and NfL, which are linked to dementia.

[Play Now](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Game-changing test for coeliac disease

Daily Advertiser, General News, 20/06/2025, Jac Marshall, Page 3

A groundbreaking new test for coeliac disease aims to alleviate the discomfort associated with diagnosis, a process that Wagga-based dietitian Sally Barlow knows all too well. Coeliac disease is one of the most common autoimmune illnesses in Australia, caused by an immune reaction to the gluten protein found in wheat, rye and barley.

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

A dad's million-dollar mission to cure the cancer that killed his daughter

9News, Other, 19/06/2025, Emily McPherson

Ren Pedersen's daughter, Amy, loved ballet and would run like the wind, with her strawberry-blonde hair flying behind her. [...] With the help of Pedersen's connections, the Children's Cancer Institute established Australia's first-ever tumour bank for DIPG in 2011, led by Associate Professor David Ziegler – a paediatric oncologist at Kids Cancer Centre, Sydney Children's Hospital, as well as a cancer researcher at the Institute.

[Read More](#)

Winter viruses can trigger a heart attack or stroke, our study shows

Canberra Times, Other, 19/06/2025, Hazel Clothier, Christopher Reid, Jim Buttery, Tu Nguyen & Diana Vlasenko

Winter is here, along with cold days and the inevitable seasonal surge in respiratory viruses. But it's not only the sniffles we need to worry about. [...] Our study shows catching common respiratory viruses raises your short-term risk of a heart attack or stroke. In other words, common viruses, such as those that cause flu and COVID, can trigger them.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News, 19/06/2025, Nakari Thorpe

Researchers say sugarbag honey from native stingless bees, long used in First Nations medicine, shows strong healing potential. They find it could be more effective than some existing antibacterial and antifungal treatments and may help tackle antibiotic resistance.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Indigenous yarning room set to be added to Australian hospital to create a 'safe space' for Aboriginal patients

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 19/06/2025, Nicholas Comino

A hospital in New South Wales is set to introduce a 'yarning room' - a culturally safe space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and families. The initiative, first reported by radio host Ben Fordham on 2GB, has been confirmed by NSW Health, which says Bowral Hospital is considering the idea to strengthen engagement with Indigenous communities.

[Read More](#)

Preterm birth journey shapes Marisa Smiler-Cairns's passion for maternal health

National Indigenous Times, Other, 19/06/2025, Giovanni Torre

With her own preterm birth journey inspiring her advocacy for stronger representation of First Nations voices in maternal health, Marisa Smiler-Cairns understands the difficult situation mothers in regional and remote Australia face. A proud Yolŋu and Wardaman woman, Ms Smiler-Cairns is a third-generation Aboriginal Health Practitioner, trained by the same Aboriginal medical service that supported generations of her own family.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Health warning after outbreak of Legionnaires' disease

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 20/06/2025, Angus Thomson, Page 6

Health authorities are investigating another potential outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in Sydney's inner city after three Potts Point residents developed the severe lung infection, which is caused by waterborne bacteria. Anyone who has been in the Potts Point area in the past 10 days should monitor for symptoms which include fever, chills, and shortness of breath, NSW Health said in an alert issued yesterday.

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

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

Nearly one in five flu cases hospitalised as WA expected to hit further spike in winter months

West Australian, Other, 19/06/2025, Claire Sadler & Cain Andrews

The Kimberley has recorded the second-highest number of flu cases in the State so far this year as WA grapples with a horror flu season. The region has logged 837 cases to date, second only to metropolitan Perth which recorded 6450 infections.

[Read More](#)

Death toll rises as infectious disease claims second victim after major outbreak in Sydney's CBD - as three others are hospitalised

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 19/06/2025, Matt Jones

A second person has died following an outbreak of legionnaires' disease in Sydney's CBD - as three others are admitted to hospital. NSW Health said a dozen people who had been in and around the CBD between March and April had contracted the illness.

[Read More](#)

'A huge step forward': GPs back fixed Victorian drug testing site

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 19/06/2025

The Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) has thrown its support behind Victoria's first ever fixed drug testing site. Opening in August this year at 95 Brunswick Street in Fitzroy, the site will allow people to have drugs tested at a location nearby a range of health and social services, including drug and alcohol counselling and a needle and syringe program.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 19/06/2025, Chris Bath & Dom Knight

Interview with SESLHD public health director Dr Vicky Sheppeard on a possible Legionnaires' disease outbreak in Potts Point, Sydney. Sheppeard says their focus is on water-based cooling systems atop multi-storey buildings, which can harbour Legionella bacteria. She adds that other sources under investigation include fountains and misting systems in places like supermarket produce sections.

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Legal cannabis exec vows credibility reform

The Australian, General News, 20/06/2025, James Dowling, Page 9

Lisa Penlington, the first chief executive of the advocacy group Cannabis Council Australia, has few illusions about the task she faces to repair the credibility of an industry under attack and still marginalised. [...] Montu and Mr Strauch were taken to court by the Therapeutic Goods Administration in April last year for alleged unlawful advertising of medicinal cannabis.

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Gilead makes TGA bid for twice-a-year HIV PrEP following US approval

Australian Doctor, Other, 19/06/2025, Ciara Seccombe

This week's US Food and Drug Administration decision was the world's first approval for HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis in an injectable form. The US drug watchdog has approved a world-first biannual HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis injection, and the manufacturer has already lodged a TGA application.

[Read More](#)

'6 things that happened to me on weight loss medication.'

Mamamia, Other, 19/06/2025, Claire Murphy

Before the entire world was really aware of semaglutide, I went to my GP and had a conversation about my weight. [...] This is a drug that is specifically to treat type 2 diabetes here in Australia and that is what the TGA (Therapeutic Goods Administration) still classifies it as in 2025, but some GPs are prescribing it off label for weight loss.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 19/06/2025, Matt Shirvington & Natalie Barr

Interview with dermatologist Dr Ritu Gupta on the Therapeutic Goods Administration starting an investigation after CHOICE finds most sunscreens fail to meet advertised SPF ratings. Gupta says the results are concerning and supports CHOICE's efforts, highlighting that their testing was repeated, well-documented, and met recognised standards. She adds that it is now up to the TGA to conduct its own testing to confirm or challenge the findings.

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ABC Radio Darwin, Morning Show, 19/06/2025, Rick Hind

Interview with Red Cross Lifeblood national media director Helen Walsh on the removal of most restrictions on plasma donation linked to sexual activity. Walsh explains that current rules particularly prevent many gay and bisexual men from donating due to a three-month wait period. The Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved a move towards gender-neutral screening questions, which aims to ensure all donors are assessed the same way, regardless of gender or sexuality.

Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Darwin \(Darwin\)](#).

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Evidence still 'mixed' for drug's use for mental illness

The Australian, Other, 19/06/2025, Tim Gosling & Eleanor Hayward

Before her death this year, a British aristocrat once known unkindly as the "crackpot countess" suggested science was about to answer a question she had spent her career asking: can psychedelic drugs, and magic mushrooms in particular, prove an effective treatment for long-term depression? The only way to win credibility for the benefits of psilocybin, the hallucinogenic compound found in magic mushrooms, was to use "science as a tool to prove what one was saying was true, not part of a kind of druggie fantasy", said Amanda Feilding, who died in May, aged 88.

FOOD STANDARDS

Lab-grown meat is coming to local restaurants now let's chew the fat

Age, Business News, 20/06/2025, Jessica Yun & Frances Howe, Page 32

One thing you should know about George Peppou, the founder of the world's leading lab-grown meat company, is that he loves eating meat.[...] " Food regulatory body Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has also passed updated definitions of genetically modified food to address progress in gene technologies while maintaining strong food safety protections, which the regulator says brings Australia in line with international approaches and will ensure the right labelling and oversight.

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

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AICIS

Doctors sound alarm over microplastics as health and environmental fears mount

7news.com.au, Other, 19/06/2025, Jennifer Bechwati

It's been detected in breast milk and can even affect our reproductive system. Microplastics have infiltrated nearly every corner of life — they're in our food and drinks, in the clothes we wear, and even in the air we breathe.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 19/06/2025, Mike Amor & Karina Carvalho

Doctors are warning about the health risks of microplastics now found in almost everything that people eat, drink, or touch. University of Sydney's Dr Nicholas Chartres leads a team calling for a global cap on plastic production and the removal of toxic chemicals. There are also calls for a review of single-use plastics in healthcare, which increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

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