



Australian Government  
Department of Health,  
Disability and Ageing

# TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 23rd June 2025

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Guardian (online)** reports that health experts have called for an overhaul on tobacco taxation and vaping regulations, saying that the unaffordability of tobacco products have pushed consumers to illegal markets. Health Minister Mark Butler has dismissed calls to lower the tobacco tax excise, saying that stronger regulations will help reduce the illicit market.
- The **Sydney Morning Herald (page 1)** reports that a family of an infant that died after an emergency caesarean at Northern Beaches Hospital are calling for a re-investigation into their son's death following multiple other child death incidents at the hospital.
- The **Australian Financial Review (page 1)** reports that the Queensland Government may withhold NDIS funding for child participants as a bargaining chip in discussing the GST carve-up.
- The **Herald Sun (page 2)** reports that NDIS funding changes that come into effect on July 1 will see the maximum price allied health professionals can charge NDIS participants frozen or reduced.
- The **Hobart Mercury (page 2)** reports that a tablet-liquidation technique developed at the University of Tasmania would offer consumers of anti-depressant medications a less traumatic approach to dosage reduction.

- The [Sydney Morning Herald \(page 6\)](#) reports that phase-three clinical trial data for Eli Lilly's diabetes treatment medication Orforglipron has been released, with experts expecting that the Therapeutic Goods Administration will approve the drug once it receives an application.
- [The Australian \(page 7\)](#) reports that Australasian Diabetes in Pregnancy Society will release its overhaul of the national GDM diagnosis guidelines, and will recommend higher glucose thresholds for diagnoses.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### We won't see rural patients

Courier Mail, General News, 23/06/2025, Jarrod Tutbury and Kyle Rode, Page 17

[...] Health Minister Mark Butler, who has carriage of the NDIS, was contacted for comment.

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

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### State fury on tobacco

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/06/2025, Jade Gailberger and Jon Kaila, Page 17

[...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler did not respond when asked if the government would boost measures to address the trade in illicit tobacco.

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

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

### Months later, still no solution for state's mental health crisis

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 22/06/2025

[...] Researchers will report their findings to federal Health Minister Mark Butler this week.

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

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### Australia risks losing 'war on nicotine' in same way as war on drugs as illegal tobacco sales explode

The Guardian, Other, 23/06/2025, Patrick Commins

[...] The treasurer, Jim Chalmers, and health minister, Mark Butler, have dismissed calls from the states to lower the tobacco excise, insisting that greater enforcement, rather than cheaper cigarettes, is the answer to squashing the illicit trade.

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### Outcomes published from meeting the PBAC was directed to hold

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 23/06/2025

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee made significant recommendations at its May 2025 meeting, which Health Minister Mark Butler directed them to hold after it decided to defer the consideration of submissions at its March meeting.

[Read More](#)

### The Zap: latest health and aged care news, and a helpful list of consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 22/06/2025, Melissa Sweet

[...] As the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing releases a childhood immunisation video hub to answer questions about the childhood immunisation schedule, an expert warns that the United States is "on the verge of losing vaccines for this country, from this country".

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## Defence Minister Richard Marles stands by Australian Ambassador to US Kevin Rudd amid questions over Trump-Albanese no show

Sky News Australia, Other, 22/06/2025, Oscar Godsell

[...] Health Minister Mark Butler warned that Mr Dutton would "reach into the Republican political playbook" to slash health workers.

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Federal Government invests \$2 million in support of Australia's 2026 Winter Paralympic Quest

Australasian Leisure Management, Other, 23/06/2025

[...] Federal Minister for Sport, Anika Wells noted "we aren't interested in only helping athletes get to the Games, we want them to thrive while there.

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### Federal Government investment powers Australia's push to Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Glory

Paralympics Australia, Other, 22/06/2025, Hody Hong

[...] Federal Minister for Sport Anika Wells confirmed the investment as part of the Government's ongoing commitment to provide certainty and opportunity for Australian Paralympians to succeed on the world stage.

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## MINISTER MCALLISTER

### The Zap: latest health and aged care news, and a helpful list of consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 22/06/2025, Melissa Sweet

[...] As the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing releases a childhood immunisation video hub to answer questions about the childhood immunisation schedule, an expert warns that the United States is "on the verge of losing vaccines for this country, from this country".

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## DEPARTMENT

### The Zap: latest health and aged care news, and a helpful list of consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 22/06/2025, Melissa Sweet

[...] As the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing releases a childhood immunisation video hub to answer questions about the childhood immunisation schedule, an expert warns that the United States is "on the verge of losing vaccines for this country, from this country".

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## VACCINES

### Victoria pays out millions to workers who never returned after Covid jab

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 22/06/2025, Alex White

The cost of WorkCover claims resulting from the Covid-19 vaccine in Victoria has surpassed \$10 million with some workers who suffered reactions after getting the jab still unable to return to work.

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

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Aged-care patients locked in hospital beds fuelling South Australian ramping crisis, warns Dr Chloe Furst

The Mercury, Other, 22/06/2025, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker

South Australia has the highest rate of aged care patients now stuck in limbo in hospitals in the nation, it has been revealed.

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

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## DISABILITY

### Qld may hold NDIS cash hostage to GST

Australian Financial Review, General News, 23/06/2025, James Hall, Page 1

Hundreds of millions of dollars of NDIS savings are in doubt after Queensland threatened to withhold funding for child participants if the federal government does not overhaul the way GST revenue is distributed among the states.

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## NDIS funding reform backlash

Herald Sun, General News, 23/06/2025, Jarrod Tutbury and Kyle Rode, Page 2

Disability care for Australians outside capital cities is at risk amid a major shake-up in NDIS funding, with providers warning their ability to keep operating was under threat.

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

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## Tax reform to drive economy

Herald Sun, Editorials, 23/06/2025, Page 26

There is no hiding the fact Australia's failing productivity levels are essentially seeing the national economy tread water.

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## 'Betrayal' on cuts to NDIS

Hobart Mercury, General News, 23/06/2025, Alison Foletta, Page 4

Tasmanian senator Jacqui Lambie has slammed the NDIS over its annual pricing review, calling it a "betrayal".

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Smoke and ire and ... a great big mess

Daily Telegraph, Editorials, 23/06/2025, Page 30

Tobacco has been a commercial product for about 180 years longer than Australian settlement.

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### Tobacco a 'national problem'

Courier Mail, General News, 23/06/2025, Jade Gailberger and Jon Kaila, Page 15

Pressure is mounting on the Albanese government to bolster efforts to tackle the tobacco wars, with east coast states claiming they're being left to "clean up this mess".

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### GP reveals clash of ethics

Daily Advertiser, General News, 23/06/2025, Stephanie Gardiner, Page 1

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.

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### Insurers will use AI to scan your vitals. This is good

Australian Financial Review, Other, 22/06/2025, Joyce Moullakis

The adoption of artificial intelligence may well spur widespread job culling and accelerate the spread of misinformation through the economy.

[Read More](#)

## **I was diagnosed with PCOS – and was soon drowning in misinformation**

The Guardian, Other, 22/06/2025, Charlie Brinkhurst-Cuff

From medically unqualified influencers pushing expensive supplements online, to nurses peddling myths about pregnancy, I had to find out all I could about my condition myself.

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## **Keeping adolescents healthy assures our future – but how do we ensure their wellbeing?**

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 23/06/2025

The second Lancet Commission on Adolescent Health and Wellbeing aims to understand and advance adolescent health and wellbeing at a global, regional, country and local level.

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## **CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS**

### **New guide for diabetes**

The Australian, General News, 23/06/2025, Natasha Robinson, Page 7

Guidelines on the diagnosis of gestational diabetes will be overhauled in Australia amid concerns too many low-risk pregnant women are being subject to monitoring and treatment with unclear benefits.

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### **New consensus recommendations for gestational diabetes**

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 23/06/2025

The Australasian Diabetes in Pregnancy Society has updated guidance for the screening, diagnosis and classification of hyperglycaemia in pregnancy.

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### **Why climate change is a heart attack, and what we can do about it**

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 23/06/2025

Climate change and cardiovascular disease are intrinsically linked, and more needs to be done to combat this existential threat to human health.

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### **When faced with an incurable disease, Justine made these important changes to her life**

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 22/06/2025, Elli Jacobs

A stage-four diagnosis can bring life to a standstill, stirring fear, grief and anger for a future once imagined.

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### **The true reason behind the 'flat chest' trend: Women turn back on breast reconstruction post cancer**

The Mercury, Other, 22/06/2025, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker

There is an emerging collective of Aussie women who are proudly embracing their status as "flatties" – after overcoming the unimaginable.

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### **Channel 10, 10 News First (Weekend) , 22/06/2025, Chris Bath**

A world-first clinical trial hopes the use of the GLP-1 pill, more commonly known as Ozempic, will help

Type 2 diabetes sufferers manage their disease more effectively. Diabetes Australia research director Prof Grant Brinkworth says the pill stimulates the release of certain hormones that help improve glucose. GLP-1 also helps regulate appetite, which makes it an effective weight management solution.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Babies put at risk in the NICU: staff

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/06/2025, Madeleine Bower, Page 15

Critically ill children are being treated in storerooms and in corridors at a major pediatric Sydney hospital, as staff struggle to keep up with an influx of babies amid a lack of resources.

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### Northern Beaches Hospital heartache

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 23/06/2025, Angus Thomson, Page 1

Five years have passed since twins Asher and Finn Broadley were delivered in an emergency caesarean section at Northern Beaches Hospital. Asher survived.

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### Specialist care plea

Northern Territory News, General News, 23/06/2025, Lottie Hood, Page 5

A health body and private insurers have called for a "significant change" to specialist care funding in the NT following a damning report.

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### Call for NSW auditor-general to examine hospital plan

Border Mail, General News, 23/06/2025, Ted Howes and Anthony Bunn, Page 2

The NSW auditor-general will consider a call to investigate the long-running Albury hospital redevelopment saga.

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### New data tells us much about hospitals

Western Advocate, General News, 23/06/2025, Ciara Bastow, Page 3

New data from the Bureau of Health Information (BHI) paints a complex picture for Central West public hospitals in the first quarter of 2025.

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### Why my husband's howl over back pain could happen 4 million times around Australia

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 22/06/2025, Kate Aubusson

My husband, Dylan, lay on our bathroom floor, wedged between our shower door and the sink. Our two children were in the bath with tepid water up to their navels.

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### ACT budget on life support amid health funding woes

Canberra Times, Other, 23/06/2025, Jacob Shteyman

When Treasurer Chris Steel, fresh in the job after Labor's seventh straight election win, provided a mid-year budget update in February, he was forced to make an embarrassing admission.

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## Pressure mounting for action in Gaza

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 23/06/2025

Doctors and health professionals around Australia have written open letters to the federal government to implore it to take action to protect the innocent in Gaza.

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## Tasmanian GPs celebrate Liberal announcement of free meningococcal B vaccinations for babies

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 22/06/2025

The Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) has celebrated the Tasmanian Liberals' announcement of a free meningococcal B vaccination program today.

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## Channel 10, 10 News First (Weekend) , 22/06/2025, Chris Bath

WA Shadow Health Minister Libby Mettam accused the Cook Government of dragging its feet after last week's State Budget revealed further funding to remove all flammable cladding from WA's biggest hospitals. Health Minister Meredith Hammat insists the state's hospitals are safe. The WA Government has removed flammable cladding from most of the 97 identified sites, but last week's Budget showed \$26m in cladding removal funds for the Perth Children's Hospital, which has yet to start. Mettam also criticised the State Government for failing to keep its promised \$200m emergency department upgrades at Royal Perth and Midland hospitals.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Drought pressure support

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 23/06/2025, Page 11

Regional communities will be given tools to help themselves and others cope with the mental strain of the record-breaking drought, under a program to be unveiled across the state.

*Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).*

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

### Drug withdrawal hope

Hobart Mercury, General News, 23/06/2025, Duncan Abey, Page 2

Pharmacies across Australia will soon be helping more patients successfully taper off their antidepressant medication, thanks to a tablet-liquidation technique developed by the University of Tasmania.

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### 'Gamechanger' for ADHD treatment

Burnie Advocate, General News, 23/06/2025, Emily Williams, Page 4

Premier Jeremy Rockliff announced on Friday that under a re-elected Liberal government, GPs would be able to diagnose, treat, and manage ADHD for both adults and children.

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## Olympian Leisel Jones sheds light on terrifying suicide moment

The Courier Mail, Other, 22/06/2025, Jackie Epstein

Olympian Leisel Jones didn't see a psychologist as a teen because seeking help was for "weak athletes".

*Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).*

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## ABC, ABC News (Sunday), 22/06/2025, Jeremy Fernandez

The husband of an animal rescuer is taking NSW Health to court after multiple failures in the state's mental health system led to his wife committing suicide. Kerrie Carroll, the founder of Lucky Stars Sanctuary, was rushed to Queanbeyan Hospital after a suicide attempt only to receive an inadequate mental health assessment while still sedated and not seen by a psychiatrist. She was discharged nine hours later without informing her partner, Clint Seares, and died from another overdose. Seares tells the ABC's Stateline that he is speaking out in hopes of spurring reform.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### The moral injury of The Pitt is no fiction. Healthcare workers deserve to be heard

ABC Online, Other, 22/06/2025, Julia Baird

It's sickening to watch a healthcare worker trying to help someone, to save a life even, whilst lacking the right tools, or resources to do so.

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### Nurse suspended after stealing morphine from patients

Australian Doctor, Other, 22/06/2025, Carmel Sparke

He also falsely recorded administering painkillers for patients not prescribed the medications, a tribunal hears.

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Health authority hands down lifetime ban for testosterone salesman Michael Farrelly

ABC Online, Other, 22/06/2025, Maddison Connaughton and Tynan King

[...] The national healthcare watchdog, AHPRA, currently only polices registered healthcare practitioners, such as doctors and nurses, and not unregistered practitioners like Farrelly.

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## New cosmetic guidelines demand higher standards and accountability

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 23/06/2025

AHPRA's new guidelines for non-surgical cosmetic procedures explicitly reaffirm that practitioners are required to work within the limits of their skills, training and experience.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Focus less on sex lives and more on chance to save lives

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 23/06/2025, Nadine Morton, Page 3

The first time Adam Larkham found out he wasn't able to donate blood was when he was a teenager filling out a form at the blood bank.

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## SPORT

### Stan to buy EPL rights 'this week'

The Australian, Media, 23/06/2025, James Madden, Page 19

Nine Entertainment is expected to announce this week that it has secured the local broadcast rights to the prestigious English Premier League.

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### Nine banks on NRL-led revival

The Australian, Media, 23/06/2025, James Madden and Steve Jackson, Page 19

Nine Entertainment is seeking to reposition itself as a sports streaming giant in the digital age as it prepares to launch its bid to renew its status as the free-to-air broadcaster of the NRL, with its streaming platform Stan likely to be a key component of any deal.

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### Filling in blanks on 2032 plan

Courier Mail, General News, 23/06/2025, Jen Williams, Page 21

When the Deputy Premier met with potential investors in the US last week, we encouraged him to channel the bold vision shown in the 2032 Delivery Plan and continue his focus on delivering generational legacy for Queensland.

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### Kicking goals for WA sport

West Australian, General News, 23/06/2025, Oliver Lane, Page 17

More than 2000 floodlights, change rooms and playing surfaces will be built or upgraded in WA in the next five years, according to a pledge from Sport and Recreation Minister Rita Saffioti on Sunday.

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### It's not too late for a flu jab as cases rise

Hobart Mercury, General News, 23/06/2025, Bridget Clarke, Page 3

Tasmanians have been urged to get a flu vaccination and stay home when unwell as cases increase across the state.

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### Man gets flu, but survives

West Australian, General News, 23/06/2025, Andrew Miller, Page 13

A virus made for a very tough week Sia fans know that the acoustic version of her song Chandelier has the real feels.

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### Radiation at Montebello Islands still 4,500 times higher than WA coast after nuclear blasts

ABC Online, Other, 22/06/2025, Alistair Bates

Cam McGurk's stories of one of Australia's most heavily irradiated areas come drenched in warm Pilbara sunshine.

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### Why Dr Paris uses her bare arms in the fight against Australia's mosquito-borne diseases

The Guardian, Other, 23/06/2025, Eelemarni Close-Brown

'For most of the ones I feed, I just feel a little sensation,' says the University of Melbourne medical entomologist Dr Véronique Paris has a very hands-on approach to her research.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Shortage of ADHD medicines leaves students, families, schools struggling

Age, General News, 23/06/2025, Caroline Schelle, Page 16

[...] Australia is facing a shortage of ADHD medications, with the Therapeutic Goods Administration warning it is likely to continue until the end of the year.

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### 'Game changer' diabetes pill is a step closer

[...] He expected approval from the Therapeutic Goods Administration would be "reasonable straightforward" once it receives an application by drug developer Eli Lilly, which also makes Mounjaro.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#), [Australian Financial Review \(Australia\)](#).

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## Diabetes pill on the way

Herald Sun, General News, 23/06/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 3

The first diabetes and obesity pill that is similar to Ozempic may actually outperform the popular injected drug. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration was contacted for comment.

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

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## Victoria pays out millions to workers who never returned after Covid jab

The Courier Mail, Other, 22/06/2025, Alex White

Victoria has paid out millions in WorkCover claims to teachers, nurses and firefighters who were forced to take the Covid jab and suffered severe side effects.

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

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## Gay and bisexual men will soon be able to donate blood and plasma

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 23/06/2025

[...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has approved a gender-neutral risk assessment for blood and platelet donations.

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