



Australian Government
Department of Health,
Disability and Ageing

TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 24th June 2025

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 7) reports that Health Minister Mark Butler has approved an expanded PBS access for the cystic fibrosis drug Trikafta, making it available to formerly ineligible patients. This is the fourth PBS expansion for Trikafta in over three years, and Mr Butler said this “will give them access to a more effective treatment, which until now would have cost \$250,000 a year.”
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 2) reports that the AHPRA has received 18 complaints about medical practitioners pressuring patients to access their superannuation to pay for medical procedures. A spokesman for Health Minister Mark Butler said people should consult a financial adviser or the ATO before withdrawing.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 8) reports that a cancer patient raised concerns over a 14-hour wait at Blacktown Hospital's emergency department, while a union representative said staff are overwhelmed, this follows NSW government's claims of hospital improvements and a \$35.1 billion health funding pledge last year.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 8) reports that the NSW Healthcare Complaints Commission confirmed they only have one Indigenous staff member out of 140, raising concerns of lack of representation.

- [The Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 10) reports that around 80 Westmead Hospital nurses walked out yesterday in support of their colleagues at the neonatal intensive care unit, who are overwhelmed by overcrowding, staff shortages and lack of facilities.
- [The Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 13) reports the TGA has launched Federal Court action against Mamamia and News Corp's Body + Soul magazine for allegedly publishing articles that unlawfully advertised medicinal cannabis products from alternative medicine website Atlas.
- [The Courier Mail](#) (page 1) reports that a survey by the Nurses' Professional Association of Queensland has revealed claims that mental health patients are being sedated and reclassified to hide the extent of hospital bed shortages, to "protect funding" and "avoid KPI breaches", prompting calls for an independent inquiry.
- [The Northern Territory News](#) (page 1) reports that NT Health has recorded 50 cases of whooping cough or pertussis this year, with authorities urging people to update their vaccinations.
- [Geelong Advertiser](#) (online) reports that leaked data showed emergency departments in Melbourne were overwhelmed on Monday, with at least 110 crews ramped and some hospitals had up to five hours of wait time.

MINISTER BUTLER

'Life-changing' care for rare group of cystic fibrosis patients

The Australian, General News, 24/06/2025, James Dowling, Page 7

A small group of Australians with the rarest kinds of cystic fibrosis fewer than 200 people will, for the first time, have affordable access to a leading treatment for the life-threatening genetic disorder next week, lending hope for an incurable disease that disproportionately affects children. Health Minister Mark Butler will on Tuesday announce he has approved an expansion of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme access to cystic fibrosis medication Trikafta, making it almost universally available under subsidy to patients from July 1.

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

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Predatory medics alert

Herald Sun, General News, 24/06/2025, Vishaak Gangasandra, Page 2

Australians have drained more than \$1bn from their superannuation funds to pay for medical procedures, many of which are extravagant and unnecessary, prompting the healthcare watchdog to crack down on greedy doctors and dentists. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler was approached for comment. A Department of Health spokesman responded on his behalf, saying that those considering access to this scheme should consult a financial adviser or the ATO before withdrawing their super.

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

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NDIS pricing structure impacts service viability

Warragul & Drouin Gazette, General News, 24/06/2025, Yvette Brand, Page 5

A \$10 per hour cut in the National Disability Insurance Scheme fee schedule has forced a Warragul physiotherapist to assess the viability of servicing NDIS clients. [...] Member for Monash Mary Aldred said she would be taking the matter up with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and NDIS Minister Mark Butler this week.

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Australian government enlists influencers to warn young people about dangers of vaping

The federal government has launched an anti-vaping campaign using popular online influencers to educate young people on the dangers of nicotine addiction. [...] "There is an enormous amount of misinformation and online advertising designed to lure teenagers into vaping," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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

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Canberra injects \$12m into medial research translation centres

InnovationAus, Other, 23/06/2025, Trish Everingham

Australia's health and medical research translation centres will each receive a \$1 million boost from the federal government to continue work towards better health outcomes. Federal Health minister Mark Butler announced the \$12 million funding top-up over the weekend, through the NHMRC's new "Supporting Research Translation Centres" grant stream.

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What peak doctor groups are thinking about this year

The Medical Republic, Other, 23/06/2025, Holly Payne

Doctors of all stripes have descended on Canberra today for the AMA's national meeting of medical colleges, associations and societies, with scope of practice reform topping the agenda. [...] Representatives from both AHPRA and the Medical Board of Australia were present, as well as Health Minister Mark Butler.

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2MCE, 16:00 National Radio News, 23/06/2025

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is meeting with 100 medical leaders in Canberra to address major challenges in Australia's health system. Meanwhile, nurses from Westmead Hospital's neonatal ward are raising safety concerns through a protest.

Also reported by: [Curtin FM \(Perth\)](#).

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2SM, 10:00 News, 23/06/2025

Several health experts, including the authors of a recent article in the Harm Reduction Journal, believe the prohibition-style policies aimed at reducing nicotine consumption are doomed to fail. There are claims unaffordable legal cigarettes and a near ban on retail e-cigarette sales are responsible for a booming black market trade for both products. Despite experts calling for change, Treasurer Jim Chalmers and Health Minister Mark Butler have rejected a push from state governments to lower the tobacco excise, insisting greater enforcement rather than cheaper cigarettes is the answer to handling the black markets.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Afternoons, 23/06/2025, Alice Matthews

Interview with Australian Medical Association ACT president Dr Kerrie Aust on healthcare reform and safety discussions. Aust says this afternoon's discussions will feature key figures exploring the future of healthcare in Australia. She adds that Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is also expected to speak later in the day.

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MINISTER WELLS

Federal Government Investment Powers Australia's Push to 2026 Winter Paralympic Glory

The Federal Government's strong and continued backing of the Australian Paralympic Movement has been applauded by Paralympics Australia after \$2.068 million in new funding was announced to support the 2026 Australian Paralympic Winter Team. 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.

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

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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MINISTER RAE

Government urged to release more home care packages

CathNews, Other, 23/06/2025, Rebecca Comini

Australian Unity, one of the 20 members of Labor's aged care transition taskforce, said the Government must urgently release 20,000 more aged care packages after it announced earlier this month that it would delay its sector-wide reforms by four months. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said the Government would roll out 80,000 new places in the first 12 months of the Support at Home program, now due to begin from November 1.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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DEPARTMENT

'Backbone of health': new plan for rural maternity care

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 24/06/2025, Stephanie Gardiner, Page 14

An outback woman was fully prepared for a four-hour trip to the closest hospital to give birth. [...] New

strategies were needed to ensure country families receive equitable care, National Rural Health Commissioner Jenny May said.

Also reported by: [South Western Times \(Online\)](#), [The Queenslander \(Online\)](#), [Harvey-Waroona Reporter \(Online\)](#), [Pilbara News \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Great Southern Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Key deadlines for updating room details on My Aged Care

Hello Leaders Australia, Other, 23/06/2025, Jakob Neeland

The Department of Health and Aged Care have updated the My Aged Care service and support portal to revise how room pricing information is published for residential aged care. These changes focus on rooms priced above the Minister's maximum accommodation payment amount, set at \$750,000 as of 1 January 2025.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Drive, 23/06/2025, Georgia Stynes

Interview with RANZCP president-elect Dr Angelo Virgona on new figures from the Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing confirming a critical and ongoing shortage of psychiatrists across Australia. Virgona says this crisis has been years in the making and is now reaching a breaking point. He adds that the newly released data clearly shows the scale of unmet demand for specialist mental health care.

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2MCE, 15:00 National Radio News, 23/06/2025

In the week to 19 June, 34 aged care residents died from COVID-19, more than double the previous week's total of 16, according to the Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing. Health authorities are urging those aged 65 and over to get a booster shot along with their initial vaccine doses.

Also reported by: [Curtin FM \(Perth\)](#).

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2MCE, 11:00 National Radio News, 23/06/2025

Regular Segment: Wellbeing with University of Newcastle Centre for Women's Health Research director Prof Deborah Loxton discussing a long-running national study that aims to improve women's health policy and research. Loxton says the Federal Department of Health funded the study following a tender won by University of Newcastle academics. She adds that the program's long-standing government support shows its value in shaping women's health policy.

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VACCINES

How to stay healthy this winter

Star Weekly, Other, 23/06/2025

You don't seem to hear all that much about COVID-19 these days, but that doesn't mean it's yesterday's problem. Indeed, early in June Victoria's Chief Health Officer, Dr Evelyn Wong, put out a statement revealing that the increase in COVID-19 cases between April and May this year was 2.5 times higher than the same time last year.

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ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 23/06/2025, Manny Tsigas

AMA WA departing president Dr Michael Page says childhood immunisation rates in the state are falling and recent public health campaigns have failed. He warns that diseases like measles, diphtheria, and whooping cough will return if vaccination is not prioritised by the government.

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 23/06/2025, Kylie Baxter

Interview with public health specialist Dr Shannon Melody on the current spike in respiratory illnesses across Tas, including flu, RSV, and COVID-19. Melody says around 60% of adults aged 65 and over have received a flu vaccine, with hopes that will rise to the high 60s by season's end. She says vaccination coverage for young children is only about 20%, which is too low given how serious the flu can be for that age group.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 23/06/2025, Chris Bath & Dom Knight

NSW health officials say respiratory infections are increasing, with early RSV cases now joined by a rise in COVID-19 and flu. NSW Health Director of Health Protection Dr Jeremy McAnulty urges people to stay up to date with vaccinations for the best protection.

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Radio National, Life Matters, 23/06/2025, Hilary Harper & Beverley Wang

NSW Health is urging people to make sure their vaccinations are up to date with three separate diseases hitting the population this winter. They say RSV arrived earlier and now cases of the flu and COVID are on the rise.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Emotional intelligence should matter when hiring

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 23/06/2025, Joshua Dean

In aged care, technical qualifications often dominate the hiring process. Years of experience, certifications, and procedural knowledge are heavily weighted, and rightly so. But what is often underappreciated is the emotional labour that comes with the role.

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Symptoms of depression, anxiety high in seniors

Community Care Review, Other, 23/06/2025

The Silverchain Foundation, an initiative of the Western Australian home care provider Silverchain Group, is calling for more attention to be given to older people's mental health. Silverchain director of research discovery and clinical psychologist Adjunct Professor Tanya Davison said there was a significant mental health care gap in Australia's aged care system.

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Fostering a culture of blame: The unintended consequences of SIRS

HelloCare, Other, 23/06/2025, Jakob Neeland

Australia stands at the precipice of an aged care crisis that threatens to overwhelm the sector's capacity to provide safe, quality care. The numbers paint a sobering picture: Australia's workforce shortage in aged care is likely to reach 110,000 by 2030, while the number of Australians over 80 and the complexity of their clinical needs, is projected to grow exponentially.

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7,200 new retirement units over three years fall short of demand: PwC/Property Council Retirement Living Census

The Weekly Source, Other, 23/06/2025, Ian Horswill

In February, Retirement Living Council Executive Director Daniel Gannon emphasised that between

now and 2030, 67,000 retirement homes are needed to meet current demand from older Australians – yet only 18,000 are planned. He noted that these homes would account for 6% of the national 1.2 million new homes target, highlighting retirement communities' key role in addressing Australia's housing supply challenge.

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Top chef's surprising career move could change what seniors eat forever

Your Life Choices, Other, 23/06/2025, Lexanne Garcia

If you've ever grumbled about the bland, uninspired meals often served in aged care, you're not alone. But what if we told you that a former airline chef—someone used to plating up five-star meals at 30,000 feet—is now on a mission to transform the dining experience for older Australians?

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DISABILITY

States shun Qld push on GST-NDIS link

Australian Financial Review, General News, 24/06/2025, Paul Karp, Page 1

The Victorian and West Australian premiers have rejected an attempt by the Queensland treasurer to use negotiations over funding for the National Disability Insurance Scheme as leverage.

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Unsustainable and dangerous

Canberra Times, General News, 24/06/2025, Michelle Oliver, Page 16

If you have someone in your life who works in allied health, especially within the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), please check they are OK. Because right now, many of us are not. This past week, the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) released its latest pricing review, and quite frankly, it is disgraceful.

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NDIS shake-up could have terrible impact for regional patients

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 24/06/2025, Jarrod Tutbury & Kyle Rode, Page 6

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. The maximum price allied health professionals like physiotherapists, speech pathologists and podiatrists can charge NDIS participants will be frozen or slashed from July 1, in the most significant effort to curb costs of the \$50bn a year scheme since major reforms were passed last year.

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NDIS pricing changes 'incredibly cruel' says remote mobile therapy provider

ABC Online, Other, 23/06/2025

Allowance cuts to the National Disability Insurance Scheme could see therapists forced to cancel their programs or charge clients more, according to a regional physiotherapist. The NDIS released its annual pricing review last week, revealing a reduction in the hourly rate for certain allied health therapies from July 1.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Metcash calls for action on gangs as tobacco fizzles

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 24/06/2025, Carrie Lafrenz, Page 17

Metcash chief executive Doug Jones has urged governments and law enforcement agencies to crack down on organised crime after the grocery wholesaler reported a sharp drop in tobacco sales due to the growth in illegal trade.

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\$13 smokes burn Metcash's sales

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 24/06/2025, Anthony Macdonald, Page 24

A few weeks ago, Metcash boss Doug Jones bought a pack of Marlboro-branded cigarettes from a tobacconist on Sydney's north shore. He paid \$13.

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

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Taste.com.au dinner heroes survey reveals Aussies too tired to cook

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/06/2025

Move over cost of living – there's one thing keeping us out of the kitchen more than the price of groceries. The simple truth is: We are just too tired to cook.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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Channel 10, The Project, 23/06/2025, Sarah Harris, Steve Price, Waleed Aly & Sam Taunton

New research suggests a diabetes and obesity drug in pill form may work better than similar injectable treatments like Ozempic. The company behind the drug plans to seek approval to sell it in Australia.

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ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 23/06/2025, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Mitsopoulos is joined by Radio National's Health Report and What's That Rash? podcast host Dr Norman Swan. Swan discusses Ozempic, explaining that oral semaglutide has already been approved in Australia for diabetes since 2022. He points out that although effective, it may not match the effectiveness of the injectable version. He adds that there is some early evidence of more side effects with the pill than the injection, noting this may be due to how the pill is processed in the body.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Heart checks big failure

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 24/06/2025, Page 3

Half of Australians are unaware that heart failure (HF) can be detected early with a stethoscope check or simple blood test, which is now available for free under the Medicare Benefits Scheme. HF is a growing health crisis, costing Australia \$3.1bn annually, with 67,000 new diagnoses every year.

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

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Glucose thresholds to be raised for diagnosis of gestational diabetes amid overdiagnosis

The Australian, Other, 23/06/2025, Natasha Robinson

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.

The Australasian Diabetes in Pregnancy Society on Monday is releasing its latest update to national gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) diagnosis guidelines, recommending higher glucose thresholds for diagnosis and updated guidance for early pregnancy screening for women with risk factors for diabetes in pregnancy.

[Read More](#)

Why the worried well are paying \$3500 for these scans

Australian Financial Review, Other, 23/06/2025, Euan Black

Rebecca Keen felt like she'd "won the lotto" when a full-body MRI scan detected an irregular brain aneurysm before it ruptured.

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Why some pain lingers: Brain's 'braking system' fails chronic pain sufferers

The New Daily, Other, 23/06/2025, Coco Veldkamp

Why does a paper cut hurt for a moment, but a bad knee can ache for years? A news study suggests the answer lies deep in the brainstem — and may lead to better treatments for the millions living with chronic pain.

[Read More](#)

Public doctors demand hard medicine on slow oncology times

The Mandarin, Other, 23/06/2025, Julian Bajkowski

It's exactly the sort of story you don't need the weekend before a budget... unless you actually do. Salaried doctors in New South Wales have again rounded on the state's health minister, treasurer and premier over procedural delays between diagnosis of illness, specifically cancer, and the intervening time to oncological procedures after a stinging investigation by the Sydney Morning Herald.

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Get ready for the National Lung Cancer Screening Program

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 23/06/2025

In Australia, lung cancer is the fifth most common cancer diagnosed and the leading cause of cancer death. Up to 70% of lung cancers can be detected at early stages through screening. The National Lung Cancer Screening Program is a screening program using low-dose CT scans to look for lung cancer in high-risk people without any symptoms. It aims to find lung cancer early and save lives.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 23/06/2025, Kylie Baxter

Interview with Migraine Australia founder Raphaella Crosby on the available migraine treatments in Australia. Crosby says there are several old and new drugs available to treat migraines, though only a few of the newer ones are on the PBS. She adds that while the new CGRP drugs are effective, they are only available on the PBS for those severely affected by migraines.

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FIVEAA, Afternoons, 23/06/2025, Leith Forrest

Interview with Cancer Council SA senior manager of prevention Christine Morris on the link between cancer and alcohol. Morris explains that research shows over 60% of people are unaware that alcohol is a key risk factor for cancer. She adds that their campaign encourages people to reduce their alcohol intake to lower their cancer risk.

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

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Diagnosis for my hellish stay in hospital? Labor's broken promises

The Australian, General News, 24/06/2025, Will Seitam, Page 8

In the days leading up to another bowel cancer operation at Blacktown Hospital in western Sydney this month, Therese Ryan-Argaet said her final goodbyes to friends and family, likening her previous experiences at the facility to something one would expect in a "third-world country". Ryan-Argaet says she was "absolutely petrified" at the thought of returning to the hospital after having waited for 14 hours in the emergency department during one visit and on another occasion for 17 hours in a waiting room after surgery.

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

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Red tape is a brake on growth

The Australian, Editorials, 24/06/2025, Page 10

While it will be limited to about 25 participants to fit in the cabinet room at Parliament House in Canberra, the Albanese government's productivity roundtable has begun to generate practical, worthwhile proposals that warrant consideration. In a submission ahead of the summit, the Australian Industry Group pointed out in Monday's paper that businesses were being hit with more than 100 federal and state government taxes and levies, making their effective tax rate the second highest among OECD countries behind only Colombia.

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

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Hospital board must not ignore judge's trans case findings

The Australian, General News, 24/06/2025, Patrick Parkinson, Page 11

Justice Andrew Strum, who recently decided the case of Re Devin, was so concerned about the evidence he heard from a clinician at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne he prohibited a mother from taking her son back to its gender service unless the father agreed. Justice Strum also considered it in the public interest to name one of the experts, the hospital's chief of medicine, Michelle Telfer, who has been Australia's foremost leader in promoting what some call "gender-affirming care".

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AI start-up scores \$6.3m to save hospitals

The Australian, Technology, 24/06/2025, Page 20

Artificial intelligence presents an opportunity to help ease Australia's private hospital funding crisis by automating expensive administrative tasks so that doctors, nurses and other health professionals can spend more time caring for patients. That's the diagnosis from Australian venture capital outfit Square Peg, which led a \$6.3m seed run for NexusMD a Melbourne-based AI start-up that has created a suite of customised agents for hospitals.

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Do we blind ourselves to these avoidable tragedies

Herald Sun, General News, 24/06/2025, Shannon Deery, Page 19

There's a sad new reality in Victoria death no longer matters. We've lost our sense of what's acceptable and grown dangerously used to a system where the promise of help is no longer a guarantee.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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AI could ease the load in hospital

Herald Sun, Business News, 24/06/2025, Jared Lynch, Page 20

Artificial intelligence presents an opportunity to help ease Australia's private hospital funding crisis, automating expensive administrative tasks so doctors, nurses and other health professionals can spend more time caring for patients. That's the diagnosis from Australian venture capital outfit Square

Peg, which has led a \$6.3m seed run for NexusMD a Melbournebased AI start-up that has created a suite of customised agents for hospitals.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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Hospitals hide crisis

Courier Mail, General News, 24/06/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 1

Mental health patients are being medically sedated while waiting for a ward bed and patient data is being manipulated to hide the true extent of Queensland's hospital bed block crisis, according to shock claims by frontline nurses. The allegations by nearly 100 nurses at Gladstone and Rockhampton hospitals has sparked calls for an independent inquiry.

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

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Today's ACT budget: what we know so far

Canberra Times, General News, 24/06/2025, Lanie Tindale, Page 4

Treasurer Chris Steel is set to hand down the ACT budget today. [...] The ACT's public health sector has already had a \$226 million boost due to increased demand. There was \$2.6 billion allocated to healthcare in the 2024-25 budget, making it the territory's biggest area of spending.

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\$83m budget baby boost

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 24/06/2025, Nadine Morton, Page 1

Following thousands of complaints about traumatic births, many of them at Wollongong Hospital, the state government has pledged to fix the sector. An \$83m funding boost, to be officially announced in the state budget today, will go to maternity care, new midwives, family care centres and vaccinations.

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

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Cloak on cost of new coat of arms

Cairns Post, General News, 24/06/2025, Taylah Fellows, Page 7

Premier David Crisafulli has flatly refused to reveal how much the state government spent on changing the colour of the Queensland coat of arms from maroon to blue, saying he would not play "silly games". [...] Mr Crisafulli, flanked by Treasurer David Janetzki and Health Minister Tim Nicholls on Sunday fronted media in Ipswich to condemn the former government for failing to include a \$638m operating budget for the Mater Hospital Springfield.

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What we already know about this year's NSW budget

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 23/06/2025, Penry Buckley

When the Minns government hands down its third state budget on June 24, it's likely to follow the fiscal restraint of the first two. [...] The government will invest \$23 million to reduce the number of planned surgeries waiting longer than clinically recommended, enabling an estimated 3500 additional surgeries to be completed over the next year.

[Read More](#)

NICU nurses rally over patient safety, reports of babies being treated in corridors

9News, Other, 23/06/2025, Josh Hohne

Nurses in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Sydney's Westmead Hospital went on strike today over concerns about patient safety and staffing levels. The NSW Nurses and Midwives Association (NSWNMA) is calling on the Health Minister to intervene because of "overcrowding" and lack of staff.

Queensland government to spend more than \$33 billion on public health next year

ABC Online, Other, 23/06/2025, Alex Brewster

The Queensland government will invest more than \$33 billion in the public health system next financial year, the ABC can reveal. Treasurer David Janetzki will make the record funding announcement on Tuesday afternoon when he hands down the first state budget since the LNP's election win in October.

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Mother of seven-month-old who died after nine-hour wait at Royal Darwin Hospital sues for negligence

ABC Online, Other, 23/06/2025, Jason Walls

The mother of a seven-month-old baby who died at Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH) after waiting more than nine hours to be seen by a doctor is suing the hospital for negligence. Lexie Mae Nowland died from a cardiac arrest at RDH in March 2022 after returning to the Northern Territory from Melbourne, where she received multiple heart surgeries at the Royal Children's Hospital.

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Ambulance Union says people seeking care should consider their need for an ambulance due to Monday night's strained workload

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 23/06/2025, Shannon Deery

Paramedics are bracing for a busy night amid crew shortages and overrun hospitals warning they are out of beds. Leaked ambulance data shows more than 25 crews are off the road across metropolitan Melbourne on Monday night because of staff shortages.

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

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ADHD diagnosis - UOW student says the pain can be in the process

Newcastle Herald, Other, 23/06/2025, Kathy Sharpe

Some mornings university student Jaclynn Culham has to break down basic tasks into tiny steps simply to get going for the day. "On bad days, it's awful, it's just awful," Jaclynn, who has been diagnosed with ADHD said.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Regional after-hours GP service to continue

Shepparton News Online, Other, 23/06/2025, Jemma Jones

An experimental health service, aimed at keeping care local and easing loads on emergency departments, has seen positive results. Kyabram District Health Service's after-hours primary care clinic will extend its stay in Kyabram an extra 12 months following a successful three-month trial period.

[Read More](#)

AdPha welcomes WA health boost

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 23/06/2025

Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has welcomed the WA Government's \$829 million boost to public hospital funding as part of the record \$1.4 billion health investment in the 2025-26 WA Budget, but warned that infrastructure alone is not enough. With pharmacists and technicians essential to multidisciplinary care teams, AdPha President Tom Simpson (pictured) said the Government's additional \$3.

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Tasmania backs GPs to treat ADHD

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 23/06/2025

Tasmania could soon become the latest state to expand GPs' involvement in treating attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). On Saturday, Premier Jeremy Rockliff announced the Liberal Party, if re-elected at next month's State Election, will enable Tasmanian GPs to diagnose, treat and manage ADHD for children and adults in a bid to reduce waiting lists for paediatricians and psychiatrists.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 23/06/2025, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with WA AMA president Dr Michael Page on public health issues in Australia. Page says the public hospital system is in a rolling crisis and falling short of meeting demand. He also says that preventable illness places significant pressure on hospital systems, especially from respiratory diseases like influenza and COVID-19. He says that expanding hospital capacity remains important, but investing more in preventative measures such as vaccination would reduce hospital admissions, ramping, and staff burnout.

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

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ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 23/06/2025, Chris Bath & Dom Knight

Interview with UNSW School of Population Health senior lecturer Dr Padmanesan Narasimhan on a trial in South Western Sydney using AI to help hospital patients communicate across language barriers. Narasimhan says the project is currently using Arabic as the test language because of its varied dialects and symptom descriptions. He says the aim is to develop an ethical and accurate AI model that performs at a near-human level.

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

[Play Now](#)

FIVEAA, Afternoons, 23/06/2025, Leith Forrest

Forrest is joined by 7NEWS presenter Mike Smithson. Forrest asks whether the ongoing issue of hospital ramping is being ignored while attention shifts to positive announcements. Smithson says the government likely admits it cannot fix ramping and argues the Opposition wouldn't be able to either. He adds that aged care is the main blockage, with hospitals needing more aged care beds to ease pressure.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Burnt-out Aussies set to retreat into luxury

Hobart Mercury, General News, 24/06/2025, Sara Quinn, Page 8

Luxury health retreats are increasingly seeing Australians — from executives to struggling parents — seeking help not for mental health conditions, but due to crippling burnout. Exhausted mums and even high-flying young professionals are forking out between \$6000 and \$25,000 to detox from their phones, eat healthy meals, meditate and do music therapy at retreats across Australia.

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

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Teens are drowning without mental health support

Burnie Advocate, General News, 24/06/2025, Tess Kelly, Page 3

Some of the region's youngest mental health advocates have expressed their concern that young people on the Coast are "drowning" without support. "It's really hard," Hellyer College student Claire

Davison said when asked what it's like to be a teenager at the moment.

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Anxious state now normal for women

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 24/06/2025, Page 4

A depressed, anxious state is the "new normal" for half of Australian women. Low self-esteem (50 per cent), financial pressures (45 per cent), low self-worth (42 per cent) and sleep deprivation (40 per cent) are the leading triggers for these mental health problems in women aged 18 to 70, a Liptember Foundation report reveals.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Nurses rally over ill bubs 'parked in storeroom'

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 24/06/2025, Farid Farid, Page 10

Nurses and parents of premature babies are battling to find space in a tight intensive care unit, using a former storeroom at one of Australia's busiest hospitals. About 80 nurses at Westmead Hospital supported their overworked colleagues from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in western Sydney by walking out yesterday at lunchtime.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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

Heartbreak led Dubbo nurse to new, positive steps

Daily Liberal, General News, 24/06/2025, Dane Wilson, Page 3

When Fiorina Gibbons lost her sister to lung cancer, she was left hurt and having to come to terms with the confusion and lack of support for regional health in NSW. Now, the 51-year-old Dubbo-based clinical nurse has been presented with a massive scholarship opportunity, through which she will continue to make a huge difference to the way regional patients have their medical information accurately conveyed to them.

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

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

Channel 7, Seven News, 23/06/2025, Angie Asimus & Michael Usher

Neonatal nurses at Westmead Children's Hospital walk off the job to protest overcrowded conditions they say risk infant safety. NSW Health denies claims of storeroom treatment and plans to meet with nurses this week.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 23/06/2025, Peter Overton

Nurses in Westmead's neonatal intensive care unit protest staff shortages and overcrowding, warning patient safety is at risk. Health Minister Ryan Park agrees to meet with the nurses and their representatives following the demonstration.

Report continues on: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Fatal risks in Aussie freebirth boom

The Nightly, General News, 23/06/2025, Kristin Shorten, Page 13

A leading obstetrician is warning that Australia is "going backwards" as women continue to give birth without any medical support, despite the high level of risk and a spate of fatal outcomes. [...] Freebirths are distinct from home births, which require the attendance of two midwives who are registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Rise in HIV cases are a Grim reminder

Newcastle Herald, General News, 24/06/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

A rise in HIV cases in the Hunter New England health district has sparked calls for more support for those living with the virus. Newcastle's Serena Jacobs said those affected "need to know they are not alone and there is support".

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SPORT

Women's sport cuts anger

Herald Sun, General News, 24/06/2025, Jordan McCarthy, Page 13

Politicians, women's organisations and grassroots female athletes are teaming up to protest the axing of two key programs that help girls and women participate in sports and tackle gender-based violence. Animal Justice Party MP Georgie Purcell, Women's Sports Australia director Tamatha Harding and members of the Kyneton Women's Football Club launched a petition on Thursday demanding the reinstatement of the programs.

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Pulling no punches over 'blood sport' ruling

West Australian, General News, 24/06/2025, Jessica Page, Page 14

A stoush over bare-knuckle fighting in Australia looks set for another round, with promoters of the cancelled Perth bout declaring they were "blindsided" by the decision. In a statement on Monday, Bare

Knuckle Fighting Championship Australia declared it is seeking clarification after the Combat Sports Commission declined a permit almost three weeks ago.

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

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

Salt 106.5, The Morning Wake-up with Jordana, 23/06/2025, Jordana Brown

The Federal Government has announced over \$2 million funding boost to the 2026 Australian Paralympic Winter Team. Federal Minister for Sport Anika Wells says the funding is part of the Government's ongoing commitment to provide certainty and opportunity for Australian Paralympians to succeed.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Boost for diabetes research

West Australian, General News, 24/06/2025, Page 14

A study on insulin resistance in people with type 2 diabetes has received a crucial funding boost. The University of WA study is investigating the use of a drug called PGP-011 which blocks the production of a specific enzyme which interferes with the production of insulin.

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

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Tryptamine gets green light for world-first IV-infused psilocin binge eating disorder trial

The Australian, Other, 23/06/2025

Tryptamine Therapeutics (ASX:TYP) said the open-label trial in collaboration with Swinburne University would assess the safety, efficacy and dosing flexibility of TRP-8803 when administered in concert with psychotherapy for adult patients with BED. The trial will dose 12 participants suffering from BED in two patient cohorts with each being administered two doses of TRP-8803 14 days apart in a monitored setting.

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

[Read More](#)

New study reveals dementia risk linked to surprisingly low alcohol intake

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/06/2025, Eleanor Wicklund

A new study published in the journal Neurology has found that drinking alcohol, even in relatively moderate amounts, significantly increases the risk of dementia and other serious health conditions. The research, conducted in Brazil, analysed data from autopsies of 1781 people, shedding light on the long-term effects of alcohol on brain health.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Innovate UTAS pharmacy research offering hope on reducing antidepressant withdrawals

The Mercury, Other, 23/06/2025, Duncan Abey

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. School of Pharmacy and Pharmacology lead researcher Natalie Cooper said formulations to

convert eleven of Australia's most prescribed antidepressants into liquid form would overcome the need to crush or dissolve pills, and offer consumers a safer and less traumatic path to dosage reduction.

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

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Watchdog defends Indigenous staffing gap

The Australian, General News, 24/06/2025, James Dowling, Page 8

NSW's dedicated healthcare regulator has only one openly Indigenous employee in its 140strong workforce, and is facing accusations of community mistrust and lagging support for the state's most vulnerable patient groups. In its last annual report, the Healthcare Complaints Commission reported its Indigenous representation sat at 0.8 per cent internally.

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

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Tears shed over First Nations comments

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 24/06/2025, Jessica Greenan, Page 7

Moyne Shire councillors have been accused of blindsiding their colleagues after "grandstanding" on First Nations matters at a public meeting. Councillors were discussing adopting the organisation's 2025-2029 Council Plan at a monthly meeting on Monday, June 23, 2025, when councillor Susan Taylor foreshadowed a motion to "remove all reference to traditional owners and strategic plan and its intended actions".

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

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QAIHC calls for Queensland reset following Closing the Gap review

National Indigenous Times, Other, 23/06/2025, Joseph Guenzler

The Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC) is calling for immediate reform and genuine partnership with government after an independent review found the National Agreement on Closing the Gap is failing to deliver on its commitments. Gunggandji woman and QAIHC Chief Executive, Paula Arnol, said the findings confirmed long-held concerns from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities that governments are falling short of meaningful change.

[Read More](#)

Governments are leaving 'heavy lifting' on Closing the Gap to underresourced Aboriginal groups, review finds

The Guardian, Other, 23/06/2025, Sarah Collard

Australian governments are failing to do "the heavy lifting" needed to address entrenched disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, an independent review of the national Closing the Gap strategy has found. [...] "If we look at health alone, less than half [Indigenous peoples] use community-controlled health services. The majority use mainstream or public services.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Whooping concern

An infectious disease which "disproportionately" impacts young children and babies is eight times higher than expected this year across the Territory. In an alarming surveillance report from NT Health, there have been 50 cases of pertussis an infectious disease also known as whooping cough and characterised by its distinctive cough diagnosed in the NT.

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Measles alert for visitors to Wagga, Griffith, and Leeton hospitals

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 23/06/2025, Allan Wilson

Those who attended Wagga, Griffith or Leeton hospitals in early June are being advised to be on the lookout for signs of measles. The Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) is urging community members to be alert for signs and symptoms following a confirmed case who was infectious while visiting locations in the region.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

News Corp sued over cannabis adverts

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 24/06/2025, Calum Jaspan, Page 13

Mia Freedman's media company Mamamia and News Corp's magazine division are being sued by the therapeutic goods federal watchdog, accused of unlawfully advertising medicinal cannabis. The case, brought by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in the Federal Court, alleges Mamamia and the News Corp Australia-owned publisher of Body + Soul magazine ran articles unlawfully promoting medicinal cannabis products from alternativemedicine website and dispensary Atlus in 2022 and 2023 following a marketing campaign.

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

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New diabetes pills to rival Ozempic a step closer after trials

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 24/06/2025, Page 8

Game-changing diabetes pills could hit Australian shelves within years, offering an alternative to popular injectable treatments like Ozempic that have been plagued with supply issues. [...] He expected approval from the Therapeutic Goods Administration would be "reasonably straightforward" once it receives an application by drug developer Eli Lilly, which also makes Mounjaro.

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

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Rival for Ozempic

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 24/06/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 10

The first diabetes and obesity pill that is similar to Ozempic but in tablet form may actually outperform the popular injectables drugs. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration was contacted for comment.

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Greater inclusion for gender and sexually diverse people in Australian blood donation rules

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 23/06/2025, Clinton Fildes

Australia's blood supply is reliant on the kindness of strangers to give up their time (and blood). Nurses and midwives would be familiar with giving blood for a wide variety of reasons including but not limited to acute blood loss, severe anaemia, coagulopathy, and haemolytic complications. [...] Recently, with the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) approval, the Australian Red Cross' Lifeblood has changed the gender-based sexual activity rules to mean that from July 14, 2025, most people will be able to donate plasma without a wait period.

[Read More](#)

TGA acts on unlawful med cannabis ads

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 23/06/2025

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has commenced proceedings in the Federal Court of Australia against Atlus, Mamamia, News Life Media and Straight Up PR over alleged unlawful advertising of medicinal cannabis. The TGA alleges that Atlus unlawfully advertised medicinal cannabis on its website and social media pages, including via a range of euphemisms, such as 'plant medicine'.

Also reported by: [Pharmacy Daily \(None\)](#)

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 23/06/2025, Susannah Carr & Rick Ardon

The shortage of ADHD medication is expected to continue until at least the end of the year. The Therapeutic Goods Administration says alternatives exist, but some may not be subsidised under the PBS.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 23/06/2025, Chris Bath & Dom Knight

Interview with Diabetes Australia chief medical officer Prof David Simmons on a new once-a-day type 2 diabetes pill that replaces injections. Simmons says that the current results come from phase three clinical trials, with further studies still needed. Once more data is collected, the manufacturer will apply to the Therapeutic Goods Administration for approval to use the drug in Australia.

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

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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FOOD STANDARDS

Brighton Bakery: Award-winning Scarborough bakery hit with massive fine over food health and safety breaches

7news.com.au, Other, 23/06/2025, Sarah Steger

A popular northern suburbs bakery once crowned for serving the best meat pie in WA has been fined \$100,000 over serious food safety breaches. Scarborough's Brighton Bakery is known for baking award-winning pastries, but environmental health officers found something far less-appetising inside the popular family-run business last July.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC National News, 23/06/2025, Lorna Dunkley

Food Standards Australia New Zealand approves lab-grown meat for sale, declaring it safe to eat. The product could appear on Australian menus within months.

Also reported by: [ABC \(Sydney\)](#)

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Calls for support as Latrobe Valley power workers continue to die from asbestos exposure

ABC Online, Other, 23/06/2025, Danielle Pope

Like many men of his generation, Mick Tomkins does not like to make a fuss. The 73-year-old enjoys meeting up with a group of mates to swim at the nearby Traralgon pool most mornings, before a coffee and a chat about the footy.

[Read More](#)

Plutonium levels at nuclear test site in WA up to 4,500 times higher than rest of coast, study finds

The Guardian, Other, 23/06/2025, Graham Readfearn

Samples of marine sediment taken from the location of three 1950s British government nuclear bomb tests off the coast of Western Australia have revealed plutonium levels up to 4,500 times higher than the rest of the coastline. Sixty six samples were taken from the shallow waters at the Montebello Islands, and scientists are now working to understand how marine life may be being affected by the sediment.

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