



Australian Government  
Department of Health,  
Disability and Ageing

# TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 26th June 2025

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Australian Financial Review](#) (page 6) reports that federal Health Minister Mark Butler has said a decision by the ACT Labor government to levy a public hospital tax on Canberra households should be viewed as separate from the Commonwealth, which, he says, has boosted funding for the territory's hospital system by 16 per cent.
- [The Age](#) (page 1) reports that a cyberattack has leaked sensitive health information and private details belonging to patients of a cardiologist who works at the Epworth and Royal Melbourne hospitals, alongside running a private clinic.
- The [Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 1) reports that South Australian Premier Peter Malinauskas has warned the state's finances could be at risk if it agrees to a demand by 500 public hospital doctors for a 30 per cent pay rise over three years.
- [ABC News](#) reports that federal Health Minister Mark Butler has said the future of the NDIS is secure by a new arrangement commencing on July 1, which will see Western Australia pay fixed up-front funding contributions to the scheme each year.
- The [Courier Mail](#) (page 3) reports that Health and Wellbeing Queensland CEO Dr Robyn Littlewood has said increasing rates of obesity and chronic diseases in the state could lead to a

generation of children dying earlier than their parents, with the median age of death in Brisbane falling to 82.

- The **Courier Mail** (page 4) reports that the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) Queensland has called on the LNP government to invest the “substantial” funds raised from the mental health levy into Queensland’s mental health workforce.
- The **Herald Sun** (page 9) reports that a new US-led study has revealed Australia was ranked the seventh-lowest among 36 “high-income” countries across the globe for vaccine coverage among children in 2023, and comes as the nation faces an outbreak of measles cases in 2025.
- The **Courier Mail** (page 23) reports that The Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital is set to offer a revolutionary treatment for recurrent prostate cancer, called the NanoKnife procedure, for the first time at a public hospital in Australia.
- **The Guardian** reports that a new survey from Mission Australia has revealed the mental health outcomes of teenagers who use social media between one and three hours a day is equal to or better than teenagers who spend less time on social media, with peak mental health bodies suggesting moderation was the key.
- **ABC News** reports that First Nations justice advocates and experts are set to convene in Alice Springs on Thursday to discuss alternatives to incarceration, and comes as new data from the Productivity Commission revealed Australia was not on track to meet targets outlined in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

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## MINISTER BUTLER

### PM and mate face high-taxing nightmare

The Australian, General News, 26/06/2025, Geoff Chambers, Page 4

Australians are bleeding from higher taxes constructed to pay for the lack of courage displayed by big-spending territory, state and federal leaders whose budgets are drowning in debt and deficit. [...] Asked on Wednesday whether the ACT government’s \$250 health levy was proof Labor and not the Coalition had violated the principle of universal healthcare, federal Health Minister Mark Butler said: “At the end of the day, that government is accountable to the burghers of the ACT for decisions they take in their budget”.

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

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### Hospital tax wrecks Labor health claims: Libs

Australian Financial Review, General News, 26/06/2025, Phillip Coorey, Page 6

Health Minister Mark Butler has distanced himself from a decision by the ACT Labor government to levy a public hospital tax on Canberra households.

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

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### Health insurers dodge intervention over hospital funding

Australian Financial Review, General News, 26/06/2025, Michael Smith, Page 8

Health Minister Mark Butler’s announcement came ahead of a meeting on Thursday between federal health department secretary Blair Comley and the chief executives of Australia’s biggest private hospitals.

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

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### A black market against our name: Australia now one of world's worst

Daily Telegraph, General News, 26/06/2025, James Willis, Page 10

A global tobacco executive believes Australia has one of the worst illicit black markets in the world. [...]

Health Minister Mark Butler recently argued "most countries that have lower-priced cigarettes also have burgeoning black market cigarettes".

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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

## ACT cops federal flak over 'outrageous' \$250 health levy

Canberra Times, General News, 26/06/2025, Eleanor Campbell, Page 7

Health Minister Mark Butler has declined to back ACT Labor's decision to impose a \$250 health tax on Canberra ratepayers, while rejecting the Barr government's claims the levy was needed because the Albanese government did not adequately fund public hospitals. "Each government ... will decide the way in which they raise funds," Mr Butler told reporters in Canberra on Wednesday. "At the end of the day, that government is accountable to the burghers of the ACT for decisions they take in their budget."

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## Request for hospital documents shot down

Border Mail, General News, 26/06/2025, Anthony Bunn, Page 3

An inner Sydney politician has hindered the release of NSW government documents tied to the redevelopment of Albury hospital. [...] Correspondence sent or received by federal Health Minister Mark Butler, Commonwealth Treasurer Jim Chalmers, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Victorian Health Minister MaryAnne Thomas is also wanted.

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

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## The straw that Will break the camel? s back'

Burnie Advocate, General News, 26/06/2025, Sarah Fittock , Page 1

Six-year-old Lawson Troughton , who was born at just 24 weeks, has scholastic quadriplegia cerebral palsy and relies on the help of therapists. [...] Braddon Labor MHR Anne Urquhart said she spoke with National Disability Insurance Scheme Minister Mark Butler on Tuesday, June 24 and sought "a briefing from the NDIA".

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

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

## WA signs up for full NDIS coverage after being an outlier state

West Australian, Other, 25/06/2025, Caitlyn Rintoul

WA has signed up to the full coverage of the National Disability Insurance Scheme after being an outlier state. Federal health minister Mark Butler said WA's commitment to a bilateral agreement with the Commonwealth gave West Aussies confidence they would be supported into the future.

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

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## The ACT government's new \$250 health 'tax' a hard sell to Canberrans stuck on surgery wait lists

ABC Online, Other, 25/06/2025, Emmy Groves

In selling yesterday's budget, Treasurer Chris Steel suggested the Commonwealth government was partly to blame for the territory's need to introduce the \$250 levy. [...] But Federal Health Minister Mark Butler did not share Mr Steel's view.

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

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## The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is changing in WA. What can people expect?

ABC Online, Other, 25/06/2025, Jacqueline Lynch & Dominique Bayens

Big changes to the way the almost \$50 billion National Disability Insurance Scheme works in Western

Australia are on the way. [...] NDIS Minister Mark Butler said the new arrangement meant its future is secure, and those who access it will continue to receive support.

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

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## **'Transformational': cystic fibrosis drug price slashed**

Central Western Daily, Other, 25/06/2025, Tess Ikononou

People living with rarer types of cystic fibrosis will pay a fraction of the price to access life-changing treatment under an expansion of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the cost of the more effective treatment was an "impossible price" for most people.

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## **Rural Australians still suffering**

Murray Pioneer, Other, 25/06/2025

The latest release of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) data tables on Potentially preventable hospitalisations (PPH) in Australia by small geographic areas endorses the National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) evidence showing rural communities are hospitalised at higher rates for preventable illness compared to people living in major cities. [...] We know the Minister for Health, Ageing and Disability Mark Butler understands the paradox of remote Australia's great economic contribution, and yet worse health outcomes.

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## **New federal MP: Ready to work hard in ambitious agenda**

New Norfolk News, Other, 26/06/2025, Rebecca White

Firstly, can I please say thank you to the huge number of people who put their trust in me and believed in the plan Labor set out for the direction of our country during the recent federal election. [...] As Assistant Minister, I will work to support the efforts of the Minister for Health, Mark Butler, and the Minister for Women, Katy Gallagher, as we implement our agenda from the election, including a record investment in Medicare to expand bulk billing to make more doctor appointments free, as well as continue the good work that started over the last three years.

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## **QLD government ask public to share views on puberty blockers**

Q News, Other, 25/06/2025, Dean Arcuri

The Queensland government are seeking submissions from the public on their review of puberty blockers and gender-affirming care. [...] Federal Health Minister, Mark Butler, urged the Queensland government to suspend their state review and leave it to the NHMRC.

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## **Australia lags behind US on childhood vaccinations**

Thenightly.com.au, Other, 25/06/2025, Nicola Smith

Australia had the sixth highest number of unvaccinated children among high-income countries in 2023, according to alarming new data released on Wednesday. [...] In a speech earlier this month to launch Australia's new National Immunisation Strategy, Health Minister Mark Butler praised the program's success so far in funding 31 vaccines against 18 diseases but acknowledged childhood vaccination rates "are trending in exactly the wrong direction and must be turned around."

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## **Mark Butler clarifies meaning of 'quick'PBS listings statement**

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 25/06/2025

Asked to clarify whether yesterday's reference to access to high-quality medicines "quickly", and whether it reflected a shift from his previously stated concerns over access delays, a spokesperson for the minister said it was specific to TRIKAFTA.

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## Private hospitals win boost as insurers lift payouts

The Medical Republic, Other, 25/06/2025, Amanda Shepheard

The federal government has intensified its focus on the financial sustainability and modernisation of Australia's private hospital sector, warning private health insurers that further inaction on benefit payments to hospitals could trigger regulatory intervention. [...] In a media conference earlier today, health minister Mark Butler underscored the pivotal role of private hospitals in the national health system, noting that approximately 70 per cent of elective surgeries and one in four births are carried out in private settings.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 25/06/2025, Max Futchter & Katrina Blowers

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says health insurers have been keeping more of the cash for themselves and paying less of it to the hospitals. It has forced the closure of 20 private hospitals and more than 70 services, including maternity and mental health care. The big health insurers have agreed to cough up more, from 80 cents for every dollar paid in premiums to 87 cents, still below the 88 per cent benchmark.

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## Channel 7, Seven News WA at 4pm, 25/06/2025, Samantha Jolly

The big private health insurers have agreed to pay hospitals more after the federal government demanded a lift in benefits to prevent more private hospitals from shutting down. "We will continue to monitor this closely," Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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## Channel 7, Sunrise 5AM News, 25/06/2025, Edwina Bartholomew

Australians living with cystic fibrosis, including children with rare forms of the disease will soon have affordable access to life-changing treatment under a Government subsidy expansion. Health Minister Mark Butler says the drug is genuinely changing and extending the lives of Australian patients with cystic fibrosis, a condition that is incredibly debilitating and can often lead to early death. Without PBS support, the treatment would cost families more than \$250,000 a year.

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## SBS, World News Australia, 25/06/2025, Janice Petersen

Private health insurers have agreed to increase their contributions to private hospitals after the federal government threatened to take regulatory action. About 90 per cent of private health insurance revenue was paid out to private hospitals pre-COVID, with that number dropping since. Health Minister Mark Butler welcomed the sector's decision, warning insurers not to increase premiums to fund their loss in profit.

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## Triple J, 11:00 News, 25/06/2025

The Productivity Commission has reviewed Australia's Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement and found the objectives are too broad and there are funding gaps. The Commission says the plan must be overhauled and redesigned. Health Minister Mark Butler acknowledges there are issues and reform is needed.

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## ABC Radio Canberra, 14:00 News, 25/06/2025

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has defended the Commonwealth's investment in the ACT's public health system. Delivering his first budget yesterday, ACT Treasurer Chris Steel suggested the Commonwealth was partly to blame for the introduction of a \$250 health levy. Steel complained the federal contribution to the territory's health spend is expected to fall to 33 per cent next financial year, well behind an agreed target of 45 per cent by 2035.

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## ABC Radio Perth, 11:00 News, 25/06/2025

WA has joined the rest of Australia in signing up to the full NDIS Agreement and will pay fixed contributions from July. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says there are more than 62,000 NDIS participants in WA and the state's commitment to a bilateral agreement with the Commonwealth gives participants confidence they would be supported into the future.

Also reported by: [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#).

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## ABC Radio Sydney, 07:00 News, 25/06/2025

The Productivity Commission has reviewed Australia's Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement and found it's fundamentally flawed. The agreement sets out the commitments made by the Federal Government and State and Territory Governments to improve the mental health of all Australians. The Commission found the objectives are too broad and there are funding gaps. Health Minister Mark Butler acknowledges there are issues and reform is needed to get it right.

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

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## MINISTER WELLS

### High-performance environment: How resources help our athletes achieve their best

Paralympics Australia, Other, 25/06/2025, Hody Hong

The Federal Government's backing of Australia's Paralympic Winter Games campaign means the nation's best Para-athletes will have the technical, logistical and medical support they need to produce their best when it counts most. The Federal Minister for Sport, Anika Wells, visited a national camp for Australia's Para-alpine skiing and Para-snowboard squads in the NSW Snowy Mountains, where she announced \$2.068 million in additional funding directed specifically for the Milano Cortina 2026 campaign.

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## MINISTER MCALLISTER

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## MINISTER RAE

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Rural maternity in spotlight

The Land, General News, 26/06/2025, Elizabeth Anderson, Page 13

The number of babies born before arriving at hospital has tripled in parts of regional NSW this century, according to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data. [...] Federal Assistant Minister for Rural

and Regional Health, Emma McBride said the framework provided a set of guiding principles as government, health services and clinicians worked together to improve rural maternity services.

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

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

### New federal MP: Ready to work hard in ambitious agenda

New Norfolk News, Other, 26/06/2025, Rebecca White

Firstly, can I please say thank you to the huge number of people who put their trust in me and believed in the plan Labor set out for the direction of our country during the recent federal election. [...] As Assistant Minister, I will work to support the efforts of the Minister for Health, Mark Butler, and the Minister for Women, Katy Gallagher, as we implement our agenda from the election, including a record investment in Medicare to expand bulk billing to make more doctor appointments free, as well as continue the good work that started over the last three years.

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## DEPARTMENT

### Health insurers dodge intervention over hospital funding

Australian Financial Review, General News, 26/06/2025, Michael Smith, Page 8

Health Minister Mark Butler's announcement came ahead of a meeting on Thursday between federal health department secretary Blair Comley and the chief executives of Australia's biggest private hospitals.

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

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### Council budget adopted

Gippsland Times & Maffra Spectator, General News, 25/06/2025, Erika Allen, Page 5

Wellington Shire councillors voted to adopt council's final 2025-26 budget on Tuesday night last week, following several amendments since the draft was tabled in early May. [...] According to the Department of Health Disability and Ageing, vapes are battery-operated devices, or e-cigarettes, that produce an aerosol by heating a liquid that is breathed in.

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

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### Supporting Aussie dads for strong family futures

Naracoorte Community News, General News, 25/06/2025, Triple P Parenting, Page 7

The feedback from families who have used Triple P's online programs is overwhelmingly positive they feel calmer, more confident, and better supported in understanding their children's needs. Delivery of the Triple P Positive Parenting Program to parents and carers of children in Australia is supported by funding from the Australian government department of Health and Aged Care under the Parenting Education and Support Program.

## Call for urgent action to boost healthcare

The Express Newspaper (Mareeba), General News, 25/06/2025, Page 5

A national health group has backed a Mareeba healthcare organisation in its call for urgent infrastructure funding to expand services and keep pace with rising demand. Mareeba and Communities Family Healthcare (MCFH), which is community-owned and operated by a volunteer board, is leading the first trial of the National Rural Health Alliance's (NRHA) multi-disciplinary model of care which is aimed at identifying healthcare needs in the shire and how they can be met sustainably. Last week, National Rural Health Commissioner Professor Jenny May and Department of Health, Ageing and Disability officials met in Mareeba with MCFH chair Ross Cardillo and NRHA chief executive Susi Tegen to discuss what is emerging from the \$1.57 million project, funded by the Federal Government.

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## Mount Gambier Urgent Care Clinic: Paion Medical owes \$5m in unpaid wages and debts

Mount Gambier Messenger, Other, 25/06/2025, Sam Lowe

Staff at three medical clinics in Mount Gambier are owed more than \$1.2m in unpaid wages and superannuation after the collapse of a local service provider. [...] A spokesman from the Federal Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said it was committed to working closely with the Country SA PHN to re-establish urgent care services for the community as soon as possible.

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## SDCP units can improve quality of life, research shows

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 25/06/2025, Katarina Lloyd Jones

HammondCare researchers say SDCP units can facilitate successful transitions to mainstream residential care and reduce the reliance on psychotropic medications, but more data is needed to determine long-term outcomes. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is aiming for 35 SDCPs nationally for the program, which was first announced in June 2016 in response to calls from experts and aged care stakeholders Comment on the story below.

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## External auditor required for care minute statements

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 25/06/2025

All providers are now required to complete audits of their Care Minutes Performance Statement, and the audit must be done by an external auditor, the department says. The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has announced details this week regarding the incoming requirement for all residential aged care providers to engage an external auditor to complete an audit of their Care Minutes Performance Statements , starting with the Aged Care Financial Report 2025-26.

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## Govt releases details of the \$102 Medicare item for menopause assessment

Australian Doctor, Other, 25/06/2025, Antony Scholefield

Premature ovarian insufficiency could also be assessed using the new Medicare item. GPs will need to perform a 20-minute assessment, including a physical examination and blood pressure measurements, to bill the Federal Government's new Medicare item for menopause. Patients with menopause, perimenopause or premature ovarian insufficiency will be eligible for the \$101.90 rebate, according to a fact sheet from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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## Home care's growth halted: The challenge of planning for the future on shifting terrain

Hello Leaders Australia, Other, 25/06/2025, Jakob Neeland

Australia's home care sector continues to wait in limbo as a result of the looming implementation of the



new Aged Care Act and the Support at Home (SaH) program. [...] The report highlights that 9.90 per cent of providers see the tight timeframe for reform implementation as a top challenge, compounded by a lack of direct engagement from the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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## How those new CDM items will work

The Medical Republic, Other, 25/06/2025, Holly Payne

If a patient already has a GP management plan in place and comes in for a review, what happens? [...] Luckily, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing came out with answers to some of the more specific questions surrounding the change at an RACGP-run webinar on Tuesday.

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## NHS drops 'medical device' bomb on AI scribes in UK

The Medical Republic, Other, 25/06/2025

A comprehensive productivity brief for government published recently by the MSIA says that three concurrent reviews from the Department of Health Disability and Ageing, the Department of Industry, Science and Resources and the TGA, which don't seem to talk to each other is confusing the situation in Australia and potentially holding back innovation.

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## Urgent health solution sought

The SE Voice, Other, 26/06/2025, Lechelle Earl

The clinic's closure was announced late on Tuesday, and took effect immediately, with signage advising of the closure placed on the Crouch Street South facility's doors. [...] A Department of Health, Disability and Ageing spokesperson said the department is committed to working closely with CSAPHN to re-establish urgent care services for the Mount Gambier community as soon as possible.

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## ABC Radio Canberra, Afternoons, 25/06/2025, Alice Matthews

Interview with Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing cancer screening advisor and Cancer Australia clinical policy advice branch head and medical director Prof Vivienne Milch on lung cancer. Milch says more than 15,000 people are diagnosed with lung cancer every year in Australia. She says even though treatments got better in recent years, the chance of surviving five years after diagnosis of lung cancer is currently only about 26 per cent.

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## VACCINES

### All we know about Covid

Northern Territory News, General News, 26/06/2025, Page 12

Covid-19 may seem well and truly in the past, but another deadly pandemic is a question of "when", not "if". To help prevent mass deaths and other harms, like deteriorating mental health and economic downfall, a Swinburne database has combined everything we know about Covid-19 into one rundown.

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

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### Covid cases on the rise

Shepparton News, General News, 26/06/2025, Kate Walters, Page 1

The pandemic may feel like a distant memory for many, but COVID-19 is still present and cases in the community are once again rising. The most recent available data from the Victorian Respiratory Surveillance Report shows a steep increase in the number of COVID-19 cases reported statewide in recent months.

## The Covid 'lab leak' theory isn't just a rightwing conspiracy – pretending that's the case is bad for science

The Guardian, Other, 25/06/2025, Jane Qiu

More than five years after the Covid-19 pandemic was declared, its origins remain a subject of intense – and often acrimonious – debate among scientists and the wider public. There are two broad, competing theories.

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## COVID-19 on the rise in NSW

Shepparton News Online, Other, 25/06/2025, Eamon Kurta

NSW Health has issued another call for residents to protect themselves against COVID-19 as cases continue to rise across the state. According to the latest NSW Respiratory Surveillance Report, for the week ending June 14, 3,475 people tested positive for COVID-19 in NSW - a 10 per cent increase from the previous week.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Weight loss jabs could prevent dementia, study finds

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 25/06/2025

A new study from Case Western Reserve School of Medicine suggests that GLP-1 weight loss drugs like Ozempic and Wegovy could lower your risk of developing dementia. The research team analysed three years of health records from 1.7 million Americans with type 2 diabetes across the US.

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

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### Seven BlueCare aged homes to find new ownership with Respect

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 25/06/2025

Not-for-profit business Respect has announced it will take on ownership of seven BlueCare aged care homes and four co-located retirement villages in a move that will establish the specialist provider in Queensland for the first time. Respect is set to take over aged care homes and retirement villages in Emerald, Gracemere, Hervey Bay, Ingham, Maleny, Mareeba and Toogoolawah.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Fraser Coast Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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### The expert guide to better care

Aged Care Insite, Other, 25/06/2025, Stefanie Schultz

Dr Samantha Clune, a senior research fellow with AIPCA, told that the VN project is a direct response by the government to the Royal Commission. "Within the recommendations, there was an identification that the presence of and contribution of expertise by a registered nurse within aged care contributes to better overall outcomes of care for residents," she said.

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### Two Canberra home care providers exit the sector after Annecto's demise

The Weekly Source, Other, 25/06/2025, Lauren Broomham

Two long-standing ACT home care providers – Community Options ACT and Community Services #1 –

have confirmed they will exit the aged care sector, joining Melbourne-based home care and disability services provider Annecto, which announced its departure earlier this month. They are the latest in a growing list of organisations, including many local councils, choosing to withdraw from home care services ahead of the introduction of the new Support at Home program. Most cite unsustainable financial and systemic pressures under the incoming model.

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## **Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission extends contract with actuary for “additional analysis” of aged care liquidity ratios**

The Weekly Source, Other, 25/06/2025, Caroline Egan

The national regulator has extended its contract with Sydney-based actuary and data analysis firm Quantum by another \$100,000 for further work on the development of its controversial liquidity ratios. An Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC) spokesperson told The Weekly SOURCE, Quantum were selected "to support the financial analysis and actuarial modelling needed to develop liquidity measures as part of the new Financial and Prudential Standards to be introduced under the new Aged Care Act.

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## **Juniper CEO Russell Bricknell warns WA Budget fails to meet aged care crisis head-on**

The Weekly Source, Other, 25/06/2025, Caroline Egan

The head of one of Western Australia's largest Not for Profit aged care providers has welcomed the State Budget – but says the investment in aged care feels "incremental, not transformational" amid the state's booming economy. "The reality on the ground is that these measures only begin to address the scale of need," Russell Bricknell said. "Our sector is under intense pressure to meet complex care needs with fewer resources. Providers are closing beds, waitlists are growing and staff are burning out."

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## **Channel 7, Seven News, 25/06/2025, Rosanna Mangiarelli & Will Goodings**

Every fortnight, Adelaide's only First Nations aged care home takes part in a special activity. It is called the Marra Elders Playgroup, where kids learn that the best stories do not come from screens but from those who came before them.

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## **4BC, Afternoons, 25/06/2025, Sofie Formica**

Interview with Exchanges with Evan Lucas podcast host Evan Lucas on aged care pension. Lucas says, because of the way the system works, there are people getting the aged pension who should not be getting it. He says it is a rebate that should be looked at, adding that when it comes to incorrect payments, the age pension is one of the worst.

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# **DISABILITY**

## **NDIS still ripe for rorting**

Daily Telegraph, General News, 26/06/2025, Julie Cross, Page 4

The agency in charge of the NDIS has received a damning report card on how effective it is at detecting dodgy claims, despite the Albanese government's vow to get the scheme "back on track". An audit of the National Disability Insurance Agency's processes for checking whether claims are genuine or not found it to be only "partly effective".

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

## Changes make life hard

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 26/06/2025, Samantha Newsam, Page 1

A local mother fears for what her son's future will look like under reforms to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), which are set to be introduced next month. The National Disability Insurance Agency's (NDIA) Annual Pricing Review recommends, among a raft of changes, that reimbursements for allied health professionals be cut by 50 per cent from July 1.

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## Allied health providers say NDIS price, travel review will hurt vulnerable in Kimberley, Pilbara

ABC Online, Other, 25/06/2025, Kimberley Putland & Mya Kordic

Allied health providers across Western Australia's remote north say residents will be disproportionately hit by a recent review of NDIS services and allowances. The review, announced earlier this month, flagged cuts to some allied health services, as well as a reduction of claimable travel time by 50 per cent.

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Adelaide, Afternoons, 25/06/2025, Jo Lavery

Interview with Creative Therapy Adelaide managing director Natalie Oliveri about music therapy in relation to the NDIS changes. Oliveri says from the end of last year, there has been uncertainty around the place of music therapy and art therapy as a therapy support in the NDIS. She says the NDIS does not provide any kind of transition time for the changes they make, for example, the pricing arrangements that come into effect on Tuesday came out only 14 days before the changes were supposed to come into effect.

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## ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 25/06/2025, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Australian Physiotherapy Association's paediatrics committee WA chair and physiotherapist Lisa Zorzi on physiotherapy in relation to the NDIS funding cuts. Zorzi says a lot of their providers will be re-evaluating whether they can continue to provide services to NDIS participants, which will hurt participants. She says the wait lists for NDIS services is so significant and now they are going to add to that provider load.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Reading, writing and relationships in class

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 26/06/2025, Lauren Novak, Page 12

Teenagers are asking for classroom lessons on "how to get out of a toxic relationship" and want to learn about concepts such as "gaslighting" at a younger age. [...] And a study by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found one in three men admit to being violent or abusive toward their partner.

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

### Riding the rails

Daily Liberal, General News, 26/06/2025, Saffron Howden, Page 1

The state has also promised \$23.1 million for the Dubbo alcohol and drug rehabilitation centre. The region's losers Dubbo MP Dugald Saunders was hoping to have the \$33.3 million set aside for a sports hub returned in the state budget after funding was taken off the table in 2024, but this was not to be.

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

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

## Long-term probe into health impact of Melbourne Airport's third runway

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 25/06/2025, Adam Carey

The long-term health effects of Melbourne Airport's future third runway will be studied in a 20-year project that will track how increased flight activity affects people's sleep, mental health and even children's reading comprehension. The study will be the first large-scale, long-term investigation of aviation and community health of its kind in Australia.

[Read More](#)

## Brett Sutton made it through a pandemic. Now he's fighting a new war

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 25/06/2025, Liam Mannix

For years, Brett Sutton lived on the frontlines. Victoria's former chief health officer has the scars and death threats to prove it. And now, he's trying to do something about it, by attempting to launch what he hopes will be a big new player in Australia's science sector: a Coalition for Trust in Science.

[Read More](#)

## Gaslighting, toxic relationships and bullying among topics SA students want more discussions on

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 25/06/2025, Lauren Novak & Karen Grace Prince

SA students want to go beyond the textbooks and take on the tougher topics affecting them when it comes to dealing with relationships, bullying and domestic violence. [...] And a study by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found one in three men admit to being violent or abusive toward their partner.

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

[Read More](#)

## HealthWISE rescues health education program for students

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 25/06/2025, Jonathan Hawes

A once-doomed health initiative has been kept out of the grave by regional non-profit HealthWISE, which has stepped in to fully fund its delivery through 2025. Students as Lifestyle Activists (SALSA), a health education program for university and high school students, was set to die off last year as funds from the state government ran out.

[Read More](#)

## New study reveals the surprising alcohol limit linked to dementia

Your Life Choices, Other, 25/06/2025, Lexanne Garcia

How much is 'too much' when it comes to alcohol? If you're like many Australians, you might think a glass of wine with dinner or a couple of beers on the weekend is harmless—maybe even good for you. But a new study is turning that idea on its head, revealing that even what most of us would call 'moderate' drinking could be putting our brains at risk.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### The stress-related pain men won't talk about

Australian Financial Review, General News, 26/06/2025, Madison Darbyshire, Page 28

Pelvic floor issues are well known among women, but a growing number of men are also sufferers.

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

### Experimental drug set to rival Ozempic

Daily Telegraph, General News, 26/06/2025, Robyn Riley, Page 3

An experimental obesity drug has shown it can "substantially" reduce weight within a year, offering new hope for people with Type 2 diabetes and obesity. The long-lasting drug maridebart cafraglutide, or MariTide, is the first to be given as a once-a-month jab and, in the study of almost 600 adults, it reduced body weight by up to 20 per cent.

*Also reported by:* [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#),

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

## We're living on the edge

Courier Mail, General News, 26/06/2025, Rachel Riley, Page 3

Queensland is facing raising a generation of children who will die younger than their parents did amid soaring rates of obesity and chronic diseases. That was the stark warning from the leader of the state's first dedicated prevention agency in charge of reversing our ailing health outcomes.

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

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## Aussie first for cancer therapy

Courier Mail, General News, 26/06/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 23

A highly expensive, revolutionary treatment for recurrent prostate cancer is for the first time in Australia available at a public hospital The Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. The NanoKnife procedure, which can cost more than \$35,000 in the private health sector, is a life-changer for men battling the disease as it is an alternative to the removal of the prostate and it can successfully remove cancer in the treatment area in more than 90 per cent of patients.

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

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## Dads tied to obesity

Northern Territory News, General News, 26/06/2025, Page 12

Children of fathers who were categorised as obese or overweight based on their body mass index (BMI) around the time of conception are more likely to develop obesity themselves. University of Toronto researchers found children of fathers who were obese or overweight based on their BMI during pregnancy were nearly twice as likely to follow a rapid BMI growth trajectory up to age five.

*Also reported by:* [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#),

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## Father battling 'one-in-a-million' cancer

Newcastle Herald, General News, 26/06/2025, Damon Cronshaw, Page 5

Rare Cancers Australia sought to "shine a spotlight on forgotten cancers". The organisation said rare and less common cancers "account for a quarter of cancer diagnoses in Australia, yet cause more than one third of all cancer deaths".

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## Rachel Bernardo: I was diagnosed with bowel cancer after doctors dismissed me

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 25/06/2025, Rachel Bernardo

Rachel Bernardo was only in her 30s when she started feeling so tired she needed to go to bed at 6pm. These are the three symptoms she had before her bowel cancer diagnosis. [...] It's an unfortunate reality that I want to draw attention to through my advocacy work with Bowel Cancer Australia and online.

*Also reported by:* [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#),

[Read More](#)

## Warning over COPD misdiagnosis as spirometry declines and triple therapy rises

Australian Doctor, Other, 25/06/2025, Jamie Thannoo

Less COPD cases are being diagnosed, and more are being incorrectly treated, according to a new report. A 31 per cent collapse in spirometry testing rates and ballooning scripts for triple therapy suggest COPD cases are being missed and patients incorrectly treated, experts say.

[Read More](#)

## 'The moment that changed everything.'

Mamamia, Other, 25/06/2025, Shayna Jack

Dad was 58 when he was diagnosed. Thankfully, he had been proactive about his health and had a routine PSA test — a simple blood test that can detect prostate cancer early. That test saved his life. Without it, we might not have caught it in time.

[Read More](#)

## 4BC, Afternoons, 25/06/2025, Sofie Formica

Interview with Canteen ambassador Louise Pham, who was 23 when she was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Pham says through Canteen, she was able to receive counselling regularly and attend a lot of their events and programs. She says she is involved in leadership at Canteen and doing her own advocacy work, such as sharing stories, raising awareness, and helping others who feel left alone.

[Play Now](#)

## FIVEAA, Mornings, 25/06/2025, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Garvan Institute of Medical Research researcher Assoc Prof Christine Chaffer on using AI to diagnose cancer. Chaffer says technology has now enabled them to process every single cell within the cancer, meaning they can understand how complex and different each cancer cell is. She says from getting 10,000 cells from a tumour for each individual cell, they can get up to 30,000 pieces of information.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Patient details exposed on dark web

Age, General News, 26/06/2025, Henrietta Cook & Broede Carmody, Page 1

Private details of hundreds of patients linked to at least two major Melbourne hospitals have been leaked on the dark web following a cyberattack. The stolen data which included sensitive health information, contact details and Medicare numbers belonged to the patients of a cardiologist who works at the Epworth and Royal Melbourne hospitals and also runs a private practice.

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

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### Sickly amid state waste

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

Alarming, less than seven of the state's 130 or so ambulances that were in service were available at one time on Monday night in Victoria. At the height of winter and with such demand across the state, the fact that some 95 per cent of ambulances were in use, either en route to call-outs or with patients on board, is confronting.

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### Mali slams 'belligerent' union claims

Premier Peter Malinauskas has issued a stark warning to unions against "belligerent" pay claims soaring to 30 per cent, declaring these would plunge state finances into a "parlous" state and further hike debt for future generations. In a blunt rejoinder to public hospital doctors threatening a full-day strike on July 30, Mr Malinauskas branded their claim as potentially blowing the budget "out of the water" by adding to the \$48.495bn state debt.

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## Medical staff in \$1.2m super hit

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 26/06/2025, Sam Lowe, Page 6

Staff at three medical clinics in Mount Gambier are owed more than \$1.2m in unpaid wages and superannuation after the collapse of a service provider. The Advertiser can reveal Paion Medical operators of the Mount Gambier Urgent Care Clinic, Family Health, and Skin Cancer Clinic, which went into liquidation in January, owes creditors a total \$5.3m.

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

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## Hospital in far north is a fair way off

West Australian, General News, 26/06/2025, Page 8

Labor has refused to put a firm date on when Perth's far north can expect a dedicated hospital. Despite returning to Joondalup Hospital for a second press conference in a week to announce more beds for the fast-growing region, State Health Minister Meredith Hammat and Federal Health Minister John Carey maintained planning was still under way for a Yanchep-based facility.

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## Waiting game

Ballarat Courier, General News, 26/06/2025, Michelle Smith, Page 1

An elderly patient suffering from fainting spells and severe abdominal pain spent more than four hours ramped at Ballarat Hospital on Monday night. Pat Harben, 95, spent hours under the care of paramedics on an ambulance trolley in a corridor inside the Ballarat Base Hospital emergency department as the ED was overwhelmed with patients and unable to admit people to wards.

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

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## Water pipes, surgery upgrade among wins

Central Western Daily, General News, 26/06/2025, Saffron Howden, Page 5

One of the Central West's key water networks will finally be fixed and hospital surgery will get an upgrade under state budget funding for the region. There were few surprises in the Minns Labor government's third state budget, handed down on June 24, but foster carers and property developers will get a helping hand to help abused kids and to unlock more homes to ease the housing crisis respectively.

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## Coomera Hospital: What state budget means for public health facility ahead of 2027 opening

The Courier Mail, Other, 25/06/2025, Andrew Potts & Paul Weston

The Coomera Hospital will be built under a \$11.4 billion statewide infrastructure spend once a review is completed, according to Budget documents. Specific funding for the hospital is not listed in the Budget papers, released on Tuesday, but it is covered in a \$911 million spend on the infrastructure scheme in 2025-26.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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## Faster recovery times on the horizon as Cairns Hospital nears robotic



## **surgery for public patients**

The Courier Mail, Other, 25/06/2025, Emma Cam

Cairns residents can look forward to a future of faster recovery times and more precise surgical procedures, as a major fundraiser gathered almost \$1m towards revolutionary health infrastructure. Generous donors poured in \$839,000 at Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation's fundraiser on Saturday, bringing the region closer to acquiring "DaNi," a state-of-the-art surgical robot.

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

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## **What cost of living crisis? Barr government goes for broke with revenue grab**

ABC Online, Other, 25/06/2025, Greg Jennett

Not that any government would use or accept the term 'health tax'; the Barr government has opted for the more banal "levy to support the public health system". Whatever Canberrans might feel about paying it — some may see it as an entirely reasonable contribution — this non-means-tested annual \$250 impost is a most 'un-Labor' thing to do.

[Read More](#)

## **\$94m Hervey Bay hospital expansion headlines Qld state budget**

Cairns Post, Other, 25/06/2025, Phillip Fynes-Clinton

The state government is planning to spend big in the region as multiple projects from Gympie to Bundaberg will begin development. A new Bundaberg Hospital, \$94m extensions to Hervey Bay, and essential services upgrade to Maryborough will be delivered under the Hospital Rescue Plan, while \$4.4bn will be invested into the rebuild of Paradise Dam.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Fraser Coast Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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## **Nat Barr erupts over 'ridiculous' ambulance crisis after just 'one per cent' of the fleet were able to respond to calls and dozens of patients left stranded**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 25/06/2025, Matt Jones

Nat Barr has lashed out at the ambulance crisis in Victoria and labelled it 'ridiculous' after it emerged just one per cent of the fleet were able to respond to calls. The Sunrise host demanded authorities fix the issue immediately following revelations that 50 people were left waiting for emergency transport on Monday night.

[Read More](#)

## **Community unites in urgent hospital upgrades petition**

Shepparton News Online, Other, 25/06/2025

A petition with 1,410 signatures has been formally presented to Albury MP, Justin Clancy calling for adequate funding to redevelop Albury Wodonga Regional Hospital and urgently upgrade Corowa Hospital. The petition, organised by the CRW Health Action Group, is seen as an important in its advocacy for stronger regional healthcare investment and calls on the NSW Government to work with Victoria and the Commonwealth.

[Read More](#)

## **'Conditions... wouldn't be accepted in Melbourne': MP calls out state of ED**

Warrnambool Standard, Other, 25/06/2025, Sophia Baker

An MP has slammed the treatment of rural health facilities by the state government as a south-west hospital has been waiting more than a decade for an upgrade. Member for Lowan Emma Kealy has called on the Premier and Health Minister to visit the Hamilton hospital, to see the condition of it for themselves.

[Read More](#)

## Why this GP wanted to work for a Primary Health Network

Australian Doctor, Other, 25/06/2025, Rachel Carter

Dr Michelle Redford left the UK for Australia in 2014 after it became "increasingly difficult" to see a future she liked in English general practice. In 2020, she joined the Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network as a clinical adviser, and in March this year, she became its medical director.

[Read More](#)

## 'Chronically underfunded': Calls to future-proof workforce

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 25/06/2025, Kate Cowling

Australia's most populous state risks falling short on patient care if it doesn't invest in pharmacy roles, a peak body says. Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has welcomed the NSW Government's \$12.4bn health infrastructure package and commitment to wage growth in this week's state budget, but says greater investment is needed in hospital pharmacy.

[Read More](#)

## Practical guide to insurance claims launched for GPs

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 25/06/2025, Jolyon Attwooll

With natural disasters on the rise, a new RACGP guide aims to help general practices get back on their feet. The new resource aims to help GPs understand options for making an insurance claim, including after natural disasters.

[Read More](#)

## 2GB, Breakfast, 25/06/2025, Ben Fordham

The NSW Government is committing \$12 billion to health infrastructure over four years. Key investments include \$910 million for Western Sydney's first new hospital in 40 years, \$700 million for the New Bankstown Hospital, and almost \$500 million to build a state-of-the-art pathology hub at the Westmead Health Precinct.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 25/06/2025, Saskia Mabin

Interview with ANU associate professor and lecturer and UNSW School of Public Health and Community Medicine conjoint lecturer Dr Sanjaya Senanayake on wait times to see specialists. Senanayake says in their department, which is Infectious Diseases, the wait times are generally short. He says the average wait time is a couple of weeks.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### 'I've felt pain' of coercion, says Ley

Daily Telegraph, General News, 26/06/2025, Samantha Maiden, Page 5

Liberal leader Sussan Ley says she has experienced domestic violence in the form of coercive control in her life and "understands the pain" it causes. [...] "We need new approaches, stronger partnerships, greater resources and absolute resolve. We need men's groups to step up, because men's health policy is women's safety policy," she said.

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

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## Trust at heart of family convos

Daily Telegraph, General News, 26/06/2025, Elissa Doherty, Page 21

The new research, by New Corp's Growth Distillery with Medibank, has exposed the intergenerational

barriers holding families back from supporting each other. It found families often lacked the tools, language and "mental health literacy" to communicate. Young people were most concerned about negative responses.

*Also reported by:* [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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## Show us the money

Daily Telegraph, Sport, 26/06/2025, Emma Greenwood & Rebecca Williams, Page 74

A Code Sports survey carried out in 2022 found 72 per cent of respondents felt the game was not doing enough to protect the mental health and wellbeing of its players. Mental health was a key focus of the ANPA poll 56 per cent of players said they had accessed mental health support services in the past year, while 81 per cent would be likely to seek support for mental health or wellbeing issues if needed.

*Also reported by:* [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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## Docs say spend mental health levy on proper plan

Courier Mail, General News, 26/06/2025, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 4

The state's psychiatrists have slammed the LNP's failure to invest in the crumbling mental health workforce and are demanding to know where every dollar of the "substantial" pot of money from the mental health levy is being spent. "We have the money through the mental health levy what we need now is the political will to spend it on the kind of mental health system Queenslanders actually need and deserve," Brett Emmerson chairman of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) Queensland said.

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## Post-pandemic, young men are disengaged and isolated

West Australian, General News, 26/06/2025, Kizzy Gandy & Rose Khattar, Page 55

Australia's economic policy approach to achieving gender equity has rightly focused on improving women's participation and outcomes. [...] At the e61 Institute, we have been looking at outcomes for young men over the long term and since the COVID-19 pandemic: their employment, education, mental health, beliefs about gender norms and participation in civic life. Some of the trends we see for gen Z are concerning.

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## Blue slushies helping to smash the stigma around suicide

Border Mail, General News, 26/06/2025, Madilyn McKinley, Page 2

Kylie Barton is a co-founder of Wangaratta Area Suicide Prevention [WASP], a group passionate about wanting to make a difference, break the stigma and prevent suicide. The group engages the community in conversations about mental health and wellbeing while promoting support services, programs and community resources for people at risk.

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## Nation's 'failing' mental health system needs overhaul

Central Western Daily, General News, 26/06/2025, Page 3

Australia's failing mental health and suicide prevention system needs reforms to fix problems including affordability and access, the government's independent advisory body says. The interim Productivity Commission report, released on Wednesday, found the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement was "not fit for purpose" and had made little progress since taking effect in 2022.

*Also reported by:* [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#).

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## Letters

I write on behalf of the not-for-profit Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia that helps people across the nation. We have now set up a key network which has become a growing community on the internet that put simply links people with mental health issues with others in a similar situation .

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## Budget delivers on ADHD wait list help

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 26/06/2025, Jessica Page & Hannah Cross, Page 4

Doctors have welcomed a \$1.3 million Budget boost to train general practitioners to diagnose and treat ADHD, in a bid to rein in specialist wait lists that have blown out. The full details of the scheme to train 65 specialist GPs were released on Wednesday, following through on a Labor party election promise.

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## Report says agreement is 'not fit for purpose'

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 26/06/2025, Page 6

Australia's failing mental health and suicide prevention system needs reforms to fix problems including affordability and access, the government's independent advisory body says. The interim Productivity Commission report, released on Wednesday, found the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement was "not fit for purpose" and had made little progress since taking effect in 2022.

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## The big mistake Australian men are making

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 25/06/2025, Bek Day

The survey of 1002 adults showed a staggering 79 per cent of Australians were either skipping or condensing their lunch break, with over half reporting negative impacts on their physical or mental health because of this. Within that, men (45 per cent) were more likely to skip lunch than women (36 per cent).

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

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## Broome's Australia Post Office tackles loneliness crisis with free postcards

West Australian, Other, 25/06/2025, Cain Andrews

Broome's Australia Post Office and Beyond Blue are tackling the mental health and loneliness crisis by offering free postcards to customer to help encourage connection. This year, households across Western Australia are set to receive nearly 800,000 Connection Postcards, as part of a national campaign, where five million prepaid Connection Postcards are being delivered to letterboxes across the country.

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

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## How the family GP will be able to diagnose ADHD, but not until next year

West Australian, Other, 25/06/2025, Jessica Page

Doctors have welcomed a \$1.3 million Budget boost to train general practitioners to diagnose and treat ADHD, in a bid to rein in specialist wait lists that have blown out. The full details of the scheme to train 65 specialist GPs were released on Wednesday, following through on a Labor party election promise.

[Read More](#)

## An unlikely combo celebrate a decade together after helping more than 13,000 people

The Mercury, Other, 25/06/2025, Tim Little

As psychologist wait times balloon and mental health support becomes unreachable for many, an unlikely pairing has celebrated 10 years of offering free and comprehensive help. Royal Flying Doctors

Service and Cairns Headspace have marked a decade of critical mental health and youth support services across the Far North.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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## Rockhampton and Gladstone hospitals' mental health bed concerns

ABC Online, Other, 25/06/2025, Jasmine Hines

A Queensland GP says one of his patients was sedated in an emergency department while waiting several days for a bed in a mental health ward to become available. It follows calls by the Nurses' Professional Association of Queensland for an independent investigation into performance reporting data in emergency departments.

[Read More](#)

## EMDR is being heralded as 'life-changing' for mental health treatment. But what is it?

ABC Online, Other, 25/06/2025, Megan Macdonald

Within six weeks of Samuel Paske learning his mother had been diagnosed with an aggressive and rare form of blood cancer, she was gone. The sudden loss of his mother triggered a natural response in Paske.

[Read More](#)

## Excessive social media found to harm teenagers' mental health – but experts say moderation may be key

The Guardian, Other, 26/06/2025, Josh Taylor

Australian teenagers who spend between one and three hours on social media a day report similar or better mental health outcomes compared with teenagers using social media less, suggesting moderation may be key, according to a major new survey. The Mission Australia survey canvassed the views of 17,480 young people across Australia aged between 15 and 19, which comes amid the public debate over restricting access to social media for people aged under 16.

[Read More](#)

## Aussie mum of neurodivergent child explains the fallout banning YouTube could have

Adelaide Now, Other, 25/06/2025, Lauren Robinson

If YouTube disappeared tomorrow, it wouldn't just be a digital loss for Finley. It would be a crisis. The eight-year-old has autism, with a PDA (Pathological Demand Avoidance) profile and ADHD.

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

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## Are the kids worried about a war? A paediatric psychologist shares what to say to them

Adelaide Now, Other, 25/06/2025, Amanda Abel

Ideally, your child should hear about distressing events like war from you. An Aussie paediatric psychologist guides you through how the conversation should go.

[Read More](#)

## Is hospital admission really the gold standard for mental health patients presenting to ED?

Australian Doctor, Other, 25/06/2025, Sue Ieraci

The program was billed as being about "the collapse of public mental health care in NSW", but the content was mostly about access to inpatient beds, and the inordinate lengths of time that some patients wait in ED for admission to inpatient mental health beds. Patients who had been assessed in ED and found to be suitable for discharge were described as having been "turned away".

## Channel 9, Nine News Late, 25/06/2025, Natalia Cooper

News General practitioners in WA will be able to diagnose and treat adhd from the end of next year. Bianca Carboni, their training programme is an Australian first. The WA government has committed more than a million dollars to the programme 65 GPs will learn how to diagnose and treat adhd patients aged 10 and over.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### Wages blowout on public purse

Courier Mail, General News, 26/06/2025, Taylah Fellows, Page 5

Nurses are asking for "nation leading" wages after their Victorian counterparts secured a 7 per cent increase, while firefighters are expected to request 6 per cent. If frontline workers are successful in getting the pay rises they are asking for, departments will need to find another \$16.8m for firefighters, \$141.2m for police, \$458m for teachers and \$587m for health workers.

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

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### 'Traumatic births have become so normalised. It doesn't have to be like that'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 25/06/2025, Laura Aubusson

Melanie is one of thousands of women cheering this week, after the NSW Government announced an \$83 million investment to grow and improve maternity care in NSW. Half of the investment, \$44.8 million, will go towards expanding the MGP – described as the "gold standard".

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

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Doctor a champion in women's health

Shepparton News, General News, 26/06/2025, Page 3

Dr Ruwangi Udayasiri has been named the winner of the Outstanding Contribution by a Rural Medical Specialist category at the 2025 Victorian Rural Health Awards, recognition she describes as both humbling and affirming of her journey in regional medicine. Since joining GV Health in December 2017, Dr Udayasiri has become a key advocate for women's health in the Goulburn Valley, helping build a model of care that is both responsive and deeply rooted in community needs.

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

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### Push to fix rural doctor crisis

Shepparton News Online, Other, 25/06/2025

Australia's specialist medical colleges are implementing changes to their training selection processes to address the chronic shortage of specialist doctors in rural and remote communities. The Council of Presidents of Medical Colleges, working with the National Rural Health Commissioner, has released new guidelines requiring all specialist medical colleges to prioritise candidates with rural backgrounds and experience when selecting new trainees.

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## Step forward for GPs' payroll tax relief

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 25/06/2025, Morgan Liotta

The RACGP welcomes tax changes in the ACT's latest budget, but says NSW could have done 'significantly more' to fund the GP workforce. NSW Treasurer Daniel Mookhey handing down his 2025–26 State Budget inside Sydney's Parliament House.

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## Channel 7, Seven News, 25/06/2025, Rosanna Mangiarelli & Will Goodings

South Australian ED doctors will strike next month after rejecting the government's latest pay offer. Union members unanimously rejected a 10 per cent pay rise over three years and a \$4,000 base wage boost for junior doctors. They want a 30 per cent rise over the same period, with senior doctors willing to take less to better support junior staff.

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 25/06/2025, Michael Thomson

GPs in WA will be permitted to diagnose and treat ADHD from the end of next year. The WA government today committed more than a million dollars to a GP training program never before seen in Australia.

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## 6PR, Drive, 25/06/2025, Oliver Peterson

Interview with RACGP vice president and chair Ramya Raman on a training to diagnose ADHD. Raman says this training program is very welcome because it means GPs can get upskilled in this area. She says they can learn a little bit more with the online training modules, as well as a period of co-management and mentorship from RACGP colleagues and non-GP specialists like pediatricians and psychiatrists.

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## ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 25/06/2025, Kylie Baxter

Interview with Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation acting branch secretary Phoebe Mansell on Royal Hobart Hospital nurses starting industrial action due to chronic understaffing, unsafe workloads, and relentless fatigue. Mansell says their members at Department of Medical Imaging face daily a situation where they often work overtime because procedures are running past the normal finish time. She says their members are going to exercise their right to refuse any forced overtime if they feel they can't manage that from a fatigue and safety perspective.

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## FIVEAA, Mornings, 25/06/2025, Graeme Goodings

Interview with SASMOA chief industrial officer Bernadette Mulholland on doctors wrapping up their strike meeting this morning. Mulholland says, attended by about 600 doctors, they have rejected the SA government's offer given to them on 16 and 19 June. She says they have determined to implement industrial action over the coming weeks, culminating on the week of 21 July. She says they have, under this government, taken a real wages cut of about 13 per cent.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### This tiny patch can tell in real time if you're dehydrated

The Courier Mail, Other, 25/06/2025, Rishab Jain

A patch about the size of a 50-cent coin that can track hydration in real time with no needles and no blood tests has been developed in Queensland that could be a game changer for athletes. WearOptimo founder Mark Kendall demonstrating the hydro patch WearOptimo founder Mark Kendall demonstrating the use of the hydro patch, a product backed by F1 .

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Gregory John Couch, doctor accused of possessing over 5000 child abuse files, no longer employed at hospital

7news.com.au, Other, 25/06/2025, Tita Smith & Demi Huang

A doctor allegedly busted in possession of more than 5000 files of child abuse material is no longer employed. Albury Wodonga Health (AWH) on Wednesday confirmed the married doctor is no longer working at the service.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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## SPORT

### Trots drivers banned over party urine scandal

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 26/06/2025, Chris Barrett, Page 14

Two rising Sydney harness racing drivers embroiled in a drug-testing scandal have been banned for more than two years after one submitted the other's urine as his own after they'd spent the night at a bucks party. Jack Brown and Lucas Rando were suspended after samples they handed over to stewards following a race meeting in Goulburn last October were determined to have come from the same person.

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### Concussion a game-changer

West Australian, General News, 26/06/2025, Mark Duncan-Smith, Page 55

Sub-concussive impacts to the head also occur frequently in AFL. These are repeated minor head knocks that don't cause any symptoms at the time. They are however thought to be implicated in the formation of long-term brain damage and are linked to the development of chronic traumatic encephalopathy.

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

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

No relevant coverage

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Police denied ambulance to injured man

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 26/06/2025, Amber Schultz, Page 15

The sounds of the Aboriginal man repeatedly banging his head against his cell door ring out across the regional police station. A senior officer, sitting less than four metres away, shields his ear as he continues his phone call.

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### Sexual harassment law overhaul urged

Daily Advertiser, General News, 26/06/2025, Saffron Howden, Page 9

One in three Australian workers say they have experienced sexual harassment in the workplace, according to the Australian Human Rights Commission. But that was much higher for particular groups of employees, including teenagers aged 15 to 17 (47 per cent), LGBTQIA+ people (46 per cent), Indigenous people (56 per cent), and people with a disability (48 per cent).

Also reported by: [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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### New report reveals shocking number of Aussies sexually harassed in the workplace

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 25/06/2025, Hannah Wilcox

More Australians are being faced with the decision between their livelihoods and their safety, with new data revealing one in three have experienced workplace sexual harassment. The Australian Human Rights Commission's (AHRC) Speaking from Experience report found a significant number of victim-survivors identified as a vulnerable person.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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### Emma Garlett: We can't make excuses for poor Indigenous health outcomes

West Australian, Other, 25/06/2025, Emma Garlett

When you live remotely, access to health care can be a real challenge. But that shouldn't be a reason for us to give up on providing quality services to those who need them, wherever they live.

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

[Read More](#)

### Jailing is failing: youth prison numbers under scrutiny

Canberra Times, Other, 25/06/2025, Keira Jenkins

"Tough on crime" reforms across Australia are proving to be tough on Aboriginal people, according to advocates examining rising incarceration rates. A two-day Reintegration Puzzle Conference in Mparntwe/Alice Springs is being held as the Northern Territory government unrolls new measures in a \$1.5 billion law and order crackdown.

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

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## Queensland public drunkenness law reversal will bring racial profiling, elders warn

ABC Online, Other, 25/06/2025, Kenji Sato

A proposal to make public drunkenness illegal in Queensland would lead to police racially profiling Indigenous people, elders warn. It comes after Queensland Police Minister Dan Purdie flagged the state government was considering making public drunkenness illegal again, less than a year after decriminalising it.

[Read More](#)

## Children's commissioners urge federal youth justice reform ahead of First Nations conference in Alice Springs

ABC Online, Other, 25/06/2025, Lillian Rangiah

The nation's major leaders, experts and community voices on First Nations justice will meet today in Alice Springs, amid growing calls for federal action on incarceration rates and deaths in custody. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that this article contains the name of an Indigenous person who has died, used with the permission of their family.

[Read More](#)

## Too much lip service, not enough practical action: new approach needed to fulfil Closing the Gap promise

SBS, Other, 25/06/2025

Governments are being urged to rethink their approach to working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people if they are serious about Closing the Gap. While the Closing the Gap framework is sound, its implementation has been inhibited by inaction, an independent, Indigenous-led review found.

[Read More](#)

## NSW Parliament empowers next generation of Aboriginal Leaders in historic program

National Indigenous Times, Other, 25/06/2025, Alexandra Giorgianni

In a step towards greater First Nations representation and political empowerment, the NSW Parliament recently introduced its first-ever Young Aboriginal Leaders Program, uniting aspiring young Indigenous leaders from June 17 to 20 in Sydney. Held at Parliament House, the program brought together selected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians aged 18 to 25 from across NSW.

[Read More](#)

## Victoria's second wave of bail reforms branded a “disaster waiting to happen”

National Indigenous Times, Other, 25/06/2025, Dechlan Brennan

A coalition of justice groups has warned the second tranche of Victoria's bail law reforms, due to be introduced to Parliament in July, is a disaster waiting to happen. The first round of controversial amendments passed in March, despite fierce opposition from human rights, Indigenous, and legal organisations

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## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacist Scholarship recipients announced

National Indigenous Times, Other, 25/06/2025, Callan Morse

Five outstanding students have been selected as recipients of the 2025 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacist Scholarship. Delivered by the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) in partnership with Sanofi Australia, the scholarship is designed to support the next generation of Indigenous pharmacists, reduce financial barriers, increase representation in the workforce, and create culturally safe care pathways for communities.

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## AbSec launches program to help ACCOs access \$350 million in NSW family preservation funding

National Indigenous Times, Other, 25/06/2025, Dechlan Brennan

The peak body for Aboriginal children, young people and families in New South Wales has launched a new initiative to help Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) prepare tenders for the state government's \$350 million Family Preservation funding package.

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## Indigenous children "let down again" as new data shows no progress on out-of-home care numbers

National Indigenous Times, Other, 25/06/2025, Dechlan Brennan

Indigenous children have been "let down for another 12 months," according to the national peak body for First Nations children, following the release of new government data showing no improvement in child protection outcomes. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2023–24 report reveals that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children continue to be vastly overrepresented in out-of-home care (OOHC).

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## Indigenous leaders and justice experts gather in Mparntwe to demand reform as incarceration rates soar

National Indigenous Times, Other, 25/06/2025, Dechlan Brennan

Australia's Indigenous leaders and justice experts are gathering in Mparntwe/Alice Springs over the next two days to advocate for evidence-based alternatives to incarceration, as Indigenous imprisonment rates continue to rise across the country. The Reintegration Puzzle Conference, hosted by the Justice Reform Initiative, follows a collective call from the First Nations Caucus of the Australian and New Zealand Children's Commissioners, Guardians and Advocates, who on Tuesday, urged "governments to finally listen, act, and uphold the rights of the children and young people they are obligated to protect".

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## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### National vaccine rates dropping

Herald Sun, General News, 26/06/2025, Page 9

Australia's poor global childhood vaccination ranking has been revealed just as the country faces record measles cases. In 2023, Australia had the sixth-highest number of unvaccinated children and the seventh-lowest vaccine coverage of the 36 countries across the globe classified as "highincome", a University of Washington-led study found.

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

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### More free flu vaccines as influenza cases soar

West Australian, General News, 26/06/2025, Jessica Page, Page 8

Free influenza vaccines are being extended for an extra month, as the latest figures confirm fears that WA is facing a horror flu season. More than 1500 people have needed hospital treatment out of 8708 recorded infections, which is 88 per cent higher than the five-year average.

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## 'Critical implications' for public health after 20 new bat viruses found in China

Medical experts have warned that the discovery of the viruses could have "critical implications" for public health across the globe. Scientists have detected 20 new viruses within bats in China – a discovery medical experts warn could have "critical implications" for public health worldwide.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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## Whooping cough numbers double in South West as people urged to get their jabs

The Courier Mail, Other, 25/06/2025, Jack Dyson Evans

A potentially life-threatening illness is on an alarming rise in South West and Darling Downs despite the rest of Queensland reporting a major drop off in cases. Health experts have warned families across Toowoomba and the southwest to be vaccine vigilant as whooping cough cases spike by up to 153 per cent from the previous year in some parts.

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

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## New viruses discovered in bats in China: Should we be worried?

The New Daily, Other, 25/06/2025, Imma Perfetto

Researchers have identified 20 new viruses, including two closely related to deadly nipah and hendra viruses, in the kidneys of bats in south-western China. Nipah and hendra circulate in bats but cross over to humans, where they can cause severe brain inflammation and respiratory disease with fatality rates as high as 75 per cent.

[Read More](#)

## Australia ranks poorly among high-income countries in global study of childhood vaccination rates

Adelaide Now, Other, 25/06/2025, Brendan Kearns

Australia's poor global childhood vaccination ranking has been revealed just as the country faces record measles cases. In 2023, Australia had the sixth highest number of unvaccinated children and the seventh lowest percentage of vaccine coverage among the 36 countries across the globe classified as "high-income", a University of Washington-led study found.

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## Mid-year vaccine shake-up incoming

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 25/06/2025, Chloe Hava

From 1 July 2025, pharmacists will see a range of adjustments to how they deliver and bill for vaccination. Here, Australian Pharmacist outlines the changes in vaccination services and fees pharmacists can expect from early next month.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 25/06/2025, Angie Asimus & Michael Usher

Scientists have discovered 20 new viruses in bats in China's southwest, with the potential for another pandemic if they ever crossed over into humans. Researchers say they are closely linked to the Hendra and Nipah viruses.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

**Injectables, weight-loss jabs: The counterfeit drugs being imported into Australia**

Counterfeit medications including fake cosmetic injectables, “substandard” weight-loss jabs and a popular anti-vaxxer drug have been seized at the border, authorities have revealed. The Therapeutic Goods Administration issued alerts for three different counterfeit pharmaceuticals on Tuesday afternoon, warning they had intercepted multiple imports of fake drugs.

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

[Read More](#)

## Fake drugs at borders

Northern Territory News, General News, 26/06/2025, Page 18

Counterfeit drugs, including cosmetic injectables, weight-loss drugs, and ivermectin tablets, have been seized at Australia's borders, prompting a fresh round of safety alerts from the Therapeutic Goods Administration. The alerts follow the TGA detecting attempted imports of the counterfeit pharmaceuticals and instructing the Australian Border Force to seize and destroy intercepted products.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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## Warning over 'genuine' looking drugs caught at border

The Mercury, Other, 25/06/2025, Amelia Swan

Counterfeit drugs, including cosmetic injectables, weight-loss drugs, and ivermectin tablets, have been seized at Australia's borders, prompting a fresh round of safety alerts from the Therapeutic Goods Administration. The alerts follow the TGA detecting attempted imports of the counterfeit pharmaceuticals and instructing the Australian Border Force to seize and destroy any intercepted products.

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

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## Meds not in stock

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 25/06/2025

Shortages of multiple brands of methylphenidate hydrochloride products, used for treatment of ADHD, are expected to be low in stock for the remainder of 2025, according to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). The government body has convened a Methylphenidate Medicine Shortage Action Group (MSAG) which will consult with health professional groups for input into helping to manage the shortage.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 10, 10 News First, 25/06/2025, Natalie Forrest

The TGA warns about an influx of counterfeit drugs coming into Australia. The products appear to be in genuine packaging, but the contents have been exposed as a con.

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## 2CC, Canberra Live, 25/06/2025, Leon Delaney

Australian authorities are issuing a stark warning after intercepting genuine-looking counterfeit drugs at the border. Fake weight loss injections and cosmetic fillers were found to contain harmful ingredients. The TGA advises consumers to only buy medication from authorised sources.

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## Society must end its addiction to punishing users

Hobart Mercury, General News, 26/06/2025, Lily Foster, Page 34

Calls for illicit drug use and their impacts to be addressed through a public health lens rather than a criminal or moral one are not new. In fact, to us, it feels like Groundhog Day.

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## FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

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## AICIS

### Warning as guide for toxic chemicals in water updated

Canberra Times, Other, 25/06/2025, William Ton

A vast majority of Australia's drinking water supplies meet new "forever chemicals" safety limits, but an expert warns more research needs to be done to understand true safe levels. PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are a group of 15,000 highly toxic, synthetic chemicals used for their resistance to heat, stains and grease.

*Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#).*

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### Tightened guidelines for forever chemicals in drinking water

Newcastle Herald, Other, 25/06/2025, Matthew Kelly

Under an extensive water quality testing and monitoring program established more than eight years ago, Hunter Water routinely tests for PFAS in all drinking water supply zones, including at 83 verification sampling points across the water distribution network. The testing program confirms that drinking water supplied by Hunter Water is safe and meets the revised guidelines.

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