



TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 28th June 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [**Sydney Morning Herald**](#) (page 3) reports New South Wales public hospitals are not meeting basic cybersecurity standards and are ill-prepared to handle an attack, putting the safety of patients' records at risk, a State Government audit has found.
- The [**Canberra Times**](#) (page 3) the ACT Government has announced an inquiry into the Territory's public hospitals, to assess elective surgery wait times and how to improve public health data. *Also reported by:* [**Canberra Times**](#)
- The [**Weekend Australian**](#) (page 5) reports Australians can expect to live just over 81 years on average, but only 71 will be lived in full health without disease or injury, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's 2024 Australian Burden of Disease Study has shown.
- The [**Weekend Australian**](#) (page 5) reports AI chatbots pose a greater risk to the mental health of teenagers than social media or YouTube, experts have warned, noting a link to the suicide and radicalisation of teens overseas.
- [**ABC Online**](#) reports WA's North West faces more significant doctors' shortages than the rest of the state, while Health Minister Mark Butler said the Federal Government is examining a review of existing policies designed to attract and distribute the health workforce.
- [**The Guardian**](#) (Online) reports common ADHD treatment Methylphenidate may be in short supply for the rest of 2025, the Therapeutic Goods Administration has warned. *Also reported by:* [**ABC Online**](#)

MINISTER BUTLER

Fight to Save our kids

Daily Telegraph, General News, 28/06/2025, Elissa Doherty, Page 33

A mother has shared her heartbreak at her daughter's spiral into anxiety aged just six, refusing school and food amid a year-long wait for treatment. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said all Australian governments had agreed at a joint health and mental health ministers' meeting in June that children's mental health was a priority.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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Tobacco's black market against our name

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 28/06/2025, James Willis, Page 6

A global tobacco executive believes Australia has one of the worst illicit tobacco black markets in the world. British American Tobacco chief corporate officer Kingsley Wheaton said the local industry was in a "national crisis" where governments have favoured "ideology over logic". [...] Health Minister Mark Butler recently argued "most countries that have lower-priced cigarettes also have burgeoning black market cigarettes".

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Allied health cost-cutting measure detrimental to Riverina NDIS participants - McCormack

Tumut & Adelong Times, General News, 27/06/2025, Page 11

Member for Riverina Michael McCormack is calling for an immediate stop to the National Disability Insurance Agency's decision to slash cost limits and travel funding for Allied Health Services. [...] "I have written to Ministers responsible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Mark Butler MP and Senator Jenny McAllister, regarding this issue and hope the Federal Government listens to the pleas of those who are on the ground supporting some of our most vulnerable community members.

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Canberra Liberals set to decide future of Steel's controversial 'health tax'

Canberra Times, Other, 27/06/2025, Lanie Tindale

The Canberra Liberals are set to determine whether ACT Treasurer Chris Steel's controversial "health tax" will go ahead as outlined in the budget after the Greens threw its future into doubt. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has refused to endorse the tax, noting the Commonwealth was increasing its funding to the ACT hospital system by 16 per cent from next week.

[Read More](#)

Federal minister turns back on ACT Government's health tax

WEB Region Canberra, Other, 27/06/2025, Chris Johnson

Canberra ratepayers aren't the only ones gobsmacked by the ACT Budget's \$250 annual health levy. The Federal Government is also at a loss to explain why a Labor government would resort to such measures. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler would not endorse the ACT Government's new tax when asked to comment on it.

[Read More](#)

GP shortages continue to disadvantage people in remote WA despite government efforts

ABC Online, Other, 27/06/2025, Mietta Adams, Rosemary Murphy and Ruby Littler

A new report has revealed WA's North West faces the greatest challenge with doctor shortages of

anywhere in the state, while local governments in other remote areas are campaigning for the federal government to cover the costs to retain GP services. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the government was considering the findings of the Working Better for Medicare Review, which examined existing policies to attract and distribute the health workforce, including for regional, rural and remote areas.

[Read More](#)

The GP wound care scheme is an important first step in stopping a hidden epidemic

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/06/2025, Jeff Antcliff

The Chronic Wound Consumables Scheme (CWCS) promises to offer financial relief to around 20,000 Australians living with chronic wounds. [...] In launching the scheme, Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler highlighted that the cost of consumables could be borne either by the patient or by the practice, so the scheme may represent savings for surgeries too.

[Read More](#)

No excuses for not working to top of scope: Butler

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 27/06/2025

Ensuring health professionals work to the full extent of their scope of practice will be key to bolstering productivity in the sector, Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing, Mark Butler, believes.

[Read More](#)

The Dispatched 'Week in Review'Podcast - 27 June

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 27/06/2025

The health department has released its incoming ministerial brief to the reappointed Mark Butler, revealing internal government discussions over the future funding of new PBS listings, and hinting at limiting the implementation of the HTA Review recommendations to a small number of technologies.

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Mark Butler retains position on critical Cabinet committee

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 27/06/2025

Health and Disability Minister Mark Butler has retained his position on the Cabinet's all-important Expenditure Review Committee with his portfolio responsibilities now accounting for almost one quarter of the Commonwealth's Budget.

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National cancer screening program marks first in almost 20 years

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 27/06/2025

NLCSP will launch, marking the first new national cancer screening program in almost 20 years. People aged 50–70 who smoke or have a history of smoking and who don't have the symptoms or signs of lung cancer can access low-dose CT scans free of charge through Medicare. [...] "The National Lung Cancer Screening Program is the latest addition to Australia's world-leading cancer screening efforts," said Mark Butler, Australia's Minister for Health and Ageing.

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Lung cancer screening: beware a false sense of security

The Medical Republic, Other, 27/06/2025, Holly Payne

While lung cancer is a major health risk for smokers, it's not the only one. [...] Speaking at the program's official launch on Thursday, Health Minister Mark Butler advised patients to speak to their healthcare professional to see if they are eligible for a free scan under the program.

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It's 1 November or bust: Ageing Australia calls for clear roadmap, rule fixes after Act delay

The Weekly Source, Other, 27/06/2025, Lauren Broomham

The sector has four months to get ready for the new Aged Care Act – and Ageing Australia CEO Tom Symondson says providers need clarity from the Department of Health, disability and Ageing now. [...] While final rules for the Act are still pending after Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, and Sam Rae, Minister for Aged Care and Seniors announced on 4 June a four-month delay of the new Aged Care Act, Tom said providers need a minimum of three months' notice to implement them.

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 27/06/2025, David Woiwod and Natalie Barr

Panel discussion with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and Senator Dave Sharma, speaking about US President Donald Trump's recent tariff announcements and the possibility that Australia could face more tariffs if it doesn't lift defence spending. Butler explains that they are in the process of bringing in \$10 billion over the coming four years, \$50 or \$60b in the coming 10 years, which is considered the biggest increase in peacetime years for defence spending.

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Artsound FM, 08:00 AIR News ACT Edition, 27/06/2025

ACT Labor's decision to hit a \$250 health tax on Canberra ratepayers is not being supported by Federal Health Minister Mark Butler. According to Butler, he declines the Barr Government's claim that a levy is needed because the Federal Government does not adequately fund public hospitals.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

Allied health cost-cutting measure detrimental to Riverina NDIS participants - McCormack

Tumut & Adelong Times, General News, 27/06/2025, Page 11

Member for Riverina Michael McCormack is calling for an immediate stop to the National Disability Insurance Agency's decision to slash cost limits and travel funding for Allied Health Services. [...] "I have written to Ministers responsible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Mark Butler MP and Senator Jenny McAllister, regarding this issue and hope the Federal Government listens to the pleas of those who are on the ground supporting some of our most vulnerable community members.

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2BS, Live and Local, 27/06/2025, Damian de Montemas

Interview with Federal Member for Calare Andrew Gee, speaking about the NDIS pricing changes. Gee points out that the new pricing changes on the NDIS have minimised the rate for allied health services and also minimised the travel times for allied health providers. He adds that the services are concerned that, due to the changes, help may not reach where it is most needed. Mr Gee says he has organised to speak with NDIS Minister Senator Jenny McAllister.

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MINISTER RAE

It's 1 November or bust: Ageing Australia calls for clear roadmap, rule fixes after Act delay

The Weekly Source, Other, 27/06/2025, Lauren Broomham

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Koori Radio, Blackchat, 27/06/2025, Lola Forester

Compere mentions that the National Indigenous Health Alliance has welcomed the appointment of Senator Malarndirri McCarthy as Minister for Indigenous Australians, as well as MP Rebecca White as Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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VACCINES

Conflict over COVID vaccines for healthy kids

Subiaco Post, General News, 28/06/2025, Page 2

There should be angry parents throughout Australia right now, having been finally told by the federal health department, three years after the statistical evidence was available: "COVID19 vaccine is not recommended for healthy infants, children or adolescents who do not have medical conditions that increase their risk of severe illness. "This is because the risk of severe illness was extremely low in this cohort over the course of the pandemic, and benefits of vaccination are not considered to outweigh the potential harms."

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Could a combined flu and COVID vaccine lift immunisation rates?

ABC Online, Other, 27/06/2025, Sam Nichols

On a Tuesday in Sydney's south-west, Kenneth McCroary's clinic was full, as it often is. The Campbelltown-based GP sees everyone in his local area — newborns, pregnant women, and patients nearing 100 years old. [...] For Dr McCroary, the crunch of these cases has been compounded by a simultaneous uptick in COVID-19 infections.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Community sector calls for support

Hobart Mercury, General News, 28/06/2025, David Killick, Page 7

The state's community services industry says it needs greater support from governments if it is to continue delivering frontline support to the Tasmanians who need it most. A coalition of more than a dozen Tasmanian community service organisations has called on all political parties to address budget uncertainty and to enter into a genuine partnership to better support service delivery.

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

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Agents of goodness

Geelong Advertiser, GT, 28/06/2025, Page 6

There's just one gift that Cathy Roth hopes to give her husband John to make certain the end of his life isn't as horrific as the beginning of it was. It was a life that started in war-torn Hungary, where John lived through bombings and terrible medical conditions. He arrived in Australia at the age of five as a refugee with no English and was enrolled in boarding school.

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Supporting you to live well at every age

Ballarat Times, General News, 27/06/2025, Page 25

Everyone's ageing journey is unique and what that journey looks like is largely shaped by the choices we make each day. LiveUp is a free guide, funded by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, that supports older people to find reliable healthy ageing tips and information online.

Also reported by: [Bendigo Times \(None\)](#), [Golden Plains Times \(Ballarat\)](#), [The Mclvor Times \(Heathcote\)](#).

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Pharmacists for connection

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 27/06/2025, Page 2

Seven pharmacies across Western NSW are participating in a new pilot program designed to improve engagement with older individuals at risk of isolation, loneliness or chronic disease. The Stay Well Connected initiative was created in response to data from the Western NSW Primary Health Network (PHN), which found that social isolation and loneliness significantly affect the mental and physical health of older adults (65+) in the region.

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

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The Care Squeeze

ABC Online, Other, 27/06/2025

This Monday, ABC Radio Canberra will launch The Care Squeeze to shine a spotlight on the 1.5 million Australians who are simultaneously raising children and caring for ageing parents. An ageing population and a shift to delaying parenthood have combined to create a sandwich generation.

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

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ANAO review finds patchy compliance with conflict of interest rules

The Mandarin, Other, 27/06/2025, Tom Ravlic

Three key Commonwealth entities don't adequately monitor if senior executive officers complete conflict of interest training, a new performance audit has found. A deep dive conducted by the Australian National Audit Office found that the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC), the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade), and the Department of Home Affairs

have largely appropriate processes to monitor conflicts of interest of senior executive staff. It also identified areas where their internal processes are lacking.

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Providers need final SaH manual sooner, says peak

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 27/06/2025, Natasha Egan

The final version of the Support at Home manual will now be published in September, but Ageing Australia's chief is calling for its release at least three months before the new Act commences. Ageing Australia chief executive officer Tom Symondson has called for a quicker turnaround between the finalisation of the rules and publishing of the manual for the Support at Home program, which is due to start on 1 November with the new Aged Care Act.

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Hospital purgatory: The patients trapped in acute beds with nowhere else to go

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/06/2025, Carmel Sparke

Geriatrician Dr Chloe Furst says older patients deserve to be in an appropriate aged care setting if appropriate.. Behind gridlocked EDs, ambulance ramping, angry patients, and frustrated doctors often lies a frail elderly patient stuck in the wrong kind of bed. Dr Chloe Furst is a geriatrician and palliative care specialist, and she says hospital bed block is becoming worse and will not improve until more aged care places are created.

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Get ready: What you must know about home care changes from 1 July

Your Life Choices, Other, 27/06/2025, Lexanne Garcia

When 83-year-old Margaret from Hervey Bay realised she needed extra help around the house, she was at a crossroads. 'I wasn't ready for a nursing home, but I knew I couldn't do everything on my own anymore,' she recalled. Like many older Australians, Margaret wanted to maintain her independence and stay in her home for as long as possible. Her daughter suggested looking into Home Care Packages—a government-funded system designed to help seniors live safely and comfortably at home.

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DISABILITY

Elite schools in 'new NDIS'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/06/2025, Susie O'Brien and Lauren Novak, Page 13

Taxpayers are funding a \$2bn private school disability "rort", with whistleblowers revealing vulnerable students often do not get the benefit of funding they are allocated and desperately need. Dubbed "the new NDIS", disability funding flowing to independent and Catholic schools around the nation has nearly doubled in the past four years and more than tripled in the past decade.

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NDIS changes a cut too far

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 28/06/2025, Jo Russell, Page 16

As i huddled over my coffee wondering what to write this week, one topic once again stood out like a sore thumb: the NDIS. It is everyone in the disability sector's "favourite" subject and not for the right reasons. Each June, the National Disability Insurance Scheme releases its annual pricing review, with changes taking effect from July 1. This year's updates? A mix of poorly thought-out decisions and outright baffling cuts.

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Where is the alternative' ?

New England MP Barnaby Joyce has come out swinging against planned changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) that could affect delivery of services to local patients and families. From Tuesday, the service will align its pricing with Medicare and private health insurance. That decision follows a review showing NDIS therapy pricing limits had, in some cases, exceeded market rates by up to 68 per cent.

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A warning for the public health system as further NDIS cuts loom

Medical Forum, Other, 27/06/2025

Peak industry and professional bodies have sounded the alarm on upcoming changes to the NDIS, warning they would put additional strain on the public health system. The proposed changes announced less than a fortnight ago would see travel subsidies for allied health professionals providing services as part of NDIS plans cut by half in the new financial year.

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A choice of paying a mortgage or paying for therapy: threats of NDIS cuts

The Border Mail, Other, 27/06/2025, Madilyn McKinley

A North East woman's fight to stop NDIS cuts has been heard in front of the member for Indi's office. Sarah Higinsspoke to a small group of people in Wangaratta on Friday morning, June 27, to address her concerns about proposed changes to the system and to ask for Helen Haines' advocacy. The NDIS announced it will cut travel subsidies for allied health providers by 50 per cent from Tuesday, July 1.

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POPULATION HEALTH

HALE not as hearty as we'd like

Weekend Australian, General News, 28/06/2025, Stephen Lunn, Page 5

If you're putting off that bucket list holiday thinking you have plenty of time before you're too old to take it, beware the HALE. Australians have among the world's highest life expectancy, but our Health Adjusted Life Expectancy the number of years you can expect to live in full health without disease and/or injury is considerably shorter. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's Australian Burden of Disease Study 2024 reveals that a male born in 2024 can expect to live to 81.6 years but his HALE is 71.7 years.

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

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"There is a danger with the technology"

Weekend Australian, Magazine, 28/06/2025, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

In Australia, the announcement landed quietly, buried in the technology pages of newspapers. The scant column inches devoted to this harbinger of the true AI revolution belied its significance. But the man at the centre of the crest of an era of superintelligence is in no doubt of what is coming. It infects his dreams.

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Govt full of trailblazers or idiots?

Canberra Times, General News, 28/06/2025, Anne Cahill Lambert, Page 41

When one of my friends told me on ACT budget night that ACT ratepayers would be paying a \$250 health levy, I told her not to be so ridiculous. [...] A report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare late last year showed that the average out-of-pocket expense in the ACT was \$50 per consultation, whereas in SA it was \$36.

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

'I felt like I was an alien'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/06/2025, Talara McHugh, Page 31

Growing up, Kat Elsby always felt like there was something missing. A female at birth, she "felt like an alien dropped off on the wrong planet" most of their life. "I felt like an alien that just looked like everyone else but didn't feel like them," says Kat, a non-binary trans person. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 79 per cent of non-binary people have experienced suicidal thoughts compared to 14 per cent of men and 18 per cent of women.

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

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Calls to step up pilates safety

Courier Mail, General News, 28/06/2025, Tayla Couacaud, Page 29

Australia's multimillion-dollar pilates industry is facing renewed calls for regulation amid a rise in heated trends, with some experts warning warm environments could increase stress on women's bodies. Some studio owners warn the swiftly expanding industry, fuelled by a surge in health consciousness and the diversification of yoga and pilates techniques, has led to individuals without expertise opening businesses.

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The big deal about falls? Death, hospitalisation and they cost \$5 billion

Canberra Times, Other, 27/06/2025, Desiree Savage

Medical experts often harp on about falls, but rightly so, as they cause nearly half of all injury-related deaths, cost tax-payers billions of dollars and are often preventable, as backed up by new research. Falls can happen to anyone at any age, and accounted for 43 per cent of all injury hospitalisations (248,211) and 43 per cent of all injury deaths (6,698) in 2023-24, according to the latest snapshot from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) released in June.

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Poor sleep, menopause flare-ups: health in warmer world

Canberra Times, Other, 27/06/2025, Poppy Johnston

Extreme heat is the world's biggest weather-related killer but it's also responsible for a host of other health and wellbeing niggles that are not as well understood. Bad sleep, worse productivity and exacerbated menopausal symptoms are among common complaints during heatwaves. University of Bristol climate change and health expert Eunice Lo has been looking beyond hospital and mortality data for deeper insights into the health and wellbeing implications of extremely hot, humid weather.

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

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Drinking less alcohol is hard. But there are ways to get started

ABC Online, Other, 27/06/2025, Kellie Scott

Megan Lee is halfway through reaching her goal of a year without drinking alcohol. The assistant professor in psychology at Bond University on the Gold Coast/Yugambah language region specialises in nutritional psychiatry. Dr Lee says despite her scientific background, she is "still in this crazy system" of pro-alcohol messages, which is why she was motivated to try a year off booze.

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Inside the \$17.3tn Australians own: Here's where the most money is held

SBS, Other, 27/06/2025, Gabrielle Katanasho

While Australia might be getting richer, that wealth isn't distributed equally. Household wealth grew 0.8 per cent in the March quarter, new data by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has found,

meaning Australians now own a total of \$17.3 trillion in assets. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the home ownership rate of 30-to-34-year-olds decreased from 64 per cent in 1971 to 50 per cent in 2021.

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ABC News, ABC Evening News, 27/06/2025, Lorna Dunkley

Pre-recorded interview with Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy Executive Director Chris Gough. Compere says, according to a report by the UN, both Australia and NZ now have the highest number of cocaine users in the world. Gough points out that according to a report by the AIHW, people have been recorded as using cocaine for lifetime use at around 4.5%, recorded in 2022 and 2023.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Brace yourself for it: surgery isn't always the right answer

Weekend Australian, General News, 28/06/2025, Virginia Tapscott, Page 24

Are we too quick to hop on the operating table when it comes to knee ligaments? I finally did it. In December 2024 I joined the ranks of professional footballers by rupturing the dreaded anterior cruciate ligament. "Complete disruption of the ACL," the magnetic resonance imaging report read.

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

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Tan trends make me feel sick

Daily Telegraph, Sport, 28/06/2025, Pamela Whaley, Page 107

NSW and Cronulla star Emma Verran was reluctant to share her melanoma diagnosis, but as soon as she hit publish on an Instagram post this month, support flooded her inbox. There were messages from people who have lost loved ones to deadly skin cancers, people who have stopped procrastinating and booked in for potentially lifesaving skin checks, and concerned teammates.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Dane's cancer battle

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 28/06/2025, Page 11

Former North Queensland Cowboys recruitment boss Dane Campbell has opened up about his shock battle with stage 4 bowel cancer. The otherwise healthy former NRL player, aged just 42, said he had a sudden, one-off episode that caused concern. He said he felt a sudden urge to go to the bathroom because of what he thought was an upset stomach.

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'Don't be fooled': why this 'pimple' could be fatal

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 28/06/2025, Ashleigh Jansen, Page 25

Rebecca Cook has a stern warning for Queenslanders after what was dismissed as a pimple turned out to be aggressive skin cancer. The Gold Coast nurse and mum-of-two said she did everything right, from sun protection to regular skin checks, so was terrified when she received the news.

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Why endometriosis patients still travel interstate for treatment

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 27/06/2025

Women and girls are paying thousands for endometriosis treatments unavailable in regional Queensland. One family from Mackay claims to have paid as much as \$12,000 to travel for surgeries in

an effort to stop excruciating pain. The Whitsunday Regional Council contributed \$10,000 for new equipment at Proserpine Hospital but families say it is still not enough.

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Far North Queensland kids face life-threatening delays as support services face cuts despite 300-day cardiac waitlists

Cairns Post, Other, 27/06/2025, Emma Cam

Far North Queensland families have been left out of the state budget despite heart disease being the leading cause of death in remote areas of Australia. Families are facing a double blow after the 2025-26 budget did not include funding for HeartKids' congenital heart disease and rheumatic heart disease support services.

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Sammy Barry's one symptom before being diagnosed with cancer

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 28/06/2025, Isabella Pesch

A Brisbane mother has urged people under the age of 40 to check their family history and talk to a doctor after she was diagnosed with stage four bowel cancer at 32-years-old. [...] Bowel Cancer Australia chief executive Julien Wiggins said they had previously pushed to change the screening guidelines, and were able to move the screening age from 50 to 45 in 2024.

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Professor Bryan Burmeister has Hervey Bay cancer centre named after him

Fraser Coast Chronicle, Other, 27/06/2025

A Hervey Bay doctor specialising in cancer treatment and who was instrumental in establishing treatment options for the Wide Bay region will have a radiation therapy building named after him. Professor Bryan Burmeister, a Radiation Oncologist who has been based at GenesisCare Fraser Coast and at the Hervey Bay Hospital, will have an existing GenesisCare radiation therapy centre in Urraween named after him after supporting cancer patients across the region.

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Jaci Lappin's breast cancer and love for Carrington Bowling Club

Newcastle Herald, Other, 27/06/2025

At age 60, Jaci Lappin was given six to 18 months to live. That was six years ago. Ms Lappin, Carrington Bowling Club's CEO, was first diagnosed with breast cancer 15 years ago. She said the love of her job had kept her going. "I have a positive attitude and feel a lot of support from the club's members and staff," she said.

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Footy star slams 'sick' fashion trend among young Aussie women after surviving potentially deadly health scare

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 27/06/2025, Josh Alston

One of Australian sport's most admired dual-code athletes has issued a blunt and emotional warning to young women following a frightening diagnosis that could have taken a very different turn. Australian and New South Wales rugby league star Emma Verran [née Tonegato], now with Cronulla Sharks, discovered melanoma during a routine check at a community screening event.

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Young woman reveals why she got a surgery on the rise in Australia

NEWS.com.au, Other, 27/06/2025, Claudia Poposki

A video of a young woman bursting into tears over her appearance has broken social media users' hearts after she revealed the reason behind her tears. Amy Hills, 24, had a lot of physical and mental pain and strain due to the size of her G to H cup breasts. It also led to the calcification of her spine and her neck being curved the wrong way — to the point she was developing a hump on the back of her neck.

PRIMARY CARE

Inquiry into elective surgery wait times

Canberra Times, General News, 28/06/2025, Lanie Tindale, Page 3

There will be an independent inquiry into the ACT's elective surgery waiting times, with a report to be delivered by June next year. The inquiry will also investigate causes of increased hospital demand, staff morale, the Digital Health Record, resourcing, and cardiology and orthopaedic surgery groups.

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

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Ambulance ramping shift highlights system under strain

Ballarat Courier, General News, 28/06/2025, Page 21

Ballarat's bed block came to a crunch this week when ambulances were told to avoid Ballarat Base Hospital. Bed block, where patients can't be admitted to hospital due to a lack of beds, is not a new thing, particularly during winter when the combination of illnesses clogs our hospitals and emergency departments.

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

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'I've had a great run': tributes flow for McCloy

Newcastle Herald, General News, 28/06/2025, Matthew Kelly, Page 1

Hunter business titan and former lord mayor Jeff McCloy has died aged 75, ending his life by voluntary assisted dying after a 12-month battle with aggressive motor neurone disease. In his final interview with the Newcastle Herald this week, Mr McCloy spoke of his love for the Hunter Region and its people.

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State Budget shortfalls on health augur bad news for Margaret River Hospital expansion plan

West Australian, Other, 27/06/2025, Warren Hately and Amber Lilley

Labor has persistently declined to offer any timeline on a seemingly shelved master plan to expand Margaret River Hospital which stakeholders fear could signal the end of the project. Last week's State Budget saw Labor boast of a \$121 million investment in regional healthcare, none of which was allocated south beyond Bunbury.

[Read More](#)

Funding for RFDS base in Geraldton missing in State Budget, while oncology unit faces delays

West Australian, Other, 27/06/2025, Josephine Hingst

The State Government has been accused of breaking election promises after key health commitments for the Mid West were scaled back or left out entirely in last week's State Budget. Among the most notable omissions was a \$7.5 million pledge made during the election campaign to establish a permanent Royal Flying Doctors Service base in Geraldton.

[Read More](#)

A \$1.4 billion boost to WA health – but is it enough?

Medical Forum, Other, 27/06/2025

The State Budget included \$10 million to go in part towards progressing the Royal Perth Hospital Emergency Department expansion. The State Budget for the new financial year will see a \$1.4 billion increase in spending on health, but the AMA (WA) has said it was far from what was needed.

Channel 9, Nine News, 27/06/2025, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort

A leaked screenshot revealed that only one ambulance was available in Melbourne on Tuesday morning this week, leaving nearly 50 people on Tuesday morning waiting for assistance, and two patients in critical condition needing to wait 15 minutes for an ambulance. Vic Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas says the screenshot that was leaked was on a point in time during a dynamic environment.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Experts alarmed over chatbot harm to teens

Weekend Australian, General News, 28/06/2025, Marcus de Blonk Smith, Page 5

AI chatbots are more dangerous to Australian teenagers than social media and YouTube, with the technology being linked to the suicide and radicalisation of teens overseas, experts warn. Australia late last year passed groundbreaking legislation aimed at preventing anyone under the age of 16 from registering to join social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, X and Snapchat and this week there were calls for the popular video-sharing app YouTube to be added to the ban.

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

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The road back from the brink

Canberra Times, General News, 28/06/2025, Nadine Morton, Page 21

"Can't you just start doing the fun stuff you used to love doing?" This is one of the most common questions Michael Brown gets asked, and his answer, with a sigh, is "if only it was that easy". For 32 years, the man from Kiama on the NSW south coast has worked to save the lives of others, but 10 years ago he was suddenly left struggling to survive.

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The rise of pay-per-hour cuddlers

Daily Telegraph, Weekend, 28/06/2025, Page 12

As Australia is gripped with a loneliness epidemic, people are paying professional cuddlers for human contact and there's nothing sexual about it To the casual observer, it looks like your standard night for a rather standard Australian couple. Entwined on the sofa, cuddling each other, as they watch the latest Netflix hit show.

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

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

How parents can navigate system for their children

Daily Telegraph, General News, 28/06/2025, Andrew Wilson, Page 33

See your GP: Your first step will likely be to a GP. They are the most important gateway into the mental health system. They can assess the situation, provide initial advice and referrals to a psychologist or psychiatrist if required. They may also provide a Mental Health Treatment Plan, which may give you access to Medicare rebates for therapy sessions. Make sure you go armed with as much information as you have about the changes you have noticed and your specific concerns.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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Rental trauma terrifies

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 28/06/2025, David Bonaddio, Page 6

A tenant's chilling suicide text has reignited urgent calls for trauma training in Australia's rental sector. More than half of property managers are struggling with mental health issues, according to a national MRI Software survey that found 53 per cent were experiencing psychological distress, while 23 per cent planned to leave the industry.

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

We need a new model for mental health emergencies

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 28/06/2025, Carly Hudson, Page 78

There's a growing crisis in how we respond to mental health emergencies, and it's playing out in hospital emergency departments every day. EDs are chaotic, overstimulating, and often traumatic environments, even for those with physical injuries.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Libs in pledge to nurture midwives

Hobart Mercury, General News, 28/06/2025, Page 6

Tasmania will once again train midwives locally if the Liberals win government at the June 19 state election. Health Minister and member for Franklin Jacquie Petrusma said the Liberals would restore the Graduate Diploma of Midwifery at the University of Tasmania if returned to office.

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

Baby boon

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 28/06/2025, Lochlainn Heley, Page 1

Staff at Mildura Base Public Hospital have announced the arrival of the first baby born under a new public IVF program. Stemming from plans initiated in 2021, the program is state funded and set up as an outreach service of the Royal Women's Hospital. Executive director of clinical operations, chief nursing and midwifery officer Katrina Allen said she is eager for families to expect a "local face and not having to travel for care".

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

Kirwan High's nursing program gets national nod

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 28/06/2025, Evan Morgan, Page 3

Kirwan High has been named as a double finalist in the prestigious 2025 Australian Education Awards honours that showcase the principals, teachers and best performing schools in the country. The school's assistant in nursing program is a finalist in the excellence awardee for innovation in curriculum design and principal Heather Murray a finalist in the school principal of the year government category.

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

Unlocking new digital tools in practice: leaders in nursing and midwifery discuss

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 27/06/2025, Natalie Dragon

We know that many nurses and midwives see the benefits AI can bring to care outcomes. However, many have concerns about the potential loss of human decision making and skills that we can lose as nurses and midwives, such as using algorithms to help with clinical decisions and how this may impact critical thinking skills.

[Read More](#)

Frances Rice appointed ACN Chief Nursing Officer

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 27/06/2025

Responsible for leading the development and promotion of ACN's health policy and nursing practice leadership programs, as well as driving healthcare reform in line with the organisation's priorities, Rice

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Non-profit steps in to help health program

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 28/06/2025, Jonathan Hawes, Page 6

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.

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Doctor visits bar the travel

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 28/06/2025, Daneka Hill, Page 20

Right now, you can go online, see a doctor within 30 minutes, and receive a digital prescription to fill at any chemist all without getting out of your chair. Telehealth has changed the game, and North Queenslanders are among its biggest users. Of the telehealth providers currently running in Australia, Medmate has emerged as a popular choice for North Queenslanders.

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Victorian pharmacy pilot expands healthcare access

Shepparton News Online, Other, 27/06/2025, Ryan Bellingham

As of Tuesday, July 1, Victorians will be able to access treatment for 22 common health conditions in community pharmacies following a statewide pilot program. The state government has invested \$18 million to make the Victorian Pharmacist Statewide Pilot permanent, and expanded the conditions pharmacists can treat.

[Read More](#)

Interventional radiologists collectively resign from Sydney's Westmead Hospital

ABC Online, Other, 27/06/2025, Stephanie Dalzell and Victoria Pengilley

The hospital will have no interventional radiology services from July 8 unless it came come to an agreement. The entire group of interventional radiologists at the troubled Westmead Hospital have resigned after lengthy negotiations with hospital executives failed to reach a resolution.

[Read More](#)

Call for GPs keen to diagnose and treat ADHD

Medical Forum, Other, 27/06/2025

Up to 65 West Australian GPs are expected to begin assessing and prescribing for ADHD as early as next year. The State Government has released details on the rollout of the newly created training for GPs to play a bigger role in managing the condition. While the initial cohort equates to less than 1% of all GPs in WA, further training is expected to be delivered in the future.

[Read More](#)

The last four things that could shape the future of general practice

The Medical Republic, Other, 27/06/2025, Jeremy Knibbs

Our more literary-leaning readers might have noticed that I borrowed a quote about change in last week's First Draft from Henry David Thoreau, "Things don't change: we change". Thinking how clever I was being, I ran it past my partner, who frowned, looked at me sideways, and said, "what, you don't

believe in climate change?" and then proceeded to reel off a whole lot of things that do change day to day while we don't, like rain into snow, boiling water for a coffee, baking cake mix, and so on.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Fee hikes for pharmacy

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 27/06/2025

Dispensing, dangerous drug and Administration, Handing and Infrastructure (AHI) fees paid to pharmacies will increase by 2.4% on Tuesday.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Hacking risk to medical records

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 28/06/2025, Angus Thomson, Page 3

Sensitive medical records and essential healthcare systems are at risk of falling into the hands of hackers because NSW public hospitals are failing to meet basic cybersecurity standards despite measures costing taxpayers \$40 million a year, a leaked government audit has revealed. A draft report by the Audit Office of NSW, seen by the Herald, found the state's local health districts were not effectively managing cybersecurity risks at their hospitals and were "ill-prepared to respond" if an attack occurred.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Patient claims she was cut from wait list due to her BMI

Border Mail, General News, 28/06/2025, Anthony Bunn, Page 7

A Wodonga woman waiting for a knee replacement says she was told by Albury Wodonga Health she was being removed from a waiting list because of her weight. Vicki Lancaster said she was contacted by a hospital representative on Wednesday and told that Albury Wodonga Health was no longer performing elective surgery on those with a body mass index over 40.

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'What if my husband died?': Danyelle Haigh hits out at Alice Springs Hospital after accident

Northern Territory News, Other, 27/06/2025, Lottie Hood

Anthony Haigh had to be flown to Alice Springs Hospital after suffering head trauma, but his wife said she was 'disappointed' with how he was cared for. Danyelle Haigh did not see the moment her husband Anthony was hit in the head by a huge steel hose with 300 psi. But the moments following the incident are now forever scored in her mind.

[Read More](#)

'GPs under pressure to do more in less time': Plaintiff lawyer says negligence claims are increasing

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/06/2025, Heather Saxena

Personal injury lawyer Michael Passaro has witnessed a lot. The senior managing solicitor at Law

Partners has been the lawyer for Nadine Lont , whose baby died at Victoria's Latrobe Regional Hospital in 2024. He has seen GPs who have missed cancers, emergency doctors who failed to triage patients correctly and a surgical team that failed to properly count their instruments, overlooking a retained object that led to organ failure. [...] AHPRA wants to mandate health checks for doctors 70 or older.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Blood, sweat and tears

The Saturday Paper, General News, 28/06/2025, Hannah Bambra, Page 10

The activists who lobbied for decades against the ban on blood donations from the queer community can finally celebrate the removal of this stigma a relic of the AIDS crisis of the 1980s. is a writer, peer support worker and reproductive health advocate.

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Women's safety is not a side-benefit of better male health: What Sussan Ley's press club address got right, and wrong

ABC Online, Other, 27/06/2025, Steven Roberts

In a moving and historic address to the National Press Club , Sussan Ley — the first woman to lead the Liberal Party — shared that she has experienced coercive control in a past relationship. [...] But amid this heartfelt revelation was the following statement : "men's health policy is women's safety policy", echoing a sentiment that is gaining traction across the political spectrum.

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

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Jobs to be axed across CSU's campuses

Daily Advertiser, General News, 28/06/2025, Riley Krause, Page 5

Jobs are set to be axed across Charles Sturt University campuses. On Tuesday, staff and other stakeholders were informed that CSU planned to shed \$35 million from the operating budget between now and the end of 2027. [...] "Our researchers do groundbreaking work in fields as diverse as improving First Nations health and protecting Australia's agriculture sector from devastating pests and diseases. We want to do more of this work, not less."

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

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CSL's heart is in research

Weekend Australian, Business News, 28/06/2025, Tim Boreham, Page 33

CSL global head of R&D Bill Mezzanotte likens drug development to falling in love. "If you don't put your whole heart into it, it won't work," Mezzanotte said. "But when you do, you are at risk of having your heart broken and that sometimes happens." The Australian blood plasma giant certainly has had its share of heartbreak along the way, including a failed heart attack mega trial.

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AI technology will not be going away

Canberra Times, General News, 28/06/2025, Theo Hourmouzis, Page 43

The healthcare industry is no stranger to innovation. "Once-in-a-generation" discoveries like penicillin, anaesthesia, and mRNA vaccines have had huge impacts on health outcomes. The smallpox vaccine

alone is estimated to have saved over 200 million lives. Today, we are on the precipice of a medical revolution that could increase the frequency of these "once-in-a-generation" scientific breakthroughs - the introduction of artificial intelligenc

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

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Saliva test for epilepsy

Courier Mail, General News, 28/06/2025, Page 18

A simple saliva test could transform the lives of millions of children and adults worldwide who are on the keto diet to manage epilepsy. Monash researchers found that the handheld test was comparable in accuracy to existing uncomfortable finger prick blood tests. A device, called the MX3 LAB, uses a test strip to noninvasively measure salivary levels of ketones acids that are released when the body burns fat instead of carbohydrates for energy.

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

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\$2.1m to boost cancer research

Hobart Mercury, General News, 28/06/2025, Robyn Riley, Page 3

Australia is a world leader in discovering new and better ways to treat childhood cancers, but tragically three children still die every week from the disease. Now two child cancer research teams who are among the best in the world are set to share in a \$2.1 million funding boost from the Victorian government to be announced today. The Minister for Economic Growth and Jobs Danny Pearson said the funding was being provided under the Children's Cancer CoLab's Next-Generation Therapies Program.

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WA genetic discovery a breakthrough for rare muscle disorder

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 28/06/2025, Hannah Cross, Page 31

West Australian researchers have made a breakthrough medical discovery in the fight against a rare genetic muscle disorder. Professor Gina Ravenscroft, head of the Rare Disease Genetics and Functional Genomics group at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research, and Lein Dofash, PhD student at the institute and University of Western Australia Medical School, identified a new genetic cause of rigid spine syndrome.

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

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Flipping the script

Ballarat Courier, General News, 28/06/2025, Michelle Smith, Page 1

A team of Ballarat medical experts are setting out to rewrite the research on women's health. Despite making up half the population, medical research has historically focused on men, with gaps in data and research on the health issues that affect millions of women. The Ballarat Women's Study brings together LaTrobe University and the Ballarat Women's Clinic to learn more about the health issues facing women in the city and regional Victoria.

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

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Daily Advertiser, General News, 28/06/2025, Riley Krause, Page 5

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Experimental drug set to rival Ozempic

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 28/06/2025, 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.

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Prescient advances new therapies for hard-to-treat cancers

The Australian, Other, 27/06/2025

Clinical stage biotech Prescient Therapeutics is developing new therapies for cancers of unmet need, aggressive diseases that can devastate lives and for which treatment options remain limited. Prescient Therapeutics (ASX: PTX) is currently focused on tackling cutaneous T-Cell lymphoma (CTCL), a rare form of non-Hodgkin lymphoma that primarily affects the skin, blood and internal organs, with its Phase II trial of lead compound PTX-100.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Dr Fiona Stanley: 'If we want better health outcomes, the last thing we need is more doctors and hospitals'

The Guardian, Other, 28/06/2025, Rosamund Brennan

Fiona Stanley arrives at South Beach Cafe at 11.30am on the dot, beaming beneath her orange sunhat. She's bright-eyed and buoyant, perhaps owing to her morning laps at Fremantle pool, a twice-weekly ritual. [...] She's proudly clutching a book called First Knowledges Health: Spirit, Country and Culture, which she co-authored. Part of an eight-book series, it explores how Indigenous approaches to healthcare can solve today's problems – detailing cultural rituals such as birthing on Country and end-of-life care.

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Doorknocking initiative in Cherbourg highlights need for culturally safe, community-led approaches

National Indigenous Times, Other, 27/06/2025, Dechlan Brennan

A new door-to-door mental health initiative in a First Nations community in Queensland has highlighted the importance of designing and delivering projects which are specifically tailored to the needs of Aboriginal communities. The Assisting Communities through Direct Connection (ACDC) project, led by Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA), encountered challenges when implemented in Cherbourg — a small community 170 kilometres northwest of Brisbane where Indigenous people make up 96 per cent of the population.

INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Aussies warned as deadly disease spreads

Courier Mail, General News, 28/06/2025, Summer Liu, Page 10

Australian travellers chasing the sun to Europe have been warned to stay vigilant as a deadly disease has broken out in popular tourist hotspots. Austria, Czechia, Hungary and Slovakia have reported a rise in hepatitis A cases between January and May, according to a European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control rapid risk assessment.

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

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Measles alert issued for hospital visitors

Daily Advertiser, General News, 28/06/2025, Allan Wilson, Page 6

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

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Montebello Island's plutonium levels comparable to Marshall Islands despite smaller blasts

West Australian, Other, 27/06/2025, Cain Andrews

The Montebello Islands, where three nuclear bombs were tested in the 1950s, continue to record high plutonium levels in marine sediments, comparable to those found at the infamous Bikini Atoll test sites, according to new research from Edith Cowan University. The British Government conducted three tests at the Islands, which lay some 148km off the coast of Karratha, after World War II as world powers rushed to build up their nuclear arsenals.

[Read More](#)

Papua New Guinea declares national HIV crisis as cases surge

ABC Online, Other, 27/06/2025, Scott Waide

Papua New Guinea is grappling with a severe resurgence of HIV, prompting the government to declare a National HIV Crisis. New data reveals a doubling of new infections since 2010, with an estimated 30 people contracting the virus daily in 2024, totalling approximately 11,000 new cases last year alone.

Also reported by: [SBS \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#).

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Global HIV fight faces major setbacks amid funding and research cuts

ABC Online, Other, 27/06/2025, Olivia Willis

Ambitions to end the global HIV epidemic as a public health threat by 2030 look increasingly out of reach as experts fear there could be an increase in new infections for the first time in decades. Concerns among scientists, health workers and community advocates have grown in recent months following billions of dollars in foreign aid and medical research being slashed by the US government.

[Read More](#)

Doctors urged to have a high suspicion for measles

Medical Forum, Other, 27/06/2025

GP clinics and emergency departments are being reminded to take precautions around measles after a public health alert was issued by the Department of Health following a reported case. The latest case was in a returned traveller from Afghanistan who is being treated at a Perth hospital.

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Australians with ADHD could face drug shortages for rest of year, TGA says

The Guardian, Other, 27/06/2025, Eelemarni Close-Brown

People with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder are being advised to contact their doctor as Australia's drug regulator warned a common medication used to treat the condition may be in short supply for the rest of the year. Methylphenidate – known by its brand names as Ritalin, Ritalin LA and Concerta – is in short supply in Australia due to manufacturing issues, according to a notice from the Therapeutic Goods Administration on Wednesday, which advised people to speak to their pharmacist to help source their prescription.

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

[Read More](#)

New dawn for NeuroScientific with stem cell acquisition

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/06/2025, Matt Birney

Stem cell therapies have long promised to press the body's reset button - potentially reversing injuries and damage from disease, regenerating tissue and reshaping modern medicine. [...] This will support further development, including for a special access program or bigger phase 2/3 trials for patients with refractory and fistulising Crohn's, and will enable regulatory engagement with Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration with a long-term goal of partial or full registration for StemSmart MSC, first up as a Crohn's treatment.

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

[Read More](#)

Should Australia worry about RFK Jr's shock flu vaccine move?

The Guardian, Other, 27/06/2025, Tory Shepherd

An influential US vaccine panel has recommended against seasonal influenza vaccines containing a specific preservative, causing concern among medical and scientific experts who fear the decision may impact future vaccine availability. [...] Dr Gary Grohmann, the former head of immunobiology evaluating vaccines at the Therapeutic Goods Administration, says Australia has one of the world's best vaccine programs and is "pretty autonomous" from the US.

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The week in review

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 27/06/2025

Warnings on ongoing medication shortages and substandard products, a call for action on expanding scope of practice and for regulators to proactively focus on risks were among the hot topics this week. Multiple medications used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are likely to remain in short supply until 2026, the Therapeutic Goods Administration said.

[Read More](#)

More telehealth guidelines made by telehealth operators

The Medical Republic, Other, 27/06/2025, Holly Payne

Convened by controversial cannabis group Montu and chaired by former Health Minister Greg Hunt, the Telehealth Sector Working Group has moved incredibly fast. [...] Montu, Alternaleaf and their common director Christopher Strauch are currently subject to legal action initiated by the TGA in relation to alleged unlawful advertising of medicinal cannabis on websites and social media.

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The Therapeutic Goods Administration will now allow gay men to donate plasma by next month and blood from next year as per new regulations. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the country has one of the safest blood donors in the world because the system was designed to provide the best available Scientific evidence.

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 27/06/2025, Sally Sara

Interview with Australasian ADHD Professionals Association President Professor David Coghill, speaking about the Therapeutic Goods Administration's recently released notice of a shortage of the ADHD drug methylphenidate. Coghill explains that there is a shortage of the drug methylphenidate, which is commonly known by its brand names Ritalin or Concerta.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

UN says drugs black market is thriving Down Under

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Business News, 28/06/2025, Angus Whitley, Page 139

Australia and New Zealand are the world's biggest users of cocaine, as global consumption of the illicit drug reaches record highs, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime said in its latest report. While more people use cocaine in the Americas than anywhere else, consumption is most prevalent in Australia and New Zealand, according to the World Drug Report 2025.

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

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FOOD STANDARDS

Viral TikTok treat threat

Courier Mail, General News, 28/06/2025, Page 11

A hugely popular food that went viral on TikTok has been urgently recalled due to undeclared allergens. All blocks of Dubai chocolate from Choco Bliss have been recalled from Choco Bliss stores in Queensland after the packaging failed to adequately declare allergens.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#)

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SA ban on plastic produce stickers on hold as growers struggle with costs

ABC Online, Other, 27/06/2025, Selina Green and Elsie Adamo

Shoppers might loathe them but Australian growers have welcomed a delay in banning plastic stickers on fruit and vegetables. South Australia was due to become the first state to ban non-compostable plastic produce (PLU) stickers from September.

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AICIS

Crackdown on cancer-linked 'forever chemicals' could cost Aussies big

9News, Other, 27/06/2025, Adam Vidler

Strict new limits for cancer-linked "forever chemicals" in drinking water have been released, but experts say there's further to go to keep Australians safe. The National Health and Medical Research Council has been conducting a review of guidelines for PFAS in drinking water since 2023. PFAS are a group of more than 4000 manufactured chemicals used in a wide range of industrial and consumer products, from firefighter foam to cookware.

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