



TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 6th July 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [**Sun Herald**](#) (page 1) reports that the latest Mothers and Babies Report from NSW Health reveals almost 60 per cent of births in some Sydney private hospitals are caesarean.
- The [**Sunday Canberra Times**](#) (page 1) reports Airservices Australia will decontaminate Canberra Airport of some 300kg of toxic PFAS chemicals, after a decade of dispute with the leaseholder.
- The [**Sunday Tasmanian**](#) (page 1) reports that Tasmania's Labor opposition has pledged to open five fully bulk-billed GP clinics, complementing the federal government's urgent care clinics, if it wins government later this month.
- The [**Sunday Tasmanian**](#) (page 1) reports that Rosie Brown is raising awareness of sepsis after a ten-day battle for life in Royal Hobart Hospital and a gruelling two-year recovery.
- The [**Sunday Tasmanian**](#) (page 3) reports that Tasmania's public hospitals have been hit with a wave of COVID-19 cases, the state's Health Department says.
- The [**Sunday Mail Adelaide**](#) (page 7) reports that the waiting list for specialists in South Australia's public hospitals remains long at almost 70,000 patients overall but there have been reductions in 58 specialty areas.
- The [**Sunday Mail Adelaide**](#) (page 21) reports that peak body National Disability Services says NDIS pricing changes could result in 10,000 children losing access to therapy or being forced to

travel. Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Brisbane](#), [Sunday Herald Sun](#), [Sunday Telegraph](#), [Sunday Tasmanian](#)

MINISTER BUTLER

\$25 million promise to fix Canberra's low bulk-billing rates, high out-of-pocket costs

WEB Region Canberra, Other, 05/07/2025, Sen Katy Gallagher

There's been a lot of discussion about the ACT hospital system recently including the pressure hospitals are under in meeting demand and the funding needed to support these services. [...] With all this data my colleagues Alicia Payne, Andrew Leigh, Dave Smith and I worked with the Health Minister Mark Butler on designing a \$25 million response to help address problems in the primary care system that have not shifted for some time.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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DEPARTMENT

Glen Innes secures nearly \$2 million in Aged Care funding

The New England Times, Other, 05/07/2025

Glen Innes Severn Council has successfully secured \$1,938,533 in Commonwealth Home Support

Programme (CHSP) funding to continue to deliver essential aged care services to older residents in the area over the next two years. The funding package, confirmed through a Commonwealth Standard Grant Agreement with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DHDA), will support 10 key service areas from July 2025 to July 2027, ensuring comprehensive care for local seniors who wish to remain living independently in their own homes.

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VACCINES

Covid wave hits hospitals

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 06/07/2025, Sue Bailey, Page 3

A wave of Covid cases has hit the state's public hospitals and forced some Tasmanians to cancel their school holiday plans. The Health Department confirmed cases of Covid at the Royal Hobart Hospital, Launceston General Hospital and North-West Regional Hospital but was unable to say how many patients had been infected.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

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DISABILITY

Therapist pay freeze to leave kids in cold

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 06/07/2025, Julie Cross, Page 21

More than 10,000 children on the NDIS may lose their therapists or be forced to travel to a clinic for treatment, according to a peak body for providers. A decision to freeze pay for allied health workers for the sixth year running as well as cuts to travel expenses came into force on July 1, and has already led to at least 25 organisations having to make difficult decisions, including closure, according to a peak body for NDIS providers.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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Families fear reduced NDIS support as travel subsidies paid to allied health providers cut

ABC Online, Other, 05/07/2025, Sarah Richards

Zaiden Dyball's parents had spent years searching for the right therapists. The five-year-old, who has a rare disability, had recently started taking assisted steps with the help of in-home therapy sessions. [...] Ms Dyball said they are at risk of losing his "incredible team of therapists" under the price changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Also reported by: [ABC News](#)

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POPULATION HEALTH

The bathroom is not for boozing

Sunday Age, General News, 06/07/2025, Jack Gramenz, Page 9

Slippery, hard-surfaced bathrooms are not safe places to use drugs or drinking, Australian researchers investigating bathtub drownings say. An analysis from the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre of 195 adults who died in a bathtub or hot tub between 2015 and 2024 found drugs or alcohol contributed to the majority of deaths.

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Finally hearing about 'food noise'

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 06/07/2025, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 26

The evolution of controversial new weight loss drugs is shining a spotlight on a crippling, little-understood food phenomenon linked to many dieters' battle with the bulge. But health experts warn it is still a major issue too few people are talking about.

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

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'Makes no sense': South Australian ban exposed

NEWS.com.au, Other, 05/07/2025, Josh Faulks

Soy milk, rice cakes and ham salad sandwiches aren't usually the first things that come to mind when you think of "junk food". Yet, here we are, in the first week of the introduction of the South Australian food and beverage advertising bans on government assets, still debating what has been banned and what has not.

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Regulation calls miss obvious point

Sun Herald, General News, 06/07/2025, Parnell Palme McGuinness, Page 33

[...] It's worth bringing in a longish quote from a literature review conducted by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in 2015 to make this point. "The evidence on childcare in the first 3 years indicates that, for children who are not disadvantaged in their home environment, high-quality childcare has no strong effects on cognitive and language development," the institute found, correcting the idea that early childcare is educationally beneficial for the majority of children.

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Celebrate our Australian health system

Sunday Canberra Times, Editorials, 06/07/2025, Page 37

Barely a week goes by without some jaw-dropping event in the United States occurring. [...] Last year, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare compared the system here with that of the main industrialised countries, those in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Breakthrough MRI-only prostate cancer treatment in NSW

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 05/07/2025, Damon Cronshaw

A significant breakthrough has been made in the treatment of prostate cancer at the Calvary Mater Newcastle. It is the first hospital in Australia to use an "MRI-only planning approach" for radiation therapy for prostate cancer in everyday practice.

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Caesareans in private hospitals close to 60%

Sun Herald, General News, 06/07/2025, Mary Ward, Page 1

Almost 60 per cent of births at some Sydney private hospitals are now by caesarean, as more women seek to "control" childbirth amid increased discussion of traumatic experiences in labour. At North Sydney's Mater Hospital and Kareena Private Hospital in Caringbah, more than 59 per cent of first-time mothers aged 20 to 34 gave birth via caesarean in 2023, according to NSW Health's latest Mothers and Babies Report.

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Surgery wait still long but easing

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 06/07/2025, Belinda Willis, Page 7

Almost 70,000 South Australians are languishing on public hospital specialist waiting lists, with latest figures showing one of the best wait time improvements has been in plastic and reconstructive surgery in the southern suburbs. Epilepsy patients at the Royal Adelaide Hospital could be waiting five years to see a specialist, with a median of around 20 months while the wait to see an orthopaedic surgeon was one to three years.

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What doc ordered

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 06/07/2025, Sue Bailey, Page 1

Labor will announce a bold plan to allow Tasmanians to visit the doctor for free at five new clinics across the state if it wins government. The Australian Medical Association has welcomed the initiative, with vice-president and GP Dr Meg Creely describing it as "a positive announcement".

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Greens pledge physio services boost

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 06/07/2025, Page 15

The Greens have unveiled a plan to invest \$5m into physiotherapy services annually if they form government, describing physios as "the unsung heroes of our health system". Greens leader Rosalie Woodruff accused the Liberals of moving to gut funding for physio services, which she said were a "key pillar of community health".

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Greens would offer physio boost

Sunday Examiner, General News, 06/07/2025, Annika Rhoades, Page 3

An investment of \$5 million per year into the "unsung heroes of the healthcare system" has been announced by the Greens. The money would go towards hiring more staff to meet demand for physiotherapy services, as Greens leader Rosalie Woodruff said the allied health sector was the victim of a decade of Liberal neglect.

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How Rosie won fight for life

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 06/07/2025, Sue Bailey, Page 1

As she lay in her hospital bed, falling in and out of consciousness and fighting life-threatening sepsis, Rosie Brown's family was told to prepare for the worst. She was on her third antibiotic treatment and the prognosis was grim but thanks to the dedication and skills of her medical professionals she recovered.

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New twist in fallout from death of rogue dentist

Sunday Times, General News, 06/07/2025, John Flint, Page 12

A prosthodontist who came to the rescue of scores of patients needing urgent care in the wake of the

sudden death of Perth dentist David Hurst is considering his legal options to recover \$465,000 he says he is owed. Michael Zaninovich's practice Aria Dental is a significant creditor in the liquidation of Dr Hurst's company, which traded as Perth Dental Rooms.

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

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Overdue surgeries keep NSW Health Minister Ryan Park up at night

ABC Online, Other, 05/07/2025, Nick Dole

Ryan Park isn't getting much sleep. The New South Wales health minister has an enormous portfolio, with a seemingly endless list of challenges to overcome. However, there's one issue that's worrying him more than most, and that's the number of patients waiting for overdue surgery in the state's hospitals.

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'Jacinta ... get educated': trio calls out premier's claims on new hospital

The Border Mail, Other, 05/07/2025, Ted Howes

Border mayors and Better Border Health have slammed Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan's "ill-informed remarks" about the push for a greenfield site hospital. On Friday, July 4, Ms Allan was in Benalla spruiking a firm's involvement in supplying concrete segments for the Suburban Loop tunnel being built in Melbourne.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Deepfake bullying worry

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 06/07/2025, Suzan Giuliani and Eilidh Sproul Mellis, Page 18

The harms of deepfakes and other forms of online and schoolyard bullying have been highlighted as key issues affecting students and teachers as part of a national review into the deadly issue. The Sunday Mail can reveal the federal government's Anti-Bullying Rapid Review has received almost 1700 submissions from pupils, parents and educators detailing emotional accounts of real-life bullying experiences and the need for urgent action.

Also reported by: [Sunday Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Promise of programs to ease struggle

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 06/07/2025, Sue Bailey, Page 14

Labor leader Dean Winter has announced new wellbeing programs for Tasmanian schools saying students have lost their lives due to struggles with mental health. Labor would invest \$10m over two years for mental health and wellbeing programs that had been hailed by SPEAK UP! Stay ChatTY and the Resilience Project, he said.

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

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Fresh air, fine wine, more money: the pitch to bring GPs to 'God's country'

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 06/07/2025, Stephanie Gardiner, Page 35

Half a million Australians live in "GP deserts", receiving 40 per cent fewer services per person than the national average, according to research by the Grattan Institute. With poorer access to check-ups, screening and medication, the burden of chronic disease is higher in rural and remote areas and life expectancy is shorter.

Also reported by: [Sunday Examiner \(Launceston\)](#)

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

Alarming increase in WA children admitted to hospital with RSV

Respiratory syncytial virus cases are surging in WA, with hospital admissions increasing 45 per cent in June. The latest figures reveal four deaths were reported to the Department of Health in just five weeks.

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

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

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AICIS

Beset by years of delays

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 06/07/2025, Lucy Arundell, Page 1

More than 300 kilograms of potentially toxic "forever" chemicals are set to be cleaned up at Canberra Airport after years of back-and-forth between government agencies and the airport group. The leaseholders of Canberra Airport have argued the government agency responsible for the PFAS chemical contamination, Airservices Australia, has "continuously attempted to shift accountability and liability" for the clean-up.

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

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