



TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 7th February 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
| [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Disability and Carers](#) | [Primary Care](#)
| [Population Health](#) | [Chronic Conditions and Screening](#) |
[Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Immunisation](#) | [Health Systems Strategies](#)
| [Health Economics & Research](#) | [First Nations Health](#)
| [Public Hospital and Health Reform](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The **[NT News](#)** (page 1) reports that AHPRA has suspended the licence of Dr Satbir Aulakh of Darwin Ageless Health Clinic for inappropriate and dishonest prescribing of steroids, hormones and experimental peptides.
- The **[West Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that a woman gave birth on the side of the Kwinana Freeway last November after St John of God Midland Public Hospital failed to admit her.
- The **[Weekend Australian](#)** (page 2) reports Aged Care Inspector-General Natalie Siegel-Brown told a Senate inquiry on Friday that her office has been given no timelines or economic modelling for the end of the Commonwealth Home Support Program.
- The **[Courier Mail](#)** (page 3) reports that Buckingham Gardens Aged Care in Alexandra Hills is in lockdown due to a COVID-19 outbreak, the Department of Health and Aged Care has confirmed.
- The **[Courier Mail](#)** (page 3) reports that Queensland children will be offered a nasal spray influenza vaccine as part of the state government's free flu vaccination program from next month.
- The **[Canberra Times](#)** (page 4) reports that a former Canberra doctor has been given a one year good behaviour bond after pleading guilty to a campaign of harassment against a female

colleague in 2021 and 2022.

- The [Weekend Australian](#) (page 5) reports that Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia has given \$5 million to a Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre-led project to develop theranostic treatment for aggressive prostate cancers.
- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 5) reports that a landmark Oxford University study found no evidence to support 62 of the 66 side-effects currently listed for statins, drugs widely prescribed to lower cholesterol.
- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 5) reports that ambulance wait times in Victoria have blown out by more than a quarter since 2015 and one third of emergency patients are waiting more than 10 minutes for treatment, the Productivity Commission found.
- The [Weekend Australian](#) (page 9) reports that the Victorian government has authorised a Victorian Law Reform Commission review of its conversion therapy law following the revelation that it was nearly two years overdue.
- The [Daily Telegraph](#) (page 9) reports that Meals on Wheels NSW told a senate inquiry that aged care providers are charging Support at Home clients up to seven times the cost to have meals delivered.
- The [Daily Telegraph](#) (page 10) reports that the NSW Government has announced an additional million dollars in funding for community-led mental health programs in the wake of the Bondi massacre.

MINISTER BUTLER

Autism and the NDIS

The Saturday Paper, General News, 07/02/2026, Rick Morton, Page 12

Children with autism or developmental delay with "low to moderate" support needs, and their families, will receive near-universal access to some support outside the National Disability Insurance Scheme under a reform package agreed by federal and state governments. [...] The Thriving Kids Advisory Group, co-chaired by Minister for Disability and the NDIS Mark Butler, is clear that only children with autism or developmental delay and low to moderate support needs will be removed from the NDIS.

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

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Children vax rate lowest in 30 years

Hobart Mercury, General News, 07/02/2026, Jessica Wang, Page 19

Childhood immunisation rates have dropped to the lowest level in 30 years, resulting in an increase in cases of children catching whooping cough, with Health Minister Mark Butler labelling the results "alarming". [...] Coverage rates were also below the aspirational 95 per cent target set by the Health Department to aid herd immunity.

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

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Post-COVID vaccine hesitancy partly to blame for record whooping cough cases, doctors say

9News, Other, 06/02/2026, Eleanor Wilson

Childhood whooping cough cases across Australia have surged to record heights, with a 10-year-low in child vaccination rates contributing to the spike, according to doctors. [...] "There's no question that the 2024 surge was bigger than the previous surge," federal Health Minister Mark Butler said.

[Read More](#)

Mundaring GP Super Clinic to operate urgent care clinic

Echo, General News, 06/02/2026, Peter W Lewis, Page 5

Mundaring GP Super Clinic will operate the Mundaring Medicare urgent care clinic to be located at 3 Mundaring Weir Road and expected to open by mid-February and be fully bulk billed. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the Albanese government is getting on with the job of delivering more Medicare urgent care clinics for people in Western Australia.

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

PBS expansions cut medicine costs

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/02/2026, Page 12

Australians living with complex and debilitating conditions, including juvenile arthritis, rare liver disease and multiple sclerosis, will pay less for treatment following new Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listings announced by the Albanese Government. "The medicines we're listing are life-changing for people with distressing and even deadly conditions," said Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler.

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Australian Human Rights Commission calls for coronial inquest over Mosman Park double murder-suicide disability claims

7news.com.au, Other, 06/02/2026, Bryce Luff

[...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler declined to comment on the family's NDIS support earlier this week but said disability authorities are co-operating with the police investigation. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said significant reform had taken place to make the scheme more "fair, consistent and empowering for people with permanent and significant disability".

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E-bike crisis: Health chief calls for immediate action on 'total menace' on our roads

7news.com.au, Other, 06/02/2026, Aimee Edwards

Health Minister Mark Butler has warned Australia is facing a rapidly escalating e-bike crisis, describing the vehicles as a "total menace on the roads" as devastating injuries surge through hospital emergency departments.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 06/02/2026, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Panel discussion with Minister for Health Mark Butler and Liberal Senator Jane Hume. Barr says injuries to children from e-bikes is a national health emergency. Butler says health professionals have talked to him as the health minister about what it is doing to their hospitals.

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Newly created not-for-profit to operate 31 Healthscope hospitals – including Darwin's

Northern Territory News, Other, 06/02/2026, Lottie Hood

The NT Government says it is looking forward to "further discussions" on Darwin Private Hospital following the announcement from Healthscope's receivers of the creation of a new not-for-profit to operate 31 hospitals. [...] In NT Parliament this week, the sale process of Darwin Private Hospital was the subject of debate with Health Minister, Steve Edgington, saying he would be sitting down with the receivers and Australian Health Minister, Mark Butler, the following week.

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

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ABC Radio Darwin , 13:00 News, 06/02/2026

Australia's second largest private hospital operator will keep its doors open as a result of a deal for it to become a not-for-profit organisation. Healthscope collapsed into receivership last year, putting the future of dozens of hospitals, including Darwin Private Hospital, in doubt. Minister for Health Mark Butler says receivers have found buyers for hospitals that have not been sold.

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GP training contract tops \$1b

The Medical Republic, Other, 06/02/2026, Holly Payne

The tables have turned on general practice training; just a few short years after the RACGP failed to fill all its places, the 2026 GP registrar is on track to be the largest on record. In an announcement on Friday morning, Health Minister Mark Butler confirmed that GP training would remain with the RACGP and ACRRM into the future, with a five-year contract totalling more than \$1 billion.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 06/02/2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

The Federal Government has opened \$1b war chest to combat a dire shortage of regional doctors. The new doctor training fund will guide thousands of young GPs into regional and isolated communities. Minister for Health Mark Butler says they need more junior doctors training to replace retiring GPs.

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Searching for details of the National Health Reform Agreement

Croakey, Other, 06/02/2026, Charles Maskell-Knight

Introduction by Croakey: In radio interview this morning, the Minister with many portfolios, Mark Butler, said that all of the issues in his wide-ranging brief – health, ageing, disability, and the NDIS – he was probably most focused on the urgent need to build more aged care. [...] By the afternoon of Tuesday 3 February, the new agreement had not been posted on either the Federal Financial Relations or the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DHDA) websites.

[Read More](#)

Emerging preferred supplier trend 'unconscionable'

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 06/02/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

[...] ATSA shared the joint statement on LinkedIn, writing that it has sent a copy to Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae, Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler, Inspector-General of Aged Care Natalie Siegel-Brown, Commissioner for Aged Care Quality and Safety Liz Hefren-Webb and the Aged Care Council of Elders.

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Medical association questions insurer influence over private clinical decisions

Insurance Business Australia, Other, 06/02/2026, Roxanne Libatique

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) has renewed its call for changes to how private health insurers contract with individual medical practitioners, arguing that current arrangements give large funds significant influence over clinical and financial outcomes in the private system. [...] In parallel, Health Minister Mark Butler has asked major funds to resubmit premium applications ahead of the April 1 rate round, with analysts expecting average rises above 4%.

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SOTON busts boomer bubble myths

The Mandarin, Other, 06/02/2026, Dan Holmes

More older Australians are struggling with the cost of living than stereotypes would have you believe, according to the 2025 State of the Older Nation (SOTON) report. [...] "I'm sure Mark Butler's been given that job because Anthony, the Prime Minister, believes that he will fix some of the issues in the NDIS.

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Elderly stranded in hospitals

Victor Harbor Times, Other, 06/02/2026

Member for Mayo Rebekha Sharkie is calling on the Federal Government to boost its funding offer for public hospitals, ahead of Friday's National Cabinet meeting. [...] In response to Ms Sharkie's question,

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler acknowledged the longer stay of older patients in hospitals was "quite significant" and that rising demand for residential aged care resulted in increased pressure on the public hospital system.

[Read More](#)

FIVEAA, Mornings, 06/02/2026, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Minister for Health Mark Butler about the National Health Reform Agreement. He says public hospitals are busier than they ever have been, and the Commonwealth Government is doing its bit to support state governments. He says they need to build more aged care beds.

Continues: [FIVEAA \(Adelaide\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER MCALLISTER

Australian Human Rights Commission calls for coronial inquest over Mosman Park double murder-suicide disability claims

7news.com.au, Other, 06/02/2026, Bryce Luff

[...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler declined to comment on the family's NDIS support earlier this week but said disability authorities are co-operating with the police investigation. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said significant reform had taken place to make the scheme more "fair, consistent and empowering for people with permanent and significant disability".

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ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 06/02/2026, Olivia Caisley

Interview with NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister about Thriving Kids. She says the Federal Government will commence making it mandatory for NDIS providers to register from the middle of next year. She says the ICANN assessment system will be much more predictable and a lot fairer for participants.

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER RAE

MP calls to speed up aged care roll out

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 07/02/2026, Denika Anderson, Page 3

A new report has revealed the median wait time for Support at Home packages more than doubled in the last financial year, intersecting with the 1 November announcement of new aged care reforms in response to recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. [...] "For decades too many older Australians have faced a system that treated them as passive recipients of care," Federal Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae said.

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Sector needs incentives to address capacity constraints

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 06/02/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The government needs to provide incentives to support the investment needed to combat the growing challenge of bed shortages, Opal CEO Rachel Argaman tells AAA. [...] "We know the Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae and his department are cognisant of these inescapable demographics," she told AAA.

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

13,000 locals seek support

Ipswich News Today, Other, 06/02/2026

The Ipswich Medicare Mental Health Centre has hit a milestone this week, delivering more than 13,000 occasions of care to locals seeking support since opening its doors in May 2024. To mark the occasion, Blair MP Shayne Neumann was joined by Emma McBride, Federal Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health for a visit of the centre.

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

No relevant coverage

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

Exclusive: Accenture contracts reach \$6.5 billion

The Saturday Paper, General News, 07/02/2026, Jason Koutsoukis, Page 1

[...] "Society pays a price for the Commonwealth's love affair with these multinational consultancies, where everyone's at the champagne bar congratulating each other on the extraordinary profits they're making," says one Canberra insider who has been involved in several major consulting deals inked by Commonwealth agencies, including Services Australia and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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

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Nursing home in Covid lockdown

Courier Mail, General News, 07/02/2026, Judith Kerr, Page 3

A Covid-19 outbreak has been confirmed at a Brisbane aged-care facility after days of concern from families and visitors who reported lockdowns and staff wearing full protective equipment. The Federal Department of Health and Aged Care confirmed Buckingham Gardens Aged Care at Alexandra Hills was managing a Covid outbreak.

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

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

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Aged care chief warns reforms leave elderly unable to afford showers and continence pads

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 06/02/2026, Julie Cross

Aged care providers are charging older Australians up to seven times more for a meal to be delivered, as fears grow that aged care is turning into the new NDIS. [...] Greg Pugh from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, said no cost benefit analysis had been done on the proposed merge as far he knew.

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

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CHSP transition lacks clarity, IG tells inquiry

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 06/02/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The Inspector-General for Aged Care Natalie Siegel-Brown was scathing of the plan to transition the Commonwealth Home Support Program into the Support at Home program when addressing the Senate Community Affairs References Committee this week. [...] The Office of the Inspector-General of Aged Care has been given no economic modelling from the Department of Health, Disability and

Ageing, Ms Siegel-Brown noted, something she said is desperately needed before considering whether the transition goes ahead.

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

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DoHDA has room for improvement, says ANAO

Health Services Daily, Other, 06/02/2026, Cate Swannell

How the department reports and measures its own achievements has some flaws, says a new report.

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[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Sector in the dark on home care changes

Weekend Australian, General News, 07/02/2026, Elizabeth Pike, Page 2

The Albanese government has done "nothing" to explain how a new home care scheme will work, sparking concerns that almost a million elderly Australians could be left without support under the upcoming changes. Amid warnings that the Support at Home Program (SHP) could become the "next NDIS", Aged Care Inspector-General Natalie Siegel-Brown told a Senate inquiry on Friday that her office has seen no timelines or economic modelling about the Albanese government's centrepiece reform to the sector.

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

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Cost of meals is 'the new NDIS'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 07/02/2026, Julie Cross, Page 33

Aged-care providers are charging older Australians up to seven times more for a meal to be delivered as fears grow the sector is turning into the new NDIS. And co-contributions under the new reforms mean people can no longer afford their continence pads or have a shower.

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

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Aged care workers banned

Courier Mail, General News, 07/02/2026, Julie Cross, Page 33

A registered nurse, a physiotherapist, an aged care chef and a serial flasher have all been banned from working in aged care. They are among 392 people who have been either permanently or temporarily banned by the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission since January 2023.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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Symondson joins IFA board

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 06/02/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Chief executive officer of provider peak body Ageing Australia has been appointed to the board of directors of the International Federation on Ageing – strengthening Ageing Australia's global voice on ageing and aged care. IFA is a registered charity in Canada, and the board is an assortment of international leaders, working together to advance healthy ageing, equity and the rights and wellbeing of older people.

Similar coverage: [The Weekly Source \(Online\)](#).

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Defer Support at Home price caps by 12 months: Catholic Health

Australia

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/02/2026, Caroline Egan

Catholic Health Australia (CHA), the peak body representing 20% of home care services, says the transition to Support at Home last year shows there are "significant risks to major reforms in the aged care sector". In a 25-page submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Transition of the CHSP into Support at Home, CHA Director of Aged and Community Care Policy, Alex Lynch, writes that stronger safeguards must be applied to the future reform.

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[Back to Top](#)

DISABILITY AND CARERS

'We must shift the narrative'

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 07/02/2026, Rhianna Mitchell, Page 20

Western suburbs parents caring for children with autism are banding together to demand more education support and inclusion for families living with disabilities. A new advocacy group, the Western Inclusion Neurodivergence Alliance, says families are struggling due to a lack of specialised learning programs or education support schools for autistic children in the western suburbs.

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

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NDIS decision 'deflating'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 07/02/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

Megan Pascoe says the NDIS stance that there is not enough evidence that she needs a custom wheelchair makes no sense. Ms Pascoe lost her lower left limb in a ride-on lawnmower accident a week after her wedding to wife Stephanie Pascoe in late 2024.

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'I've lost my friends': advocacy groups warn Australia's social media ban risks isolating kids with disabilities

The Guardian, Other, 07/02/2026, Eelemarni Close-Brown

Before Australia's age restriction rules for social media use came into effect, one of Indy's hobbies was making fan videos of her favourite television shows and games to post on Instagram or TikTok. The 14-year-old, who asked that her surname not be used, is autistic.

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No diagnoses and no gap fees for physios and speechies. What else do we know about Thriving Kids?

The Conversation, Other, 06/02/2026, Helen Dickinson and Molly Saunders

Thriving Kids is back in the spotlight, after the states and territories agreed last week to match the federal government's A\$2 billion dollar investment. The new national program is targeted at children aged 0-8 with developmental delay and/or autism with low to moderate support needs.

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Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 06/02/2026, Tom Connell

Interview with Australian Physiotherapy Association paediatric group chair Nicole Pates about Thriving Kids. She says the theoretical model is grounded in early intervention best practice. She says it is not clear how it is going to look in each state and territory, which is creating some anxiety amongst families and providers.

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[Back to Top](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 06/02/2026, Ross Solly

Interview with ACT Health Minister and Finance Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith. She says the Albanese Government has committed \$14.3m to attract new GPs to the ACT. She says 11 new clinics in the ACT are now going to be fully bulk-billing. She says the Federal Government has also continued to invest in Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme to reduce the cost of pharmaceuticals to people.

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[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Premier's pride post a shameful deflection

Weekend Australian, General News, 07/02/2026, Rachel Baxendale, Page 20

According to Jacinta Allan's social media accounts, Inquirer's "reckless", "irresponsible", "harmful" questioning of her government's response to Victorian parents who are concerned about the treatment of their gender-distressed children is the reason she took part in last weekend's Midsumma pride march. [...] The two key datasets used by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare to report on rates of suicide and hospitalised self-harm, namely the National Mortality Database and the National Hospital Morbidity Database, do not include information on LGBTIQ+ status, meaning that as the institute puts it on its website, "rates of suicide deaths and intentional selfharm hospitalisations cannot currently be nationally reported for LGBTIQ+ people".

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

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Who gets to go gently

The Saturday Paper, General News, 07/02/2026, Elliot Stein, Page 6

I've had the privileged heartbreak of being with two loved ones at the end of their lives. When my father died a little over five years ago, it was in a dedicated palliative care ward in a regional private hospital. Pain management and end-of-life treatment was the core of his care plan in those final weeks.

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Don't try to hide the pain

Daily Telegraph, General News, 07/02/2026, Holly Byrnes, Page 13

The female health gap is growing, with Australian women experiencing more disruptive symptoms from reproductive and chronic health conditions. While new national data reveals the overall diagnosis rates remain steady, more women are now reporting more frequent symptoms every week, highlighting what advocates said was a deepening gender medical divide.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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Over-75s 'time bomb'

Herald Sun, General News, 07/02/2026, Nathan Mawby, Page 31

Victoria is sitting on a retirement time bomb with the number of homeless aged over 75 set to surge as the nation's "broken" rental assistance solutions fail them. [...] According to the RLC's analysis of Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data, a further 24,940 would be in rental stress if they weren't receiving government rental support.

Editorial: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Rent aid fails older Aussies

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 07/02/2026, Tom Bowden, Page 31

The nation's broken rental assistance support program is failing older South Australians, with many to be plunged into homelessness if action is not taken as the number of Australians over 75 accelerates at nearly twice the rate of population growth. [...] Fresh data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows the number of Australians over 75 who receive CRA but remain in rental stress has risen nationally by 116 per cent since 2013.

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Stubbing out the tobacco stores

Daily Telegraph, General News, 07/02/2026, Ashley Gray, Page 38

Five inner west stores have been shut for the next 90 days as part of the ongoing crackdown on the sale of illicit tobacco and illegal vapes. NSW Health inspectors seized a total of 780,000 illicit cigarettes and 2200 vapes at the five stores and another two shops in northern NSW.

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

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ABF huge vape haul

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 07/02/2026, Cameron Bates, Page 1

More than 600,000 illegal cigarettes, almost 200kg of tobacco and vaping products destined for sale in North Queensland have been seized by the Australian Border Force. The federal law enforcement agency responsible for customs services said it had executed three search warrants at freight companies after receiving information about "several consignments suspected of containing illicit tobacco".

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Tobacco blitz ignored

Weekend Post, General News, 07/02/2026, Peter Carruthers, Page 9

Less than 48 hours after being slapped with a 90-day closure order, an illicit vape and tobacco store in the Cairns CBD was trading again with lengthy queues for black market products. The lead agency in the war on the illegal tobacco trade has refused to comment on the illicit Cairns CBD outlet, making a mockery of a government directive as neighbouring business owners condemn ineffective deterrents.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#)

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National oral health plan nears completion

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 06/02/2026

The Australian Government has completed its consultations for the next 10-year National Oral Health Plan. The feedback, which will be used to inform the roadmap, was gathered through stakeholder workshops around the country, consultations with rural and remote stakeholders, and engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers and organisations.

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Elder calls for senior Aboriginal involvement to support Indigenous youth at Tasmanian detention centre

National Indigenous Times, Other, 06/02/2026, Callan Morse

A respected Tasmanian Elder has called for senior Aboriginal intervention to support Indigenous youth detained at Northern Tasmania's troubled Ashley Youth Detention Centre. [...] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data suggests on an average night in the June quarter 2024, First Nations young people aged 10-17 in Tasmania were 2.6 times more likely to be in detention compared to non-Indigenous young people in the state.

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[Back to Top](#)

Tony running out of time but next-gen research may help others

Weekend Australian, General News, 07/02/2026, Stephen Lunn, Page 5

For Tony Webber, it's all about finding more time – months or, hopefully, years. Time with wife Cecilia and sons Jesper, 21, and Lukas, 18, as they move into the next chapter of their young lives.

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

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Cancer costs' huge toll

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 07/02/2026, Page 33

New research reveals 98.8 per cent of Australians diagnosed with cancer incur out-of-pocket expenses, even when accessing care in the public health-care system. The findings from Cancer Council Australia's national 2025 survey show financial burden arises from direct medical costs and indirect expenses, with costs at every stage of the cancer journey, from diagnosis and treatment through to end-of-life or survivorship care.

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[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Overdue review 'could ignore key concerns'

Weekend Australian, General News, 07/02/2026, Rachel Baxendale, Page 9

The Allan government has quietly authorised a Victorian Law Reform Commission review of its controversial conversion therapy law, days after The Australian revealed it was almost two years overdue. Critics of the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act, including Parents of Adolescents with Gender Distress, have welcomed the review, but say they are worried the terms of reference do not appear to address widespread concerns that the law is having a chilling effect on the willingness of medical professionals to treat vulnerable children who may be questioning their gender.

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

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Helping Bondi kids with trauma

Daily Telegraph, General News, 07/02/2026, Thomas Sargeant, Page 10

The Jewish community is set to receive an extra million dollars in funding after the terror attack at Bondi, with mental health programs to be delivered to teens and children directly affected by the massacre. The program is set to deliver 24 grants for mental health and community resilience in the wake of the attack, including trauma-informed counselling services for teens and young adults, support for senior Jewish-Australians in aged care, and after-school resilience workshops for children.

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

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Involuntary brain shock

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 07/02/2026, Ann Wason Moore, Page 1

The parents of a 27-year-old woman who died while under an involuntary treatment order claim their daughter was given controversial electroconvulsive treatment without consent. Jeff Smith and Jane McDonald said the coroner was still investigating the death of their only child Lauren Smith, pictured, in October 2024.

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Treatment coined 'torture' therapy sparking concern

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 07/02/2026, Ann Wason Moore, Page 5

Mental health advocates have called for Queensland to ban involuntary electro-convulsive treatment, saying it contravenes human rights and can constitute torture. Mental Health Lived Experience Peak

Queensland chief executive Simon Katterl said the state's safeguards around ECT were notably weaker than other jurisdictions, which increased the risk of harm.

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Evidence concludes in inquest into psychiatric patient's death at Alice Springs Hospital

ABC Online, Other, 06/02/2026, Victoria Ellis and Elsie Lange

A coronial inquest has heard that the death of a woman after she was repeatedly sedated during a schizophrenic episode in Alice Springs Hospital in 2023 was "entirely preventable". The 34-year-old woman, referred to as Kumanjayi Brogus for cultural reasons, died in the Alice Springs Hospital on November 21, 2023.

[Read More](#)

First Nations Professor Pat Dudgeon concerned for long-term psychological consequences of January 26 attack

National Indigenous Times, Other, 06/02/2026, Dallmyn Kelly

Professor Pat Dudgeon, Director of the Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention (CBPATISIP) at the University of Western Australia, has expressed deep concern for the impact of the January 26 attack on the wellbeing of Indigenous people. At the Invasion Day rally in Boorloo/Perth a bomb containing nails, ball bearings and chemicals was thrown into the peaceful crowd of around 2,500 people.

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[Back to Top](#)

IMMUNISATION

Queensland's free influenza vaccine program to return this year with nasal spray for children aged two to five

ABC Online, Other, 06/02/2026, Jack McKay

Needle-free, nasal spray influenza vaccines will be rolled out for young Queensland children during this year's flu season. The state government has confirmed it is extending its free flu jab program for another year, which will commence in March and end in September

Also reported by: [Australian Journal of Pharmacy \(Online\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#)

[Read More](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 06/02/2026, Sally Sara

Interview with Immunisation Foundation of Australia director Catherine Hughes about Productivity Commission data showing that Australia's rate of childhood immunisation fell to a 10-year low in 2024-25. She says childhood vaccination rates are continuing to fall in Australia because the community has lost some trust in vaccination.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Healthscope's not-for-profit plan under fire

AFR Weekend, Companies and Markets, 07/02/2026, Michael Smith, Page 21

A plan by Healthscope's receivers to reinvent the country's second-largest hospital operator into a not-for-profit organisation faces a hostile response from the property companies that own most of its assets.

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

Healthscope survives as not-for-profit after private equity offer is rejected

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 07/02/2026, Colin Kruger, Page 24

Healthscope lenders have approved a plan that will keep Australia's second-largest private hospital operator intact as a not-for-profit operation following its financial collapse last year after private equity owners walked away. The announcement comes after lenders owed \$1.7 billion rejected a private equity offer for its Prince of Wales Private hospital in Sydney, which was finalised early yesterday morning.

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

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Healthscope off critical list

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Business News, 07/02/2026, Cheyanne Enciso, Page 150

Healthscope's lenders have backed a proposal to turn the nation's second-biggest private hospital operator into a not-for-profit company after last year's spectacular financial collapse. US private equity giant Brookfield handed Healthscope and its \$1.6 billion debt pile over to receivers at McGrathNicol last May.

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

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New hope for health as clinic's future assured

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 07/02/2026, Chris Herde and Luke Griffiths, Page 4

The future of the Geelong Clinic has been guaranteed as part of a deal that ensures the former network of Healthscope Hospitals continues to operate. Healthscope entered administration a year ago with a \$1.6bn debt, but McGrathNicol Restructuring announced on Friday a comprehensive plan to secure the future of 31 Healthscope hospitals, of which the St Albans Park facility is one.

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

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Flood heroes' fight to find sick son's perfect match

Daily Telegraph, General News, 07/02/2026, Kaitlyn Hudson-O'Farrell, Page 25

They fed the Lismore community in the midst of 2022's flood devastation, but to save their son's life, Graeme Stockdale and his family now need every Aussie's help. [...] To survive the rare and aggressive cancer, Seb needs a stem cell transplant from someone with immune system markers that match his, and the Stockdales have begun an urgent search for the right donor, sharing Seb's story online and urging Aussies to join the stem cell donor registry.

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More mould discovered at Mater

Newcastle Herald, General News, 07/02/2026, Jamieson Murphy and Damon Cronshaw, Page 5

More mould has been found in new parts of the Calvary Mater Hospital, as the occupational health and safety watchdog orders the hospital's operators to keep staff up to date with the continuing scandal. The mould was detected within the radiation oncology unit, with about 20 rooms or areas impacted, including the radiation therapy bunkers and the storerooms, which can no longer be used for patient supplement or food supplies.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

No relevant coverage

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Three new Indigenous doctors graduate, strengthening culturally safe healthcare in WA

National Indigenous Times, Other, 06/02/2026, Jackson Clark

Curtin University has marked a significant moment for Aboriginal health and education with the graduation of three Indigenous doctors. Jaaron Davis, Daisy Alps and Arkayla McPhee have completed the five-year Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery at Curtin Medical School, officially crossing the stage at a graduation ceremony on Curtin's Bentley Campus on February 3.

[Read More](#)

New partnership aims to improve wellbeing among Aboriginal youth in the Kimberley

National Indigenous Times, Other, 06/02/2026, Natasha Clark

The Western Australian government has formally recognised a new partnership with Aboriginal leaders in the Kimberley, aimed at improving wellbeing outcomes for young people across the region. The agreement, developed between the Cook Government and the Kimberley Aboriginal Regional Governance Group, was marked at a ceremonial event in Broome on Thursday.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Miracle on the Kwinana Fwy

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 07/02/2026, Caleb Runciman, Page 1

A desperate mother thought her baby was dead when she was forced to give birth on the side of the freeway after being "kicked out" of a Perth public hospital despite experiencing unbearable contractions while waiting four hours for a bed. Squatting on the back seat of a car just off the emergency lane of the Kwinana Freeway, Lena could feel her baby coming and then heard her partner Abdul cry: "The baby's out, the baby's out."

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Vic's bad wait times getting even worse

Herald Sun, General News, 07/02/2026, Ryan Bourke, Page 5

Damning new health data shows Victoria is sliding further behind the rest of the country when it comes to wait times and patient outcomes, with one in three emergency patients not being treated within 10 minutes of presenting to hospital. The Productivity Commission's annual government services report claims hospitals are failing to meet benchmarks, including 42 per cent of category two elective surgery patients waiting longer than the clinically recommended 90-day period for treatment.

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Ramping dips but double 2022 vow

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 07/02/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 13

Ambulance ramping in January ramping fell slightly to 3673 hours well below last July's record 5866 hours but still almost double the 1890 hours lost in January 2022, just before the election when Labor pledged to "fix" the problem. While large numbers of patients continue to be stuck in hospital car parks, Health Minister Chris Picton said on Friday ambulance response times had improved under Labor.

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Hospitals on life support

Wait times in emergency departments for patients needing urgent care is worse in WA than any other State. New data has revealed only 29 per cent people who should be seen within 30 minutes were admitted within the clinically recommended time during 2024-25.

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

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A health system 'in crisis'

Hobart Mercury, General News, 07/02/2026, David Killick, Page 18

New national data has ranked Tasmania as the worst-performing state in the nation for emergency health and ambulance services, prompting sharp criticism from Labor and the Greens. The latest Report on Government Services figures show Tasmania spends more for each person on ambulance services than any other state while also recording the poorest response times nationally.

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Family of critically ill teen claims ICU bed delay put her life at risk

NEWS.com.au, Other, 06/02/2026, Robert White

The parents of a critically ill 19-year-old woman say a lack of available ICU beds at a major NSW hospital delayed specialist care as their daughter fought for her life following a sudden neurological emergency. Myaih Kesby from Newcastle remains in intensive care after suffering a series of severe seizures that escalated into status epilepticus, a rare and potentially fatal condition involving prolonged and uncontrolled seizure activity.

[Read More](#)

Rip health levy Band-Aid off: Greens

Canberra Times, General News, 07/02/2026, Jasper Lindell, Page 12

A flat tax on every ratepayer in the ACT introduced to cover escalating health costs ought to be abandoned now the territory has secured more Commonwealth hospital funding, the ACT Greens say. Greens deputy leader Jo Clay said the health levy was a dud from the start and the party, whose support Labor needs to stay in government, was determined to get rid of it completely.

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

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'Smart health city' tipped to be pivotal for Cairns' future

Weekend Post, General News, 07/02/2026, Page 3

The Cairns Hospital Campus Master Plan has been welcomed by the city's leaders, who labelled the investment as one that would change the course of healthcare in the region. The Far North's advocacy group Advance Cairns said the \$1bn hospital expansion would create a "smart health economy" while anchoring skilled labour locally in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympic build.

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'Systemic failure': health minister again called out in state parliament

The Border Mail, Other, 06/02/2026, Chelsea Wilson

Victorian Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas has again been asked to provide answers for issues surrounding Albury Wodonga Health and the hospital redevelopment. Opposition health spokesperson Georgie Crozier said "the buck stops with the minister" in the Victorian Parliament on Wednesday, February 4.

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[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

HEALTH WORKFORCE

'Staggering failure': Moree hospital left without a doctor

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 07/02/2026, Eliza Spencer, Page 7

A rural emergency department has been left without a doctor for nine days, in what one politician has described as the latest in a "staggering failure" from government. The major agricultural hub was left without an on-site doctor for the emergency ward from February 3-12, Northern Tablelands MP Brendan Moylan said, leaving lives at risk.

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[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Doctor stalked colleague

Canberra Times, General News, 07/02/2026, Tim Piccione, Page 4

A doctor graffitied abuse about a colleague on a hospital and accessed her medical records in targeted stalking behaviour that left the victim feeling "demeaned and powerless". [...] McClymont was initially suspended by his employer in 2022 and later by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

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

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Medical licence suspended

Northern Territory News, General News, 07/02/2026, Lottie Hood and Zizi Averill, Page 1

The Darwin doctor who hired the man at the centre of one of Australian sports biggest doping scandals has had his medical licence suspended over an alleged peptide scheme. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency suspended the medical licence of Dr Satbir Aulakh this year, following an eight-year investigation into his role at Darwin Ageless Health Clinic NT.

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

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This doctor treats patients others won't. AHPRA wanted him gone

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 07/02/2026, Charlotte Grieve, Page 38

Doctor Simon Rose's dusty ute rolls into Brewarrina in the golden hour of a late-November Sunday. He drives straight to a single-storey corrugated-iron hospital tucked beneath a gum tree at the end of a wide, quiet street in the centre of the north-western NSW town of 1300 people, mostly Indigenous.

Also reported by: [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#).

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Statins side-effect concerns put to rest

Weekend Australian, General News, 07/02/2026, Stephen Lunn, Page 5

Statins do not cause the vast majority of the side-effects shown on the popular heart medication's packaging, new research finds. A landmark study by the University of Oxford says there is no strong evidence to support statins causing 62 out of 66 side-effects listed on product labels, such as memory problems, depression, sleep disturbances and nerve damage causing tingling in the hands and feet.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#). Similar coverage: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#).

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Statins don't cause most 'side effects' on the label

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 07/02/2026, Kate Aubusson, Page 5

The cholesterol-lowering drugs statins do not cause the vast majority of so-called side effects listed on their packaging, including memory loss, sexual dysfunction and depression, a major review of the most robust evidence shows. [...] A spokesperson for the Therapeutic Goods Administration said adding information or removing warnings from a medicine's Product Information generally required an application from the pharmaceutical company, and if approved, other makers of the same medicine (for example, generic brands) must make the same changes.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Side effects of statins overblown

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 07/02/2026, Page 18

Statins, the most common cholesterol-lowering drugs, do not cause most of the side effects that have been listed in their package leaflets. A review by Australian and UK researchers used data from 23 large, randomised studies to undertake the most comprehensive review of possible side effects, including memory loss, depression, sleep disturbance, and erectile and sexual dysfunction.

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

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Jab-free flu vax for kids

Courier Mail, General News, 07/02/2026, Rachel Riley, Page 3

A needle-free flu vaccine will be available for Queensland children for the first time from next month as the state's new chief health officer prioritises tackling already soaring virus cases. [...] The nasal spray, which has been used extensively overseas, has been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for use on children aged between two and 17.

Similar coverage: [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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'Tidal wave of pressure': Has the Ozempic boom made it harder for new mums?

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 06/02/2026, Lauren Ironmonger

Coming of age in the late 1990s, Jessica Seitz, 33, knows the pressures of diet and "skinny" culture

well. "I grew up my whole life with weight issues. You won't find very many Millennials that didn't at least have bad body image," she says. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration warns against using GLP-1s during pregnancy and while breastfeeding.

[Read More](#)

Not-for-profit mental health facility hopes to offer novel therapies to more patients

ABC Online, Other, 06/02/2026, Jessica Ross

Jim Lagopoulos deals in extraordinarily complex mental health cases every day, but he has a simple way of explaining why his team's approach differs from many. "Psychiatry is generally done on subjective measures: how a patient is feeling, their mood, their behaviours," Dr Lagopoulos said. [...] Psilocybin is the active ingredient in magic mushrooms and was approved for use , along with MDMA, by Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration in 2023.

[Read More](#)

Scientists develop a 'virus cocktail' to combat superbugs

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 06/02/2026

Researchers from Monash University and The Alfred have developed a bespoke phage therapy product that uses bacterial viruses, known as 'bacteriophages', to combat a highly problematic, antimicrobial resistant bacteria. [...] Entelli-02 was manufactured as a therapeutic-grade phage product at the Monash Phage Foundry, meeting sterility and safety standards for intravenous use under Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration Special Access Scheme.

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[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

Harvest Road Oceans issue recall on oyster products over contamination concerns

7news.com.au, Other, 06/02/2026, Bryce Luff

An E. coli contamination has forced the recall of a popular range of oyster products. [...] Food Standards Australia New Zealand said the contaminated products may cause illness.

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

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