



TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 7th March 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](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 6) reports that Opposition NDIS spokeswoman Melissa McIntosh has argued that NDIS reform must prioritize supporting vulnerable Australians rather than achieving fiscal sustainability through funding cuts to participants' plans. Health Minister Mark Butler stated he was astounded by these comments and maintained that the Federal Government is not implementing cuts but is instead moderating growth to ensure the NDIS is back on track.
- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that an external benchmarking review into the Prince Charles Hospital's Heart and Lung Transplant Service claims hospital and health district executives allegedly ignored misconduct, questionable clinical practice based on "beliefs" and poor leadership which may have resulted in patients eligible for transplant losing their lives to heart failure.
- **[The Weekend Australian](#)** (page 6) reports that Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls has criticised the Federal Government's geographic allocation of additional aged-care funding, alleging favoritism.
- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 3) reports that Victorians will soon be able to obtain prescriptions for birth control pills from specially-trained pharmacists, despite the objections of the TGA.

- [The Canberra Times](#) (page 4) reports that cottage aged care respite providers in the ACT will be granted access to a new federally-supported funding pathway to allow for payment through home care packages.

MINISTER BUTLER

Libs divided on NDIS but McIntosh not for turning

Weekend Australian, General News, 07/03/2026, Sarah Ison, Page 6

Opposition NDIS spokeswoman Melissa McIntosh has divided colleagues by urging caution in how the country achieves deep cuts to the national disability scheme's growth, with many refusing to back in her statements while others argued she had said "nothing inconsistent" with Coalition values and policy. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said he was "frankly astounded" by Ms McIntosh's comments, which he said suggested the Liberal Party had "walked away from this support for getting the NDIS back on track".

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

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

A path out of chronic pain

The Saturday Paper, General News, 07/03/2026, Hannah Bamba, Page 10

The discovery of alleged malpractice by an endometriosis specialist has sharpened calls for an action plan to protect sufferers, as recommended by a landmark inquiry last year. [...] In the Four Corners report, federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the women who were patients of Simon Gordon are worst cases in what is "otherwise a terrific healthcare system".

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

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New hotline: 24/7 nurse advice now just a phone call away

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/03/2026, Page 27

Australians can now access reliable health advice 24 hours a day with the launch of 1800MEDICARE, a free telephone service connecting registered nurses with patients in need. [...] "With 1800MEDICARE, the Albanese Government is making it easier for Australians to access healthcare when and where they need it," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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Aged care bed funding boost, but 'more needed'

West Australian, Other, 06/03/2026, Aaron Bunch

Older Australians struggling to find aged care accommodation amid spiralling demand should have more options under a \$115 million funding package, but advocates say much more is needed. [...] "We know we face a big challenge in increasing bed capacity across our health and aged care systems to meet growing demand," federal Health Minister Mark Butler said.

Also reported by: [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Ageing Australia hopeful new bed funding is a sign of things to come

Ageing Australia, Other, 06/03/2026

Ageing Australia welcomes the Albanese Government's latest commitment to build more aged care beds. [...] Minister for Health, Disability, and Ageing, Mark Butler, and the Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae, have announced \$115m through the Aged Care Capital Assistance Program (ACAPP).

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Dying Aussie dad's urgent plea for help after his subsidised access to a

life-saving cancer drug was cut off

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 06/03/2026, Kylie Stevens

An Aussie dad fighting a rare and aggressive form of cancer faces an imminent death sentence after he lost subsidised access to a life-saving drug. [...] Mr James and his mother Debra Gibson travelled to Canberra on Wednesday to meet with Coalition health spokesperson Anne Ruston and staff from Minister Mark Butler's office.

[Read More](#)

\$115 million aged care bed boost welcomed, but sector says far more needed

Hello Leaders Australia, Other, 06/03/2026, Jakob Neeland

The Federal Government's announcement of \$115 million to support the construction of new residential aged care beds has been welcomed by sector leaders, but advocates warn it is only a small step toward addressing Australia's rapidly growing demand for care. Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler and Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae confirmed the funding will be delivered through the Aged Care Capital Assistance Program (ACAPP) to help expand capacity in regions experiencing severe shortages.

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Hospitals renew call for 90% payout rule

Insurance Business Australia, Other, 06/03/2026, Roxanne Libatique

Australia's major private hospital bodies have renewed calls for a legislated minimum benefit-payout ratio of 90% as premium increases, profit growth, and shifting member behaviour focus attention on how private health insurance dollars are allocated. [...] He also referred to earlier statements by federal Health Minister Mark Butler on insurer benefit ratios and the potential for intervention.

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Colleges pivot specialist training to the regions

The Medical Republic, Other, 06/03/2026, Amanda Sheppard

National reforms aim to grow rural workforce and lift cost transparency. [...] The summit was attended by ministers Mark Butler and Emma McBride, National Rural Health Commissioner Jenny May, as well as officials from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, and the Australian Medical Council.

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Aged care \$115m budget boost: see the regions set for more places

The Senior, Other, 06/03/2026, Phoebe Loomes

An additional \$115 million will be sent to targeted areas around the country to tackle hospital bed block and critical shortages of aged care places, as the Albanese government tries to move older Australians out of hospital and into appropriate care. "We know we face a big challenge in increasing bed capacity across our health and aged care systems to meet growing demand, and that is why we're investing so strongly to increase supply as quickly as possible," Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing Mark Butler said. [...] "This announcement is the culmination of our methodical work to identify areas where bed capacity is most urgently needed, and we're moving quickly to fix it," Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae said.

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Aged care grants welcomed – but “clearly not the full solution”

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/03/2026, Lauren Broomham

The Federal Government has announced \$115 million in new capital grants aimed at boosting aged care bed supply in areas facing the most acute shortages. [...] Federal Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing Mark Butler said the funding forms part of the Government's wider effort to increase aged care capacity as Australia's population continues to age.

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Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has reversed a decision that would have prevented patients receiving injections for macular degeneration from using private health cover. The change follows concerns that it would disrupt existing arrangements and increase out-of-pocket costs for older Australians. More than 12,000 patients would have been affected if the policy had gone ahead.

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FIVEAA, Mornings, 06/03/2026, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler about urgent care clinics in South Australia. Butler acknowledges that some federally funded clinics aren't yet open the full 8 am-10pm schedule due to workforce pressures but says all are committed to expanding hours over time. He adds that clinics must have imaging and pathology services available and are contractually obliged to have a plan to meet the required hours.

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FIVEAA, 15:00 News, 06/03/2026

Health Minister Mark Butler has confirmed there will be no change to the system for people receiving regular eye injections for macular degeneration in hospitals. Patients can continue treatment at their local private hospital with their clinician and claim it on private health insurance.

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ABC Illawarra, Drive, 06/03/2026, Jess McGuire

McGuire discusses the Federal Government's response to the PBS listing for selpercatinib for thyroid cancer, noting that inquiries were made to Health Minister Mark Butler. She explains that the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing confirmed that the TGA began evaluating the drug in October 2024, Eli Lilly lodged its PBAC application in November 2025, and the assessment is on track for the March 2026 PBAC meeting. She notes that while a positive PBAC recommendation is essential, further steps mean the rollout timeline is not solely within the government's control.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Drive, 06/03/2026, Nikolai Beilharz

Interview with Federal Shadow Minister for Health Anne Ruston about urgent care clinics in SA. Ruston cites concerns that clinics are not meeting promised 14-hour, seven-day opening times and are failing to provide services like x-rays and pathology, noting that SA is the worst-performing state for out-of-hours patient care. She criticises Health Minister Mark Butler's claim that most patients would otherwise attend emergency departments, arguing that workforce challenges must be addressed to meet these promises.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, 15:00 News, 06/03/2026

The Liberal Party has criticised the Federal Government over urgent care clinics in South Australia, saying that most are not open for the promised hours. Only the Norwood clinic operates the full 14 hours, while others are running shorter shifts. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says all clinics have extended hours and are gradually moving toward the 14-hour model as the new service ramps up.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

No relevant coverage

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MINISTER RAE

'Favoured get the funding for care'

Weekend Australian, General News, 07/03/2026, Sarah Ison, Page 6

Federal Labor has been accused of "playing favourites" in its allocation of additional funding for more aged-care beds across the country, as Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls demanded action on the 1000 elderly patients languishing in the state's hospitals. [...] Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae rejected the criticism, defending the allocation of funding that had been made after the government took "a methodical approach to identifying these hotspots".

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

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Feds find fix on respite services access

Canberra Times, General News, 07/03/2026, Dana Daniel, Page 4

The Albanese government is fixing a bureaucratic glitch that has forced Canberrans to "jump through hoops" to access respite services under its new aged care system. Aged Care Minister Sam Rae will announce yesterday that cottage respite providers like Burrangiri in Rivett will be given access to a new Commonwealth supported funding pathway, after being told they could no longer use their home care packages.

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

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Scorn at Fed's \$115m aged-care 'solution'

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 07/03/2026, Jessica Page, Page 22

A \$115 million blitz by the Albanese Government to target aged-care "hotspots", including Perth, has been described as a "drop in the ocean" by providers who can't keep up with demand. [...] Federal Minister Sam Rae was confident there'll be more "bang" for every taxpayer "buck" that Perth gets.

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

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Funds for new aged care beds

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 07/03/2026, Natalie Croxon, Page 2

The Illawarra will share in \$115 million in federal funding intended to deliver new aged care beds quickly, as the region continues to grapple with a critical shortage. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae has now announced that the Illawarra, along with the Hunter, Adelaide and Perth, will have access to the latest round of the Aged Care Capital Assistance Program.

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'No worse off' promise fails

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/03/2026, Phoebe Loomes, Page 20

Ron Keyhoe has always been comfortable with numbers, but when he describes trying to get an answer about discrepancies in his aged care funding, he becomes emotional. [...] The Albanese government had "already built in a range of measures to ensure providers keep prices reasonable and are watching closely as older Australians transition into the new Support at Home system," a spokesperson for Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae said.

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Ageing Australia hopeful new bed funding is a sign of things to come

Ageing Australia, Other, 06/03/2026

Ageing Australia welcomes the Albanese Government's latest commitment to build more aged care beds. [...] Minister for Health, Disability, and Ageing, Mark Butler, and the Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae, have announced \$115m through the Aged Care Capital Assistance Program (ACAPP).

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\$115 million aged care bed boost welcomed, but sector says far more needed

Hello Leaders Australia, Other, 06/03/2026, Jakob Neeland

The Federal Government's announcement of \$115 million to support the construction of new residential aged care beds has been welcomed by sector leaders, but advocates warn it is only a small step toward addressing Australia's rapidly growing demand for care. Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler and Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae confirmed the funding will be delivered through the Aged Care Capital Assistance Program (ACAPP) to help expand capacity in regions experiencing severe shortages.

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Illawarra to share in \$115m funding to get new aged care beds quickly

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 06/03/2026, Natalie Croxon

A younger person's hands hold those of an older person. File picture from Canva The Illawarra will share in \$115 million in federal funding intended to deliver new aged care beds quickly, as the region continues to grapple with a critical shortage. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae has now announced that the Illawarra, along with the Hunter, Adelaide and Perth, will have access to the latest round of the Aged Care Capital Assistance Program.

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Aged care \$115m budget boost: see the regions set for more places

The Senior, Other, 06/03/2026, Phoebe Loomes

An additional \$115 million will be sent to targeted areas around the country to tackle hospital bed block and critical shortages of aged care places, as the Albanese government tries to move older Australians out of hospital and into appropriate care. "We know we face a big challenge in increasing bed capacity across our health and aged care systems to meet growing demand, and that is why we're investing so strongly to increase supply as quickly as possible," Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing Mark Butler said. [...] "This announcement is the culmination of our methodical work to identify areas where bed capacity is most urgently needed, and we're moving quickly to fix it," Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae said.

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C91.3FM, 08:30 News , 06/03/2026

A building blitz will boost aged care beds to prevent older Australians from being stranded in hospitals. Adelaide, Perth, and the NSW Illawarra and Hunter regions are the main targets. Minister for Aged Care Sam Rae says expressions of interest will identify projects that can deliver beds quickly.

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Hope 103.2, 14:00 News, 06/03/2026

The government has announced \$115 million in additional funding for aged care beds to help ease bed block in public hospitals. Projects in the Hunter and Illawarra regions, as well as metropolitan Perth and Adelaide, have been identified as priorities, with beds expected to be available within two years. Minister for Aged Care Sam Rae said the aim is to unlock these projects and bring the beds online as quickly as possible.

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2GB, 12:00 News, 06/03/2026

The Illawarra and Hunter regions will benefit from a push to increase aged care beds, with a \$115 million boost in federal funding expected to deliver new beds within two years. Adelaide and Perth are also set to benefit from the building blitz. Minister for Aged Care Sam Rae says an expression of interest process will determine which projects receive approval.

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6PR, 08:30 News, 06/03/2026

Perth is set to gain more aged care beds following a \$115 million boost in federal funding. Minister for

Aged Care Sam Rae says an expression of interest process will determine which projects are approved. He adds the funding aims to ensure all Australians have safe, high-quality, and dignified aged care.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Drive, 06/03/2026, Nikolai Beilharz

Interview with Minister for Aged Care Sam Rae about aged care capacity in Adelaide. Rae discusses the \$115 million funding to unlock and accelerate aged care bed projects in hotspots including Adelaide, aiming to reduce delayed hospital discharges. He says the money will support new construction or augmentation of existing facilities and is part of broader reforms to improve access to high-quality aged care.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Federal funding expands services at headspace Capalaba

Redland Bayside News, Other, 06/03/2026, Andrew Jefferson

Young people across the Redlands and Brisbane's bayside are set to benefit from a major funding injection for headspace Capalaba, aimed at expanding services and cutting wait times. Kara Cook hosted Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride at the Capalaba centre, where it was announced the Federal Government would provide \$789,606 to boost local youth mental health support.

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Colleges pivot specialist training to the regions

The Medical Republic, Other, 06/03/2026, Amanda Sheppard

National reforms aim to grow rural workforce and lift cost transparency. [...] The summit was attended by ministers Mark Butler and Emma McBride, National Rural Health Commissioner Jenny May, as well as officials from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, and the Australian Medical Council.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Tas emergency aid boosted

Hobart Mercury, General News, 07/03/2026, David Killick, Page 8

The federal government has boosted emergency relief funding for Tasmania by 35 per cent, taking the total to \$18m over the next five years. [...] Assistant Minister for Health Rebecca White said sometimes a little help was all that was needed.

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

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

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No script required to save time, money

Canberra Times, General News, 07/03/2026, Page 23

More Australian women will be able to access the contraceptive pill without a script from a general practitioner in a bid to save time and money. [...] In 2020, the federal health department estimated 81 per cent of Australian women aged 16 to 49 used some form of contraception.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! Lifestyle Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#).

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Best practice

The Longreach Leader, General News, 06/03/2026, Page 1

The National Rural Health Commissioner has visited Longreach to see first-hand how the Central West Hospital and Health Service's (CWHHS) successful medical practice model works. The Commissioner, Professor Jenny May, visited the Longreach Family Medical Practice and Longreach Hospital as part of a fact-finding visit. [...] Caption Text: Federal Department of Health assistant secretary Stewart Webster.

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Doctors disturbed by latest conceptive pill 'shortcut'

Canberra Times, Other, 06/03/2026, Callum Godde

A state government has been accused of prioritising politics over safety after empowering women to obtain the contraceptive pill without a doctor's script. [...] In 2020, the federal health department estimated 81 per cent of Australian women aged 16 to 49 used some form of contraception.

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Billion-dollar suicide strategy failing, audit finds

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 06/03/2026

Government spending of almost \$1 billion on suicide prevention is failing to achieve its objectives and the outcomes are not being monitored. The Australian National Audit Office has released findings critical of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's development and monitoring of suicide prevention measures.

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

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DoHDA fails to support suicide prevention measures, says ANAO

Health Services Daily, Other, 06/03/2026, Cate Swannell

A new report says the department 'did not fully support' two national agreements, including a failure to measure and monitor outcomes.

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DoHDA on hunt for new CISO following retirement

Health Services Daily, Other, 06/03/2026

Plus news from La Trobe, and a software vendor.

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Gig Guide: Australia gets its first pro vice chancellor of AI

InnovationAus, Other, 06/03/2026, David Allen

LaTrobe University has appointed Australia's first academic vice-chancellor devoted to artificial intelligence, describing the role as a landmark for higher education. [...] Federal Department of Health and Aged Care (DOHAC) chief information security officer David Lang has retired, ending 32 years with the Australian public service.

BOTW: AI vs medicine, HotDoc hate, telehealth's standard bearers

The Medical Republic, Other, 06/03/2026, Jeremy Knibbs

It's been a big week so we'll cover some ground: how the medical profession is failing to understand the impact of AI, whether HotDoc misled its client practices, and why telehealth standards developed by the private sector aren't a great idea. [...] When TMR asked the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing what the hell was going on here and what did they think of this, they told us blithely that the standards were developed independently of government as a sector-led initiative.

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Colleges pivot specialist training to the regions

The Medical Republic, Other, 06/03/2026, Amanda Sheppard

National reforms aim to grow rural workforce and lift cost transparency. [...] The summit was attended by ministers Mark Butler and Emma McBride, National Rural Health Commissioner Jenny May, as well as officials from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, and the Australian Medical Council.

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Health and Aged Care CISO retires After three-decade long public service career.

WEB IT News Australia, Other, 06/03/2026, Juha Saarinen

After three-decade long public service career. The Department of Health and Aged Care's chief information security officer (CISO) David Lang has retired, after a long public service career spanning 32 years.

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ABC Illawarra, Drive, 06/03/2026, Jess McGuire

McGuire discusses the Federal Government's response to the PBS listing for selpercatinib for thyroid cancer, noting that inquiries were made to Health Minister Mark Butler. She explains that the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing confirmed that the TGA began evaluating the drug in October 2024, Eli Lilly lodged its PBAC application in November 2025, and the assessment is on track for the March 2026 PBAC meeting. She notes that while a positive PBAC recommendation is essential, further steps mean the rollout timeline is not solely within the government's control.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Seniors get cold shoulder

Border Mail, General News, 07/03/2026, Ted Howes, Page 1

Meals on Wheels in Alpine and Indigo shires will change drastically at the end of March, sparking fears many pensioners will struggle to adjust. There are also concerns elderly people will suffer anxiety and stress as the service run by Alpine Health transitions to a commercial supplier.

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'Rich Boomer' myth absurd says Pyne

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/03/2026, Phoebe Loomes, Page 26

Former federal minister Christopher Pyne has called on Australians to ditch harmful stereotypes about all Baby Boomers being "wealthy, secure, asset-rich (and) sitting on housing" as new data shows one in four older Australians is living in poverty. "Housing is such an enormous determinant of future wealth or future poverty," Christopher Pyne, chairperson of Council on the Ageing (COTA), told the National Press Club.

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 06/03/2026

The Federal Government has announced a \$115 million boost to expand aged care capacity, following reports of a critical shortage of beds. Funding will be allocated to Perth, Adelaide, and the NSW Illawarra and Hunter regions. The announcement comes after more than 3,000 elderly patients were reportedly stuck in hospital beds despite being ready for discharge.

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6PR, Drive, 06/03/2026, Jamie Burnett

Interview with Southern Cross Care WA CEO Clare Grieveson about aged care bed shortages. Grieveson discusses the \$115 million federal investment, noting that Perth's share would fund roughly half a 100-bed facility, highlighting ongoing demand with 349 people waiting for hospital discharge into aged care. She emphasises the impact of delayed transfers on patients and families and urges early engagement with providers to help navigate the system.

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FIVEAA, Afternoons, 06/03/2026, Stacey Lee

Panel Discussion with Federal Minister for Workplace Relations Amanda Rishworth and Shadow Minister for Health Anne Ruston on hospital ramping in South Australia. Ruston criticises both the Malinauskas and Albanese governments for failing to reduce ramping, citing aged care and primary care shortcomings, while urging serious action. Rishworth emphasises increased federal and state investment, new models of care like urgent care clinics and telehealth, and ongoing aged care reforms to address hospital congestion.

Continuing on: [FIVEAA \(Adelaide\)](#).

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Disability homes ditching bus services, telling residents they need to take taxis or public transport instead

The Saturday Age, General News, 07/03/2026, Grant McArthur, Page 16

One of the state's largest disability service providers is withdrawing its transport services, telling residents they will need to use taxis and public transport to leave their homes from June 30. Despite owning a fleet of specialised vehicles that are used by staff to help transport more than 1300 disabled residents under their care, Scope has ordered its managers to shift the cost of moving residents on to the National Disability Insurance Scheme due to financial pressures.

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

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It is more than just racing for Andrew

Daily Liberal, General News, 07/03/2026, Michael Cowley, Page 59

It wasn't the major award, but not one person in the room would dispute it was the highlight of the evening. When Andrew Brett climbed onto the stage to collect his Greyhound Racing NSW Volunteer of the Year trophy there was the polite applause.

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Tool a way to ration by stealth

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 07/03/2026, Jo Russell, Page 17

Trigger warning uninteresting policy names and strange acronyms ahead. Okay, so most people are aware of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and the corporate body tasked with oversight of the NDIS, which is the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).

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App to curb NDIS fraud

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 07/03/2026, Ashleigh Jansen, Page 21

A Kurrawa Surf Club mum has developed an app to combat NDIS fraud using software used to time nippers. NDIS plan manager Katrina Bourne said both herself and her twin sister created the app to tackle the problem of support workers defrauding both participants and the taxpayer.

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PRIMARY CARE

GPs seek 'Pathways to Rural' funding

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 06/03/2026

Funding a national 'Pathways to Rural' program for GPs could deliver significant savings for and encourage more doctors to work in rural and regional settings, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), says.

[Read More](#)

Pharmacists to provide pill without doctor's script

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 06/03/2026

More Australian women will be able to access the contraceptive pill without a script from a general practitioner in a bid to save time and money. Ahead of International Women's Day on Sunday, the Victorian government has given the green light for chemists to supply the pill to women over 18 who have not had a doctor's consultation.

[Read More](#)

2CC, Breakfast, 06/03/2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with RACGP president Dr. Michael Wright about primary care funding. Wright discusses the need for increased Medicare rebates for longer consultations to support complex care, including chronic conditions, palliative care, and mental health. He also highlights initiatives to expand rural GP training, improve women's health treatments in general practice, and fund multidisciplinary care to enhance access and affordability.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Stress of women's brain fog revealed

Weekend Australian, General News, 07/03/2026, Samina Rakhshani, Page 7

For about two-thirds of women, menopause comes with far more than just hot flashes. Often dismissed, misdiagnosed as ADHD, or feared as early stage dementia, menopausal "brain fog" is now being recognised by researchers as a real and devastating symptom that impacts memory and attention.

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Months of pain to get tall

AFR Weekend, General News, 07/03/2026, Isabella Kwai, Page 32

Limb-lengthening can add centimetres to a person's stature. Its risks make it controversial, but Aaron Trinh's recovery went well and with his extra height, he finally feels 'perfectly average'...

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Solution to illegal tobacco boom lies squarely in Capital

States such as Queensland and South Australia have introduced new laws while Tasmania moves to strengthen its own response but the policy settings driving the illicit tobacco boom sit squarely in Canberra. Australia's tobacco policy is facing an uncomfortable reality: the illicit market is booming and governments are scrambling to respond.

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

Campaign targets harmful ads

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 07/03/2026, Page 34

New polling shows overwhelming public support to curb pervasive gambling, alcohol and unhealthy food advertising. Four in five Australians want to see less advertising for gambling, alcohol and unhealthy foods, and the same number are concerned about the harm these ads cause, according to research by the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education.

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Warning over latest risky health trend

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 07/03/2026, Naomi Kaplan, Page 20

Gone are the days of 'Dr Google', as a scary new trend sees a rising number of Aussies turning to AI for medical advice. Doctors are warning the shift is "deeply concerning" as many have been relying on technology to "reassure" themselves over symptoms that should be assessed by medical professionals.

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

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

Green whistles for IUD insertion among SA Labor's promises to support women's health

ABC Online, Other, 06/03/2026, Evelyn Manfield

Women getting intra-uterine devices inserted in public clinics could soon be offered green whistles as pain relief as part of South Australian Labor's promise to take women's healthcare more seriously if re-elected. Premier Peter Malinauskas announced a returned Labor government would open five new clinics specifically focused on women's health to provide fertility, contraception, endometriosis and menopause care.

[Read More](#)

Nail salon workers voice concern over chemical exposures amid call for research in Australia

ABC Online, Other, 06/03/2026, Sally Brooks

Read in Vietnamese Duyen wore surgical masks, sometimes two at a time, to try and protect herself from chemical vapours and filing dust when she worked at a nail salon. For more than two decades, the Brisbane mother-of-two said she often suffered headaches at work and over time developed a constant runny nose.

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Australian children now have half as many moles as kids in 1992. That's good news for melanoma risk

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 06/03/2026

About one in two Australians will be diagnosed with skin cancer by age 70. The most dangerous kind is melanoma, which develops in skin cells called melanocytes that have been overexposed to the sun.

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A sound start for babies

Hobart Mercury, General News, 07/03/2026, Oscar Moodley, Page 3

An essential yet routine hearing screening for newborn babies is approaching 20 years of operation in Tasmania, playing a vital role in babies' speech, language and development. The Automated Auditory Brainstem Response is a quick and safe screening method offered to all newborns to detect hearing loss, with most receiving the test just days after entering the world.

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The silent rise of stigmatised cancer

The Saturday Age, General News, 07/03/2026, Henrietta Cook, Page 11

By the time Wayne Earle received a diagnosis of penile cancer, he had only one option for survival. His doctor told him needed a penectomy surgery to remove his penis.

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AI for breast cancer risk

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 07/03/2026, Page 31

Artificial intelligence could help predict women's risk of developing breast cancer over the next four years from their mammograms. University of Melbourne researchers were involved in a study that found the AI-based risk score, called BRAIx, estimated breast cancer risk more accurately than the factors doctors have traditionally relied on, such as breast density and family history.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 06/03/2026, Michael Thomson

Researchers at University of Oxford have developed a stroke cognition calculator that predicts a patient's risk of memory and thinking problems six months after a stroke, with 76% accuracy. Stroke Foundation Australia CEO Lisa Murphy says the tool could help clinicians better understand the long-term cognitive effects of stroke and tailor recovery plans for patients.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 06/03/2026, Rory McClaren

Panel Discussion with FivepHusion CEO Dr. Christian Toouli and AusHealth CEO Dr. Justin Coombs on a new chemotherapy delivery method. Toouli explains that his team has developed a way to safely co-formulate 5-fluorouracil and Leucovorin, long-known to be more effective together but previously incompatible, showing improved safety and potential anti-cancer benefits in adult and pediatric trials. Coombs highlights AusHealth's role in funding and supporting the project, enabling faster clinical development with a potential market availability in as few as four years.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Dysphoria expert's talk reassigned to panel

Weekend Australian, General News, 07/03/2026, Page 9

The peak body representing general practitioners will no longer allow a Finnish professor of adolescent psychiatry, recognised globally for her evidence-based approach to pediatric gender medicine, to address its members alone, amid pressure from trans activists. In a move the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners claims "isn't a cancellation", the college emailed more than 200 prospective attendees on Wednesday to inform them that a webinar by Riittakerttu Kaltiala titled Medical Gender Reassignment Among Minors: Why are We Cautious in Finland?

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

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Living on dark side

Modern life's back-to-front light exposure may be a factor in depression, according to Flinders University sleep experts who are launching a new study into the issue. Research led by the university suggests the key to more effective treatment may lie in understanding how light affects an individuals' sleep and internal body clock.

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Getting an ADHD diagnosis may become easier, but will it make things better?

ABC Online, Other, 06/03/2026, Norman Swan

GPs around Australia are being trained to make an ADHD diagnosis and prescribe medications. The demand for ADHD services has pushed state and federal governments to increase access to diagnosis and care in response to rising rates of late-stage diagnoses in adults.

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IMMUNISATION

Vax rollout with measles on the rise

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 07/03/2026, Lochlainn Heley, Page 15

The Mallee community is being urged to get on top of their measles vaccinations as the risk for the infectious disease increases. Thousands of free vaccinations have been procured for the State's public health units to ensure more people can be protected from the disease.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Lab report: Why a dog is good for your heart

AFR Weekend, General News, 07/03/2026, Dana G Smith, Page 34

Decades of research shows the bonds between humans and their dogs boost physical and mental health...

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

NSW coroner 'very troubled' by health policy change after Stolen Generations member dies in custody

The Guardian, Other, 06/03/2026, Douglas Smith

A NSW coroner who investigated the death in custody of a member of the Stolen Generations has criticised plans to delay health screenings for Indigenous inmates, saying it could result in problems being missed. Gregory Merriman, a 58-year-old Yuin man and direct descendant of revered Yuin leader

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

'Toxic': alleged failures at heart unit

Weekend Australian, General News, 07/03/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

Hospital and health district executives allegedly "turned a blind eye" to misconduct, questionable clinical practice based on "beliefs" and shockingly poor leadership at Queensland's Heart Transplant Service that may have led to patients eligible for transplant losing their lives to heart failure, with conflict among specialists coming close to physical violence in wards. An unredacted copy of an external benchmarking review into The Prince Charles Hospital's Heart and Lung Transplant Service claims that administrators at the hospital as well as the Metro North Hospital and Health Service service ignored "for years" the allegedly toxic behaviour of the heart transplant service's most senior surgeon.

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

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E.N.T. wait list takes nose dive in Rocky

Courier Mail, General News, 07/03/2026, Rachel Riley, Page 22

Sick Central Queensland patients are bearing the brunt of the state's surgery bottleneck, sparking concerns the delays in the region are driving up regional cancer and death rates. It can be revealed that almost all ear, nose and throat patients in Rockhampton waiting longer than what is considered safe.

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

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NT hospital IT system: A 'resounding success' or a big fail?

Northern Territory News, General News, 07/03/2026, Matt Cunningham, Page 20

It took AMA NT president John Zorbas one sentence at a public accounts committee hearing on Tuesday to debunk the pile of bull dust that's been presented to Territorians about the botched rollout of the Acacia patient record system in NT hospitals. A couple of weeks earlier, NT Health executives had been before the same committee where they'd been at pains to say all the fuss being made about the Acacia debacle was a bit of an exaggeration.

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Critical condition

Newcastle Herald, General News, 07/03/2026, Jamieson Murphy, Page 1

An emergency bowel surgery finished by portable lights in a blackout, and a multimillion-dollar medical imaging device out of action for a month due to a sewage leak. These are some of the 21 major issues listed in a damning report about the Calvary Mater Newcastle, handed to the state government three years ago as a warning about the non-compliant behaviour of hard services contractor Honeywell.

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Adelaide man spent his final moments ramped outside hospital, partner says

ABC Online, Other, 06/03/2026, Briana Fiore and Josephine Lim

For Adelaide mother Bronwen Paterson, her partner's final hours were difficult and unforgettable. At 59, Stephen King had spent several years battling cancer, including surviving an operation where his stomach and part of his bowel were removed.

[Read More](#)

Newcastle's Calvary Mater Hospital inquiry hears more mould claims

ABC Online, Other, 06/03/2026, Ben Clifford

Families who have lost loved ones have used submissions to an inquiry to blow the whistle on what they call failures in a NSW hospital grappling mould and pest problems. A state parliamentary inquiry will hold its first hearing into Newcastle's Calvary Mater Hospital next week.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Medical college in new chaos over secretary's axing

Weekend Australian, General News, 07/03/2026, Page 10

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians board has stood down its company secretary in a move that has sparked fears the RACP could be accused of retaliatory behaviour and be left legally exposed. This is just the latest in a series of internal disputes over alleged bullying, poor behaviour and mismanagement, which the medical college has been embroiled in since August, much to the frustration of its paying members.

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

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Was sacking travesty unlawful?

Courier Mail, General News, 07/03/2026, Des Houghton, Page 64

A Queensland Children's Hospital psychiatrist suspended for warning against transgender activism and the dangers of sex-change hormones may have been stood down unlawfully, the Crime and Corruption Commission says. Elizabeth Foulger, a CCC director, said a termination letter sent to Dr Jillian Spencer in September last year may have been a reprisal action to prevent her from speaking out.

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NSW Health apologises to whistleblowing RPA hospital doctors over misconduct investigation

ABC Online, Other, 06/03/2026, Charlotte Grieve

NSW Health has apologised to three senior doctors at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital after a two-year confidential investigation was found by the NSW Ombudsman to be unreasonable and unfair, in the latest example of dysfunction within two key departments. The largest hospital in the Sydney Local Health District was investigated by the NSW Ombudsman after allegations of doctor misconduct and patient harm led to claims of bullying and whistleblower persecution.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Leading doctor warns Reedy Creek quarry may pose health risk to local children

The Courier Mail, Other, 06/03/2026, Ashleigh Jansen

The doctor who led Australia's fight against engineered stone silicosis says a proposed Reedy Creek quarry could expose children to deadly dust. But the company responsible for the proposal, Boral, has hit back, saying the comments were salacious, inflammatory and unfounded.

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

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Serious infection risk for residents as major flooding hits northern Queensland

The Courier Mail, Other, 06/03/2026, Emma Cam

Health authorities have issued urgent warnings about serious infection risks from floodwater across Cape York and Torres Strait in the wake of major riverine and flash flooding. Heavy rain and flooding across Cape York, the Northern Peninsula Area and Torres Strait are raising serious health concerns for residents and visitors, authorities say.

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

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Measles alert issued for Western Australia as four new cases of infectious disease spark exposure fears

NEWS.com.au, Other, 06/03/2026, Abisha Sapkota

Health authorities in Western Australia have issued a new alert after four new cases of the highly infectious disease were identified. The current exposure site in WA sits at five – including two addresses in ARB Wangara, Dome Cafe in Wanneroo, St John of God Geraldton Hospital and Geraldton University Centre.

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

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Melbourne biotech targets Asia with anti-ageing supplement

AFR Weekend, Companies and Markets, 07/03/2026, Hannah Tattersall, Page 23

Two Melbourne entrepreneurs who helped bring the first rapid antigen tests to Australia during the pandemic are targeting Asia with a supplement aimed at improving cognitive performance, health and longevity.

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'Pandora's box': Experts warn against peptide craze spruiked by influencers

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 07/03/2026, Courtney Thompson, Page 32

Fashion influencers have found a side-hustle selling to their peers. [...] Injectable peptides fall into three broad categories: peptides approved by the TGA; those that are unapproved by the TGA but listed as prescription-only medicine (Schedule 4) or controlled drugs (Schedule 8) in the Poisons Standard; and those that are not approved by the TGA, and not listed in the Poisons Standard.

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

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Contraceptive pill to be available without a script in Victoria

The Saturday Age, General News, 07/03/2026, Kieran Rooney and Henrietta Cook, Page 3

Victorian women will be able to access contraceptive pills from the chemist without a script under a new Allan government plan that has sparked concern from doctors who say it puts patients at risk. [...] The move puts the state government at odds with Australia's medicine watchdog, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), which has consistently ruled that the pill should be prescribed only by doctors who can manage the risk of serious complications.

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

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Pharmacy pill plan ignores TGA advice

Herald Sun, General News, 07/03/2026, Olivia Conder, Page 3

Women will soon be able to start the contraceptive pill without a doctor's prescription, despite the concerns of Australia's medicines regulator. The announcement by Premier Jacinta Allan comes despite the objections of the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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Dr Boreham's Crucible: CSL's tough diagnosis

The Australian, Other, 06/03/2026, Tim Boreham

A weak result and a sudden CEO departure have left CSL shares at eight-year lows. Management says the recovery plan is on track, but the market is still waiting for signs of a strong pulse. [...] In a non-material disclosure, Seqirus last week said the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration had approved its Neffy adrenaline (epinephrine) nasal spray, for the emergency treatment of anaphylaxis in adults and children.

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

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Eli Lilly confirms oral GLP-1 weight-loss drug being evaluated by TGA

Australian Financial Review, Other, 05/03/2026, Sam Irvine

Weight-loss patients may soon have access to more GLP-1 treatments as Eli Lilly confirmed the local regulator was evaluating its new oral obesity drug, orforglipron...

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Call for action as sinister 'legal drug' trend sweeps Aussie suburbs: 'Brazen'

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 06/03/2026

A sinister trend is sweeping inner-city suburbs, and one Aussie councillor is demanding change. [...] Under Australian Consumer Law, the sale of nitrous oxide for legitimate purposes is legal, however the gas was reclassified as a Schedule 6 poison by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in 2022, requiring all canisters to feature a warning label.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

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AICIS

Research reveals forever chemicals could threaten European honey bee colonies in Australia

ABC Online, Other, 06/03/2026, Lara Webster

Toxic forever chemicals can build up in honey bees and transfer to their honey, posing an existential threat to bee colonies, according to new research. The University of New England (UNE) study has revealed the monitored effects of sublethal exposure of PFOS on European honey bee colonies, showing prolonged exposure to environmental levels of the chemical affected the insect's cell production.

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