



# TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 7th May 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |  
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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that state health ministers have warned that Federal Health Minister Mark Butler's proposal to fund an additional 5,000 aged care beds per year from 2029 won't do enough to address current bed block concerns. Mr Butler announced that an interstate taskforce has been established to examine the "complex" bed block issue. *Also reported by:* [Illawarra Mercury](#), [ABC News](#), [Channel 10](#), [ABC Radio Hobart](#)
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 21) reports Health Minister Mark Butler has lauded a new facility in Randwick that will combine treatment and research programs from the Children's Cancer Institute, Kids Cancer Centre and Minderoo Children's Comprehensive Cancer Centre. *Also reported by:* [Newcastle Herald](#), [Channel 7](#)
- **[The Guardian \(online\)](#)**, reports that Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi is embarking on a national listening tour, joined by Assistant Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence Ged Kearney, as part of the federal government's Healthy Men Community Conversations project. *Also reported by:* [ABC Radio Newcastle](#)
- **[ABC Online](#)** (online) reports that there are calls for the Therapeutic Goods Administration to reclassify *Andrographis paniculata*, an ingredient added to around 84 cold and flu products, over concerns that about severe allergic reactions.

- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 16) reports that researchers at Murdoch Children's Research Institute will trial the use of Apple watches to monitor the health of children undergoing cancer therapy.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (online) reports that Australian Centre for Disease Control principal medical advisor Dr Gary Lum said hantaviruses were “not easily transmitted between humans (unlike respiratory viruses)”, as concerns grow over an outbreak on an international cruise ship off Cape Verde. *Also reported by:* [7news.com.au](#)
- **[The West Australian](#)** (online) reports that authorities in Western Australia have urged locals to ensure they are up to date with their diphtheria vaccinations with 60 cases identified across regional WA. *Also reported by:* [News.com.au](#)

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Blast for Butler offer of 5000 aged care beds

The Australian, General News, 07/05/2026, Lachlan Leeming, Page 7

Labor's bid to woo states into supporting ambitious NDIS reforms have hit a major hurdle, with furious jurisdictions saying the commonwealth's promise to build an extra 5000 aged care beds a year won't address bed block already choking their health systems. NDIS and Health Minister Mark Butler in April announced a multibillion-dollar aged care investment on the same day as unveiling the biggest changes to the \$50bn-a-year disability scheme since its inception. [...] Mr Butler's promise of 5000 aged care beds a year came on the same day Aged Care Minister Sam Rae reiterated the country needed 10,000 annually.

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

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### Sorry, Jim, your 'savings' come with a huge asterisk

Australian Financial Review, General News, 07/05/2026, John Kehoe, Page 1

People should not be so easily fooled into believing Labor's big savings numbers. Some of the cuts are wildly exaggerated.

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

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### New centre to tackle childhood cancer

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 07/05/2026, Rachel Rasker, Page 21

When Jack O'Neill was eight he spent 40 minutes a day strapped to a table, his head bolted in place. But he kept things light throughout his brain tumour treatment. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler will officially open the facility a years-long collaboration between NSW and federal governments, the Children's Cancer Institute, the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network, UNSW and philanthropists including Andrew "Twiggy" Forrest's Minderoo Foundation today.

*Also reported by:* [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#).

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### More support calls

Berwick Star News, General News, 07/05/2026, Jensy Callimootoo, Page 12

NDIS overhauls could prompt big changes to crucial terminal-illness services, with a local Casey palliative care organisation calling for greater funding for community services before sweeping reforms takes place. [...] It's been two weeks since the government announced sweeping overhauls to the over decade-long, National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in an effort to mitigate spending costs with Mark Butler, Minister for Health and Aging arguing that the new policies would make the Scheme more sustainable.

*Also reported by:* [Cranbourne Star News \(Melbourne\)](#).

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## Seniors ruefully discover Support at Home isn't

Canberra City News, General News, 07/05/2026, Robert McMahon, Page 4

Sir Humphrey Appleby, the ever-wily fictional permanent secretary in the BBC Yes Minister series, was wont to quip the best way to deal with a problem was to name it in the title of the report inquiring into it. [...] Either way, we can only hope that the changes announced by Health Minister Mark Butler will make the scheme "sustainable" not only for the government's coffers, but also for the people it is intended to support in their final years.

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## Support At Home shower funding shift welcome: Ageing Australia

Champion Post, General News, 07/05/2026, Steve Kelly, Page 7

Ageing Australia has welcomed the federal government's decision to reclassify showering as 'clinical care' under the Support at Home program, calling it a win for the dignity of older Australians. Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler and Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae announced that showering will move from the 'personal care' category, which attracts client contributions of between five per cent and 50 per cent to the 'clinical care' category, which is contribution free.

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## New cancer centre for children zeroes in on 'terrible disease'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 07/05/2026, Morgan Reinwald, Page 14

Children with cancer are entering an era of renewed hope, as Australia's first medical centre solely focused on their needs is unveiled. [...] "There was a zero survival rate not too long ago, thirty, sixty years ago, when I was a kid," Health Minister Mark Butler said at the centre's opening.

*Also reported by:* [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#)

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## Health minister doing the right thing on health insurance rebate

Queensland Country Life, General News, 07/05/2026, Page 25

In announcing the abolition of the higher private health insurance rebate for Australians aged over 65, our health minister, Mark Butler, is acting wisely for three reasons. Firstly, while agreeing that statistics clearly show that, toward the end of life, the health care we are used to expecting is "most complex and expensive", I think it's time we (the elderly) stopped expecting it.

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## Subsidised CAR T-cell therapy for multiple myeloma available

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 06/05/2026, Page 1

Eligible Australians with multiple myeloma will now have no-cost access to a new CAR T-cell therapy, Carvykti (ciltacabtagene autoleucel, Johnson & Johnson), in public hospitals across the country. The initiative was announced yesterday by Health Minister Mark Butler, who noted the treatment cost for each patient would exceed \$200,000 per year without government funding.

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## Australia-first cancer centre for children opens in Sydney

9News, Other, 06/05/2026, Patrick Brischetto

An Australian -first cancer centre has opened in Sydney, pledging to deliver world-leading care to children and young people with cancer. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the opening of the centre is something all Australians should be proud of.

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## Calls to protect culturally and linguistically diverse communities from 'anxiety-driven' NDIS cuts

ABC Online, Other, 06/05/2026

Nidhi Shekaran has fought harder than most to find her independence. [...] So when Health and NDIS Minister Mark Butler announced sweeping changes to the \$50 billion scheme last month, her reaction was visceral.

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## **NDIS backlash: Less than 1 in 10 Australians think Labor's disability scheme is taxpayer money well spent**

Sky News Australia, Other, 06/05/2026, Oscar Godsell

Australians have delivered a brutal verdict on the cost of the NDIS, with fewer than one in 10 believing Labor's disability scheme is money well spent. [...] NDIS Minister Mark Butler has since announced plans to slow NDIS growth, including cutting around 160,000 participants from the program by the end of the decade.

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## **Northern families face NDIS fallout**

The Bunyip, Other, 06/05/2026

Northern parents and health professionals are warning that a federal overhaul of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will leave the region's most vulnerable abandoned as the government moves to strip support from thousands. Last month, NDIS Minister Mark Butler unveiled a cost-saving "reset" aimed at reducing the scheme's projected growth.

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## **'Unprecedented' number of young people permanently incapacitated by mental illness, Mark Butler says**

Australian Doctor, Other, 06/05/2026, Rachel Carter

An unprecedented number of people in their 20s and 30s have been labelled permanently incapacitated, mostly because of depression and anxiety, the federal health minister says. Mark Butler says the Federal Government has been forced to grapple with the impact of more mental health diagnoses, including a "distorting effect" on workforce distribution, healthcare access and care models.

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## **Therapy funded three years after the 'clunky' and 'preventable deaths' admission**

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 06/05/2026

A Johnson & Johnson CAR-T therapy is now funded in Australia, almost exactly three years to the day after Health Minister Mark Butler acknowledged in response to questions about its availability that the country's use of health technology assessment is 'clunky' and responsible for preventable deaths.

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## **The 2026 federal budget for Australian businesses: What we know so far**

SmartCompany, Other, 06/05/2026, David Adams and Eloise Keating

Here is a taste of what Australian businesses can expect in a budget that the government says will be its "most responsible" yet. [...] Announced by Health Minister Mark Butler in April, the change will mean more than three million people aged over 65 will see their annual private health insurance costs increase by between \$226 and \$255, on average.

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## **If you can't beat 'em... write the standards?**

The Medical Republic, Other, 06/05/2026, Holly Payne

If you can't beat 'em... write the standards? After almost three years, the RACGP appears to have begrudgingly accepted the existence of Medicare urgent care clinics – but its next campaign seeks to bring the model more firmly under GP control. Earlier this week, federal health minister Mark Butler foreshadowed a new tranche of funding for UCCs coming in next week's budget.

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## **Secret Big Tobacco hearings will be released eventually... redacted: Blyth**

The Medical Republic, Other, 06/05/2026

Philip Morris wasn't even listed on the witness schedule at the illegal tobacco hearing, and the public wasn't able to watch. [...] Federal health minister Mark Butler admitted that he had reminded his parliamentary colleagues in the previous days about their obligations under the WHO Framework.

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## **Aged care complaints soar in wake of reforms**

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/05/2026, Caroline Egan

Aged care complaints surge following reform rollout With the Australian Government already backflipping on key elements of last year's reforms, new data shows complaints rose 30% after the changes took effect. [...] In April, Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing, Mark Butler and Minister for Aged Care Sam Rae announced personal care services offered through Support at Home, services such as showers, dressing, and continence support, would be free of charge alongside other clinical care from 1 October 2026.

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## **ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 06/05/2026, Hamish Macdonald**

Interview with Health Minister Mark Butler. Butler discusses the Minderoo Children's Comprehensive Cancer Centre at Randwick, highlighting the Zero Childhood Cancer Project and molecular profiling to match every child's cancer with treatment across a national network. He also addresses aged care pressures, announcing a national taskforce and noting the need to open a new residential aged care facility every three days for 20 years due to the ageing baby boomer generation.

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## **MINISTER MCALLISTER**

### **ABC, ABC News, 06/05/2026, Jeremy Fernandez**

Ahead of the federal budget, the government has announced reforms to the NDIS, including plans to move at least 160,000 people off the scheme by the end of the decade and cap the social and community participation program. Advocates from People with Disability Australia and the National Ethnic Disability Alliance warn the changes may disproportionately affect culturally and linguistically diverse participants, while NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister stated the government will consider feedback from people with disabilities across different communities.

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### **ABC News, ABC Late News, 06/05/2026**

News Next week's federal budget is set to include sweeping reforms to rein in the cost of the NDIS But advocates fear the changes would disproportionately impact participants from culturally and linguistically diverse communities. For Neeti Chakkaran, every step towards independence has come with challenges.

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## **MINISTER RAE**

### **Blast for Butler offer of 5000 aged care beds**

The Australian, General News, 07/05/2026, Lachlan Leeming, Page 7

Labor's bid to woo states into supporting ambitious NDIS reforms have hit a major hurdle, with furious jurisdictions saying the commonwealth's promise to build an extra 5000 aged care beds a year won't address bed block already choking their health systems. NDIS and Health Minister Mark Butler in April announced a multibillion-dollar aged care investment on the same day as unveiling the biggest changes to the \$50bn-a-year disability scheme since its inception. [...] Mr Butler's promise of 5000 aged care beds a year came on the same day Aged Care Minister Sam Rae reiterated the country needed 10,000 annually.

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

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## Community transport lifeline

Naracoorte Community News, General News, 06/05/2026, Nasik Swami, Page 1

Naracoorte Lucindale Council has stepped up pressure on the federal government amid growing concerns fuel costs and supply issues could threaten a vital community transport lifeline across the region. At its April meeting, council authorised CEO Kelly Westell to write to Sam Rae, federal minister for Aged Care and Seniors, advocating on behalf of local provider, the Taillem Bend Community Centre (TBCC).

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## Aged care complaints soar in wake of reforms

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/05/2026, Caroline Egan

Aged care complaints surge following reform rollout With the Australian Government already backflipping on key elements of last year's reforms, new data shows complaints rose 30% after the changes took effect. [...] In April, Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing, Mark Butler and Minister for Aged Care Sam Rae announced personal care services offered through Support at Home, services such as showers, dressing, and continence support, would be free of charge alongside other clinical care from 1 October 2026.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Health centre boost for SW

South Western Times, General News, 07/05/2026, Rose Patane, Page 4

The Federal Government says the South West will receive a new perinatal mental health centre and a Medicare mental health centre Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Regional and Rural Health Emma McBride visited the Health Hub at Eaton Fair Shopping Centre alongside Senator Ellie Whiteaker on Wednesday morning to announce the new facilities. Ms McBride said the Medicare mental health centre would be a free, walk-in service where people could receive support and care from a team of social workers, counsellors and psychologists.

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Countryman \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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### ABC South West WA, Breakfast, 06/05/2026, Stan Shaw

Interview with Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride. Compere says McBride is looking to announce a new perinatal mental health centre for expectant and new parents, as well as a Medicare mental health centre in Bunbury. McBride confirms this and says that they are aware that mental health and psychological distress have been rising in communities, and they are also aware that, for too long, it's been hard for people to find support. McBride adds that they are opening an additional 92 centres across the country, with five of them already opened in WA.

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## Hobart FM, 08:30 AIR News TAS Edition, 06/05/2026

Approximately 8,000 young Tasmanians are set to benefit from a significant expansion of Medicare-funded speech pathology services. Assistant Federal Health Minister Rebecca White visited Hobart this week to highlight the new reforms, which allow people under 25 with severe speech and language disorders, including stuttering and cleft palate, to access up to 20 rebated treatment sessions.

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## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

### MPs v the manosphere: ministers up against misogyny as they take a different message to men and boys across Australia

The Guardian, Other, 06/05/2026, Tory Shepherd

"Gender equality isn't women versus men or a zero-sum game," Ged Kearney says. But as the assistant minister for the prevention of family violence sets off on a national listening tour with the special envoy for men's health, Dan Repacholi, they are up against a pervasive and very different conception of how men and women relate, fostered by the loud voices of the manosphere and men's rights activists.

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### Australian Ministers Challenge Misogyny in Men's Health Campaign

WEB OZ Arab Media, Other, 06/05/2026

[...] Special envoy for men's health, Dan Repacholi, and assistant minister for the prevention of family violence, Ged Kearney, are embarking on a national listening tour to engage with men and boys across the country.

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### ABC Ballarat, Statewide Drive, 06/05/2026, Prue Bentley

Interview with Ged Kearney, Federal Assistant Minister for Social Services and Prevention of Family Violence. Kearney says she and Special Envoy for men's health Dan Repacholi will begin a national listening tour on men's mental health and healthy masculinity, noting concerns including a reported 75 per cent of suicides involving men. She says the tour will include the Australian Institute of Family Studies, Movember, schools, sports clubs, and men's sheds, with the results compiled into a report to guide future policy.

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### ABC Newcastle, Drive, 06/05/2026, Jenny Marchant

Interview with Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi. Repacholi says the National Healthy Men Community Conversations project being launched is focused on improving physical and mental wellbeing and achieving 'generational change', involving consultations with organisations, including Movember, and community groups in Melbourne. He says any resulting proposals will go through government processes for policy development and funding discussions.

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### ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 06/05/2026, Hamish Macdonald

Interview with Ged Kearney, Federal Assistant Minister for Social Services and Prevention of Family Violence. Kearney discusses a national tour focused on men's health, help-seeking, and countering harmful 'Manosphere' influences with Special Envoy for men's health Dan Repacholi, as well as collaboration with organisations such as the Australian Institute of Family Studies and Movember. She explains that the initiative involves school visits, community forums, and programs like Healthy MaTE,

Dadfit, and Tough Guy Book Club to combat loneliness, promote mental and physical health, and foster positive relationships.

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## DEPARTMENT

### **TSANZ releases new national spirometry standards**

Allergy and Respiratory Republic, Other, 06/05/2026

The suite of documents aims to raise quality, consistency and safety of spirometry testing in primary care settings. Last month the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand released a new set of national spirometry standards. [...] Funding for the development of the standards was provided by the Commonwealth Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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### **Diphtheria case numbers already double that of 2025**

Allergy and Respiratory Republic, Other, 06/05/2026

Four Australian jurisdictions have released public health alerts as infection numbers soar. [...] Further details about diphtheria vaccinations, including which vaccinations are funded under the National Immunisation Program, are available via the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing website

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### **Jewish children 'living in fear'**

Herald Sun, General News, 07/05/2026, Suzan Giuliani, Page 4

Jewish children were "worried" about growing up in Australia and have given harrowing accounts of anti-Semitic attacks in schools, while aged care services have been targeted with bomb threats, witnesses told the royal commission into anti-Semitism on Wednesday. Zionist Federation of Australia president Jeremy Leibler and Jewish Care Victoria chief executive Gayle Smith were among several witnesses who gave evidence.

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

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### **Care on wheels for Palm Island**

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 07/05/2026, Leighton Smith, Page 11

A groundbreaking healthcare solution has arrived for Palm Island's residents, with a new custom-built mobile health and aged care clinic ready to deliver primary care services directly to people's homes. Providing vital primary care services directly to the community, the health initiative was delivered with support from Mobile Health Clinics Australia and the Palm Island Community Company, a community-controlled not-for-profit.

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### **'Can't afford to wait': inquiry to look into impacts of elderly patients being stranded in hospital**

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 06/05/2026, Kate McIlwain

A new inquiry will look into the cost and impacts of having hundreds of elderly patients stranded in public hospitals, with Australian health ministers also agreeing to establish an urgent interstate

taskforce to deal with the growing issue. On Wednesday May 6, the NSW government announced that the Productivity and Equality Commission will undertake a review into the issue of stranded patients, to be completed in the next six months.

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## 'A real home': inside the dementia unit with no long, white corridors

The Senior, Other, 06/05/2026, Carla Mascarenhas

There are no hospital-style corridors or meal trays being wheeled down fluorescent-lit hallways. And definitely no long rows of identical rooms The Senior was given exclusive access inside one of Australia's newest dementia care homes by Videri in Cherrybrook in northwest Sydney before its official opening on May 31.

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## Home care recipients feel overlooked, study shows

Community Care Review, Other, 06/05/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Research conducted by Flinders University has found older Australians accessing a home care package often feel overlooked, unheard and as though they have been left to navigate a complex system without the personalised care promised. Although the research was conducted prior to the rollout of the aged care reforms – which saw the Home Care Packages Program replaced with Support at Home – the research team said the findings provide insight into the experiences of older adults under the old model and highlight issues that remain as Australia shifts to a new approach to home care.

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## Home care system inefficient, confusing

Community Care Review, Other, 06/05/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Registering as a CHSP provider has proven overwhelmingly complicated, while entering Support at Home is no longer a viable option, says a long-term bureaucrat. As the home care sector continues to consolidate and evolve, attempting to register as a Support at Home or a Commonwealth Home Support Program provider is a bureaucratic minefield, Mount Alexander Shire Council manager of community wellbeing Rosalie Rogers tells Community Care Review.

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## Rockpool CEO raises alarm over aged care rules that deter building new facilities

HelloCare, Other, 06/05/2026, Jakob Neeland

A warning raised on a recent episode of the Time Well Spent podcast has sparked fresh questions about whether Australia's new aged care regulatory settings are unintentionally shutting new providers out of the residential care market at the worst possible time.

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## The countdown is on for the Meals on Wheels Australia National Conference

HelloCare, Other, 06/05/2026, Janine Yeates

Meals on Wheels Australia will bring its national network together in Adelaide in just over three weeks, with more than 200 staff, volunteers, supporters and sponsors set to attend the 2026 National Conference. Held from May 27–29 at the Hilton Adelaide, the conference will be guided by the theme Stronger Together, reflecting the collective strength of the organisation's nationwide community as it navigates a rapidly evolving aged care landscape.

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## VIC Govt continues to spend big on aged care

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/05/2026, Caroline Egan

The Victorian Government, already the largest public aged care provider in the country, has committed more than \$58 million to aged care in the state's 2026-27 Budget. The Budget spending includes \$35.7

million for residential aged care and \$17 million for the Government's Residential in Reach program, which provides hospital-level nursing and geriatrician care directly into residential aged care.

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## **Shire president confirms Wagin residents to have continued access to respite and convalescent services locally**

West Australian, Other, 06/05/2026, Jacki Elezovich

Vital respite and convalescing services will remain available at Wagin Health Service for the foreseeable future, the Shire of Wagin confirmed last week. The shire released a statement last week confirming respite and convalescent services would continue to be available through the Wagin Hospital, with support from the WA Country Health Service.

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## **ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 06/05/2026, Patricia Karvelas**

Interview with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park. Park says the state's Productivity and Equality Commission review will examine about 1200 patients stranded in NSW hospitals due to delays accessing aged care, home care and NDIS supports, creating major bed shortages. He says the Commonwealth must urgently expand post-hospital supports, warning current funding and NDIS reforms are not enough to ease pressure ahead of rising winter demand.

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## **Channel 10, 10 News, 06/05/2026, Sandra Sully**

More than 900 patients in NSW who are well enough to be discharged are unable to secure aged care placements, resulting in a total of 54,000 days in hospital beyond their discharge dates, with the Productivity and Equality Commission investigating the issue, which is expected to last six months. NSW Shadow Health Minister Sarah Mitchell has called for faster action, while states and the Commonwealth have formed a hospital discharge task force to review current policies, as well as planned federal budget funding for 5000 additional aged care beds nationwide to address hospital bed shortages.

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## **Channel 7, Seven News, 06/05/2026, Max Futcher**

Griffith University's LaTCH program, which is offered at both its Southport and Logan campuses, is a six-week course for older Queenslanders that uses strategies such as spaced retrieval to manage everyday memory issues. A GP referral costs \$10 per session. Associate Professor Kerryn Pike says the program teaches memory-management strategies to help participants use them for longer periods of time and remain independent as their memory issues progress.

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## **Channel 9, Nine News, 06/05/2026, Melissa Downes and Joel Dry**

A study published in the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease by Chinese researchers using a North American data repository compared 273 fish oil supplement users to 546 non-users over five years and discovered that the supplement group experienced a faster rate of cognitive decline. Associate Professor Michael Woodward of Austin Health noted that the study was observational rather than randomised clinical trial, but he would not recommend discontinuing fish oil given other evidence of potential cognitive benefits.

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## **ABC Radio Perth, Drive, 06/05/2026, Geraldine Mellet**

Interview with Federal Resources Minister and Brand MP Madeleine King and Shadow Assistant Minister for the Cost of Living Dean Smith. King and Smith discuss changes to the private health insurance rebate, with Smith citing evidence that 44,000 people are expected to drop their health cover and be forced back into the public health system and waiting lists. King says the policy will deliver \$3 billion into aged care while over-65s will still receive subsidised discounts of up to 24 per cent on premiums.

## ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 06/05/2026, Leon Compton

A high-powered national task force has been established to tackle the growing crisis of "bed-blocking," where thousands of elderly patients remain stuck in public hospitals despite being medically cleared for discharge. Health Minister Ryan Park emphasised today that the task force will explore every available option, including the conversion of sub-acute hospital wings into temporary aged care hubs, to free up hospital beds for emergency cases.

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## DISABILITY AND CARERS

### ABC Radio Adelaide, Statewide Mornings, 06/05/2026, Rory McClaren

Interview with Sam Paior, a disability advocate and the founder and CEO of The Growing Space. Paior discusses Supported Independent Living and confirms that only providers who both deliver and manage high-level daily in-home supports must register. She says the changes start on 1 July with about a year for providers to register and notes that broader reforms announced by Health Minister Mark Butler remain unclear and may require law changes through Parliament.

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### ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 06/05/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Hannah Beazley, WA Minister for Local Government and Disability Services. [...] On the NDIS changes, Beazley says they have not received any modelling from the federal government and are worried about the costs. She says the NDIS only covers about 11 per cent of West Australians with disability and the rest are already cared for by the state.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Losing our patients

Herald Sun, General News, 07/05/2026, Shannon Deery, Page 8

A Liberal MP has excoriated Jacinta Allan after the government backed away from constructing new hospitals promised as part of Labor's 2022 election pitch. Three major hospital developments promised before the 2022 election appear to have been stalled, with little to no further investment in this year's budget.

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### Doctors' orders to cull

Courier Mail, General News, 07/05/2026, Daniel Shirkie, Page 26

A revolt of more than 100 top doctors at Townsville Hospital has seen senior clinicians write to Health Minister Tim Nicholls asking he step in after an explosive confrontation where the board chair asked one specialist: "Are you deaf?" Townsville Hospital and Health Service board chairman Tony Mooney is facing scrutiny over his conduct during a discussion with senior medical officers at a prearranged meeting on April 22.

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

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### MP slams hospital over staffing 'excuse'

Border Mail, General News, 07/05/2026, Anthony Bunn, Page 3

Greens MP Amanda Cohn has blasted Albury Wodonga Health during question time in NSW Parliament, saying it was "disgraceful" the hospital administrator had linked new staff to long waits for patients. The former Albury deputy mayor was commenting on a statement from Albury Wodonga Health on Tuesday that sought to explain why there was greater than usual stress on the hospital system.

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## Exercise physiologists campaign to 'axe the tax' on their services

ABC Online, Other, 06/05/2026, Kenji Sato

The peak body for exercise physiologists has launched a campaign to scrap the GST on their services. Most health services do not have to pay GST, but exercise physiologists do.

[Read More](#)

## Number of St John WA ambulances reaching priority one calls in target time falls for second year

West Australian, Other, 06/05/2026, Oliver Lane

The proportion of urgent calls attended by St John WA ambulances within the target time fell again last year, with the Opposition pointing to chronic ramping as the cause. St John WA has a target of reaching 90 per cent of priority one calls — requests deemed an emergency — in the metro region within 15 minutes.

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

[Read More](#)

## Urgent Care Clinic's secures permanent future with \$1.8bn funding

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 06/05/2026, Nikita Mcguire

Townsville families will have permanent access to free medical treatment as the federal government prepares to pour \$1.8bn into the Urgent Care Clinic network in the upcoming budget. The massive funding injection, to be delivered by the Treasurer on Tuesday night in the budget, will ensure the Thuringowa facility and clinics across the country remain a fixture of the healthcare system after an initial trial period.

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

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 06/05/2026, Rory McClaren

Interview with Associate Professor Peter Subramaniam, President of the AMA in South Australia. Subramaniam discusses urgent care clinics and supports the RACGP's call for a professional-led national framework, citing six clinics that serve nearly 110,000 South Australians. He believes that urgent care clinics should not become general practices and that general practice is the most effective way to reduce the burden on the acute care system.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 06/05/2026, Rory McClaren

Interview with Dr Ramya Raman, Vice President, Australian College of General Practitioners. Compere discusses the rising number of urgent care clinics where patients are expected to receive a constant and high-level amount of care, no matter which clinic they use. Raman explains that the government has announced that urgent care clinics are a point of improving access for patients who require medical attention after hours. She states that they are often utilised for medical care during unsociable hours.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Perth, Breakfast , 06/05/2026, Mark Gibson

President of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Dr Michael Wright, is in the Great Southern today, warning that a "surge in regional migration" combined with an ageing population is

pushing medical services to a breaking point. Wright is visiting clinics in Albany and Denmark to meet with frontline doctors who are struggling to manage ballooning patient lists.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Death in a homeless camp is other side of housing crisis

Sydney Morning Herald, Editorials, 07/05/2026, Page 28

The death of a baby in a makeshift homeless camp on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River at Wagga Wagga is even the more heartbreaking because it was so avoidable. A 37-year-old Indigenous woman gave birth to twins in a tent in the cold on Saturday. One did not survive.

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

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

### Heatwaves more lethal

Herald Sun, General News, 07/05/2026, Page 13

The first study of the health effects of increasing heatwaves predicts that almost 6000 Australians will die from them in the year 2100 thanks to climate change, compared with about 250 deaths per year in 2016-19. In some of Australia's hottest regions, such as the Northern Territory, mortality due to heatwaves will increase by 4412 per cent.

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

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

### Artificial sweeteners raise diabetes risk as much as sugar: what a doctor wants you to know

The Australian, Other, 06/05/2026, Magdalena Simonis

Artificial sweeteners were created and approved as a safe sugar substitute to cut back on calories while still satisfying the sweet tooth. But it now appears they are not as innocent as once believed. A recent Australian study that followed a group of people over 14 years has confirmed that artificial sweeteners, ingested regularly, enhance the tendency to develop type 2 diabetes equally to sugar. But how and why this happens is not simple.

[Read More](#)

### Horrified Wagga residents call for proper sanitation at homeless camp where baby was found dead

The Guardian, Other, 06/05/2026, Cait Kelly

The tent where a newborn baby was found dead at Wagga beach at the weekend was part of a homeless encampment up to a 15-minute walk away from the nearest public toilets or running water, with residents in a nearby apartment block saying conditions were "worse than a Syrian war camp".

[Read More](#)

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## CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

### Game-changing drug gave young boy his childhood

The Australian, General News, 07/05/2026, Charlotte Brundrett, Page 7

In many ways, Lewis Milne is your typical country kid. He loves the outdoors, plays football and cricket, enjoys fishing and mountain biking, and last year received the Grey Wolf Award, the highest honour from Scouts Victoria for his age group.

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

## Apple potential cancer lifesaver

Herald Sun, General News, 07/05/2026, Robyn Riley, Page 16

Apple watches are to be trialled in an Australian-first study to see if they can be a potential lifesaver for children having cancer therapy. Researchers at Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) will explore whether a tool that harnesses Apple Watch health data and artificial intelligence can help protect cancer patients from infections.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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## Finding stem cell hope for cold cure

Cairns Post, General News, 07/05/2026, Ruby Kraner-Tucci, Page 19

Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) is "uniquely" using stem cells to investigate new treatments for respiratory diseases, even finding a cure for the common cold. Researcher Dr Rhiannon Werder, group leader of MCRI's lung disease lab, said we've become "complacent" about the common cold despite it carrying "devastating" consequences for some people.

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## Mosquitoes may hold key to male contraception

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 07/05/2026, Angus Dalton, Page 21

Malaria infected 282 million people in 2024, compared with 238 million in 2018, and the death toll climbed from 575,000 to 610,000 over the same period, according to the latest World Health Organisation figures. Most of the dead were younger than five.

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## Cold cure is nothing to sneeze at

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 07/05/2026, Ruby Kraner-Tucci, Page 1

Murdoch Children's Research Institute is "uniquely" using stem cells to investigate new treatments for respiratory diseases, even finding a cure for the common cold. Researcher Dr Rhiannon Werder, group leader of MCRI's lung disease lab, said we've become "complacent" about the common cold despite it carrying "devastating" consequences for some people.

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## Choke point

Age, General News, 07/05/2026, Henrietta Cook and Melissa Cunningham, Page 1

An alarming number of children from Melbourne's inner west are landing in emergency departments to be treated for asthma attacks, fuelling warnings about the health impacts of truck pollution. A new report led by Deakin University has found asthma-related hospital visits are 26-53 per cent higher in the local government areas of Maribyrnong, Hobsons Bay and Brimbank compared with the rest of Victoria.

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

## Tasmania facing 'tsunami of dementia' amid calls for urgent preventative action

Hobart Mercury, General News, 07/05/2026, Robyn Maggs, Page 22

It feels as if there is a tsunami of dementia rushing towards us for which we are totally unprepared. Dementia Australia recently revealed the number of Australians living with dementia in 2026 has increased to an estimated 446,500.

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## The one lesson teacher wants everyone to know

From 15km daily walks to barely making it to the letterbox, AnnMarie Iversen's life changed forever when she went from feeling bloated after an overseas school camp to being diagnosed with ovarian cancer. The 60-year-old Geelong visual arts teacher had just returned from leading students on a six-week adventure camp in Thailand, complete with whitewater rafting, hiking and canoeing, when subtle symptoms began to emerge.

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## Don't rush for knee op

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 07/05/2026, Page 5

Some people who have torn their anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) may recover just as well without having a full knee reconstruction. The feared injury takes months of rehabilitation and increases the risk of osteoarthritis by up to 50 per cent for a decade after injury.

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

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## North Melbourne premiership player Steven Icke reveals battle with pair of melanomas

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 06/05/2026, Jon Ralph

Former Carlton footy boss and North Melbourne premiership player Steven Icke has revealed how a routine health screening uncovered two melanomas that threatened his leg and potentially his life. What are Carlton's four options?

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

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## The unlikely conditions that can trigger debilitating back pain, from pancreatic cancer to poor digestion

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 06/05/2026, Zoe Hardy

Whether it's running to catch the bus, picking up a cup of coffee or getting into bed after a long day, for people with back pain, even the most routine of movements can be a struggle. But what if the pain isn't coming from your back at all?

[Read More](#)

## Murdoch Children's Research Institute celebrates four decades of service to children's health outcomes

Sky News Australia, Other, 06/05/2026, Matt Hampson

Murdoch Children's Research Institute is celebrating 40 years of working to improve the lives of young people through world-leading science. Murdoch Children's Research Institute is celebrating a major milestone in its mission to improve the health and wellbeing of children.

[Read More](#)

## A tiny 'tingle' was the only early sign Phil had of a deadly disease

The Senior, Other, 06/05/2026, Phoebe Loomes

Retired small business owner Phil Neven and his wife Robin were both diagnosed with the same cancer but months apart, with just a tingle in the tummy an early warning sign. Phil cannot remember feeling unwell last year, except for a small tingle in his abdomen, and was the first to be diagnosed with bladder cancer.

[Read More](#)

## Cutting edge cancer centre to open in WA

Medical Forum, Other, 06/05/2026

Western Australia will become home to a comprehensive cancer centre expected to open by the end of 2030. The Perkins WA Comprehensive Cancer Centre set to be built within the QEII Medical Campus

site is expected to be similar to those in other states and will deliver cutting-edge clinical care for cancer patients.

[Read More](#)

## **World Asthma Day campaign**

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 06/05/2026

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland branch marked World Asthma Day yesterday with a community campaign reminding residents that pharmacies are offering more asthma management services in more locations, improving access to care. Services include supporting asthma action plans and ongoing management, reviewing medications to ensure they are being used effectively, providing education on symptom management and triggers and supporting correct inhaler technique.

[Read More](#)

## **Channel 7, Seven News, 06/05/2026, Angela Cox and Mark Ferguson**

The \$658 million Minderoo Children's Comprehensive Cancer Centre in Randwick, Sydney, has opened as Australia's first facility dedicated to revolutionising cancer treatment for children. The 12-story structure boasts cutting-edge technology and can accommodate up to 900 child cancer professionals.

[Play Now](#)

## **Channel 7, Seven News, 06/05/2026, Max Futcher**

Queensland scientists have developed new AI technology for pathologists that can scan millions of invisible biomarkers in a single tiny tissue sample to help detect cancers, including breast, skin, and kidney cancers, with accurate prediction results. The tool is inexpensive, produces easy-to-understand results, and is expected to be widely adopted within two years.

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## **Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 06/05/2026, Tom Connell**

Interview with Professor Simon Harrison, Director of the Centre of Excellence in Cellular Immunotherapy. Harrison explains how Ciltacabtagene autoleucel (Carvykti) uses genetically modified T cells collected from patients after four previous treatments to target and kill cancer cells in multiple myeloma, which affects approximately 2500 new patients in Australia each year. He says that newer treatments, like Darzalex and bispecific antibodies such as elranatamab, improve outcomes.

[Play Now](#)

## **ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 06/05/2026, Adam Steer**

Interview with Michael Hawkes, Managing Director of Captovate, a leading digital marketing agency based in Darwin. Hawkes discusses the use of AI to detect pancreatic cancer from CT scans, highlighting research in which AI identified early signs up to three years before human diagnosis with greater detection accuracy than specialists. He mentions that CT scans can be reanalyzed by AI systems developed in Mayo Clinic research, emphasising the potential for early detection, the risks of false positives, and the continued role of radiologists.

*Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Darwin \(Darwin\)](#).*

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## **4BC, Afternoons, 06/05/2026, Carla Bignasca**

Interview with Terry Slevin, CEO of the Public Health Association of Australia. Slevin discusses GLP-1 weight loss drugs such as Ozempic, Wegovy, and Mounjaro, stating that while they can help people with chronic obesity when used under medical supervision, they are not a stand-alone solution due to long-term use, cost, and possible side effects. He says that obesity must also be addressed through broader prevention measures aimed at unhealthy food environments, reduced physical activity, and policy options such as marketing restrictions, improved food labelling, and sugary drink taxes.

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## ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 06/05/2026, Leon Compton

Interview with cardiologist Thomas Marwick and clinical nurse and researcher Dr Kristyn Whitmore. Marwick and Whitmore discuss a Menzies Institute study that uses AI Echo to identify valvular disease, including aortic stenosis, allowing nurses or doctors to obtain ultrasound images for diagnosis. They explain that the study recruits people over the age of 65 who have no known heart valve disease and compares AI with stethoscopes to detect disease earlier and avoid crises.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Teens still using banned platforms

Australian Financial Review, General News, 07/05/2026, Sam Buckingham-Jones, Page 10

The first international studies of Australia's world-first social media ban are in, and the news isn't promising: just one in four teenagers are complying.

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

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### Coaches query AFL's incoming psych mandate

Age, Sport, 07/05/2026, Andrew Wu and Jon Pierik, Page 47

Senior coaches have cast doubts over the practicality of the AFL's mandate for clubs to appoint a fulltime psychologist as part of the league's plan to strengthen mental health resources for players. Western Bulldogs coach Luke Beveridge and his former counterpart at Port Adelaide Ken Hinkley have both questioned the suitability of having one professional managing an entire list, while Essendon coach Brad Scott called for the medical funding to be provided by the AFL.

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### Questions remain on Hollands incident

Age, Sport, 07/05/2026, Jake Niall, Page 48

The Elijah Hollands episode has graduated to the unofficial status of an AFL saga, given that the imbroglgio ended with the AFL whacking Carlton with the catchall of "bringing the game into disrepute". Bringing the game into disrepute is one of the AFL's most ingenious inventions, since it allows head office to punish anyone players, coaches, presidents, clubs without necessarily proving that a specific rule has been broken.

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

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### Beveridge and Scott speak out on psychs mandate

Herald Sun, Edition Changes - 3rd Edition, 07/05/2026, Harvey Constable and Tyler Lewis, Page 70

Two experienced afl coaches have had their say on the league's mandated full-time psychologists. Western Bulldogs coach Luke Beveridge and Essendon mentor Brad Scott have spoken on the change after the AFL announced the regulation as part of Carlton's sanction for the Elijah Hollands incident.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#).

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

### Duke delivers support

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 07/05/2026, Page 32

Newtown's Allegra Lloyd, a Bachelor of Biomedicine student at the University of Melbourne, shares her experience discussing youth mental health with the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. Standing in the room with Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, I felt a mix of excitement and disbelief.

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## Margaret River's Mind-Ed earns national award at 2026 Suicide Prevention Australia LiFE Awards

West Australian, Other, 07/05/2026, Craig Duncan

Margaret River's Mind-Ed has been named the National Communities in Action Award winner at the 2026 Suicide Prevention Australia LiFE Awards on April 29 at a prestigious Sydney event. Credit: Supplied A Margaret River Suicide prevention organisation has seen their outstanding work rewarded taking home gold in a national competition.

[Read More](#)

## AFL to introduce new mental health rules after record fine to Carlton

SBS, Other, 06/05/2026, Deborah Groarke

Carlton have been fined \$75,000 over their handling of an incident involving player Elijah Hollands in a game against Collingwood in April. The fine will be paid to the AFL's mental health partner, Headspace.

[Read More](#)

## ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 06/05/2026, Yvonne Yong

Sports Report Essendon coach Brad Scott has welcomed the AFL's decision to review club resources for mental health support, but is urging the league not to be too reactive. The AFL's making a raft of changes in the wake of the Elijah Hollins incident, including mandating a full-time psychologist at clubs and reviewing soft caps.

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## ABC News, ABC National News, 06/05/2026, Joe O'Brien

Following the Carlton midfielder Elijah Hollands' mental health episode, the AFL is reviewing club mental health support, with planned changes including mandating a full-time psychologist at clubs and increasing required spending on mental health care, as well as examining football department soft caps, which were reduced during COVID and have only partially increased to just over \$8 million per club. Essendon coach Brad Scott welcomed improved mental health resources, but he was concerned about reactive league decisions following Carlton's \$75,000 fine for its handling of Hollands' case, while clubs continue to manage player injuries and rehabilitation programs, including modified training and recovery for several players.

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## IMMUNISATION

### WA health authorities issue urgent vaccination plea as life-threatening Diphtheria outbreak climbs to 60

NEWS.com.au, Other, 06/05/2026, Emma Kirk

A rare, life-threatening disease unseen in one Aussie state for half a century has sent cases skyrocketing - prompting an urgent warning from health authorities. Health authorities in Western Australia are urging people to get vaccinated against diphtheria, after 60 cases were recorded in just five months.

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

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### Diphtheria alert: WA Health urges West Aussies to get vaccinated with outbreak hitting 60 cases

West Australian, Other, 06/05/2026, Claire Sadler

West Australians are being urged to ensure they are up to date with their diphtheria vaccinations with 60 cases impacting regional WA. Diphtheria — a potentially deadly bacterial infection — has now

reached 55 cases in the Kimberley, three in the Pilbara, and two in the Goldfields.

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

[Read More](#)

## Vaccination tips for neurodiverse children this flu season

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 06/05/2026, Jorgia Burke

Understanding how to create a safe, calm environment is essential to delivering patient-centred care. A time sensitive vaccination window With winter around the corner, pharmacies should be in peak winter vaccine campaign mode – including the recently introduced intranasal vaccine, FluMist

[Read More](#)

## Experts forecast 2026 flu season

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 06/05/2026

Off the back of Australia's deadliest flu season this century, a group of experts have foreshadowed what lies ahead for the 2026 winter flu season. While case levels have been tracking lower this year than last, 2025 was impacted by a longer than usual flu season, fuelled by the emergence of a dominant sub-type, so-called Super-K, said Professor Patrick Reading, director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza at the Doherty Institute.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### ABC North Queensland, Mornings (Late), 06/05/2026, Susan Graham-Ryan

Interview with Dr Rachel David, CEO of Private Healthcare Australia. David discusses private health insurance rebate changes impacting three million Australians aged over 65, with 400,000 on the age pension needing to find more money to fund their premiums. She warns 44,000 may drop cover or downgrade, increasing public hospital waiting lists, and calls for pensioners and very low-income earners to be quarantined from the measure.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

### Plant-safe 'sunscreen'

Herald Sun, General News, 07/05/2026, Page 22

RMIT University has developed a sound-driven technique to coat the most fragile surfaces, such as living plant leaves, using a fine mist formed at room temperature. The breakthrough allows advanced materials known as covalent organic frameworks to be made and applied in a single step, overcoming a longstanding barrier that has kept them largely confined to laboratory research.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#)

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### EU trade deal could force UK to restrict use of weedkiller linked to cancer

The Guardian, Other, 06/05/2026, Damien Gayle

A new trade deal with the EU could lead to restrictions on the use of the controversial weedkiller glyphosate on UK food crops. The full-spectrum herbicide, which kills almost every plant it touches, is often sprayed on wheat, oats and other cereal and pulse crops immediately before harvest to desiccate them and make them easier to handle.

## Sky News Live, Newsday, 06/05/2026, Kieran Gilbert

The Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne is a paediatric research facility that uses genomic sequencing to diagnose rare genetic diseases, as shown by Archer Anson's early detection of Dravet syndrome, which allowed for earlier treatment and avoided potentially harmful medications. According to the institute, one out of every twelve Australian children suffers from a rare disease, with up to 30 per cent dying before the age of five.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Intractable child safety dilemmas

The Australian, Editorials, 07/05/2026, Page 10

After holding our collective breath for the safe return of Kumanjayi Little Baby, 5, then mourning her death, Australians will be horrified by the news that the child was the subject of six recent child protection reports in six weeks. Police made the final notification to the Northern Territory's Department of Children and Families, Liam Mendes wrote, just two days before she was allegedly abducted from her bed at the Old Timers town camp near Alice Springs late on Anzac Day. Jefferson Lewis, 47, has been charged with her murder.

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### Time to play hardball on Alice

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 07/05/2026, Amanda Vanstone, Page 7

The recent tragic death of Kumanjayi Little Baby from one of the town camps in Alice Springs and the response highlights the consequences of mistakes we've been making for too long.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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### Kumanjayi Little Baby: Infant flown to Darwin with 'suspicious' injuries as NT child protection department in crisis

The Australian, Other, 06/05/2026, Liam Mendes

A six-week-old baby has been flown to a Darwin hospital with "suspicious" head injuries after being allowed to remain with its family despite separate concerns being made about the child's welfare in a remote Aboriginal community. Three child protection case workers were stood down from the Northern Territory's Department of Children and Families on Wednesday over the tragic death of Kumanjayi Little Baby, after The Australian revealed she had been the subject of six child protection notices before she was allegedly kidnapped and murdered at an Alice Springs town camp.

[Read More](#)

### Three child protection workers in the NT stood down over links to Kumanjayi Little Baby

ABC Online, Other, 06/05/2026, Jason Walls and Kylie Stevenson

Northern Territory Child Protection Minister Robyn Cahill has revealed three department staffers have been stood down following an investigation into the circumstances of Kumanjayi Little Baby. Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care chief executive Catherine Liddle called on Ms Cahill to also investigate "the leaking of information" about the five-year-old's family to the media.

[Read More](#)

### Three NT child protection department staff members stood down as Minister launches investigation of circumstances regarding Kumanjayi Little Baby

Three Northern Territory's child protection department staff members have been stood down as the NT's child protection minister, Robyn Cahill, launches an investigation into the events leading up to the death of Kumanjayi Little Baby in Mparntwe / Alice Springs. The five-year-old girl's body was found in the Todd River bed last Thursday afternoon, days after she was reported missing from the Old Timers town camp.

[Read More](#)

## Three child protection workers stood down after Kumanjayi Little Baby's death

SBS, Other, 06/05/2026

Three child protection workers have been stood down over their handling of Kumanjayi Little Baby's case before her death. Kumanjayi Little Baby was reported missing from a home at a town camp on the outskirts of Alice Springs on 25 April.

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## PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

### Never-before-seen security video shows brazen thefts from Royal Perth Hospital emergency department

7News.com.au, Other, 06/05/2026

Brazen thieves have been caught stealing everything from personal belongings to private patient records at a major Australian hospital. One security video captured from Royal Perth's emergency department shows a crook pointing out an opportunity before an accomplice moves in to swipe a bag from beside a sleeping patient.

[Read More](#)

### Albury Hospital bed shortage hits hard ahead of Farrer by-election

ABC Online, Other, 06/05/2026, Erin Somerville

A health service in the electorate of Farrer has had a major bed shortage ahead of the by-election. Albury Wodonga Health has warned residents of delays due to high demand and complex cases.

[Read More](#)

### Camden's push for a major new hospital in Australia's fastest growing region

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 06/05/2026, Joanne Vella

The hospital serving Australia's fastest growing region of Camden has a meagre 74 beds including just eight in the emergency department – prompting fresh calls for a new major facility. Already home to 145,000 residents, Camden continues to grow at breakneck pace with a population that is forecast to climb to almost 260,000 by 2046.

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

[Read More](#)

### Channel 9, Nine News, 06/05/2026, Michael Thomson

A WA doctor who has worked in Perth hospitals for two decades reports a medical training and workplace culture that discourages breaks and promotes persistent overwork, which contributes to doctor burnout. According to the Australian Medical Association, 56 per cent of junior doctors experience moderate to severe burnout, and one-third are afraid of the consequences of raising concerns.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### **'I get so much joy out of it': the woman sharing the load with expectant mums**

Canberra Times, Other, 06/05/2026, Lucinda Reilly

Kylie Hodges' dream of becoming a midwife was born on the same day as her younger sister. At 13 years old, Kylie watched her mother give birth and remembers saying at the time, "I've got no words to describe that."

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### **Perth nurse sacked for working emergency department shift high on meth and weed**

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 06/05/2026, Rebecca Peppiatt, Jamie Freestone

Add us as a preferred source on Google An emergency department nurse working in one of Perth's metropolitan hospitals has been sacked and had her nursing registration cancelled after she was found to have been high on meth and cannabis three times while working.

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### **Top doctor's budget plea: WA must spend on people as well as infrastructure**

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 06/05/2026, Michael Philipps

The head of Western Australia's peak medical body has urged the Cook government to invest in people as well as infrastructure ahead of the state budget being unveiled on Thursday. Labor recently announced a \$1.5 billion spend in health infrastructure as part of the 2026-2027 budget, taking the state's total investment to \$5.

[Read More](#)

### **Nurse sanctioned after stealing dead patient's debit card and buying \$1000 worth of cigarettes**

Australian Doctor, Other, 06/05/2026, Carmel Sparke

A palliative care nurse has been suspended for six months after stealing a debit card from a dead patient and using it to buy cigarettes. He took the card from a storage room at a hospice in Melbourne for the belongings of patients who had passed away.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### **Millions in unpaid super**

A recruitment company with almost \$1 billion in historic government contracts has been placed into voluntary administration, leaving the superannuation of hundreds of contractors in limbo. [...] The Department of Veterans Affairs and the Australian Digital Health Agency are among Hudson's biggest government clients, and it is understood agencies have been notified of the administration.

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

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## **\$15 a minute? Bulk-billing changes rewarding 'sausage machine' medicine**

Australian Doctor, Other, 06/05/2026, Ciara Seccombe

A Grattan Institute analysis shows that the Medicare cash per minute is now \$11 for a bulk-billed level B consultation lasting six minutes compared with \$3.30 if the same consult lasts 20 minutes. While Medicare has long rewarded churn, this \$7.70 gap was bigger than the \$6 gap before the tripled bulk-billing incentives were expanded from concession card holders to all patients last year.

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## **BENEFITS INTEGRITY**

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## **AUSTRALIAN CDC**

### **Measles vaccine scandal leaves hundreds dead**

The Australian, International News, 07/05/2026, Amanda Hodge, Page 8

It was a slow-moving train wreck that began with a baffling decision by Bangladesh's interim government to change its procurement method for measles vaccines in the midst of a global surge of the disease a move child health experts warned could spell disaster. And so it has, with the South Asian nation now in the grip of what UNICEF believes to be the single-worst measles outbreak globally in more than a decade.

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

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### **Everything to know about the rare virus that's spread on an isolated cruise ship**

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 06/05/2026, Sarah Booth

Three tourists have died after a hantavirus outbreak on a cruise ship now isolated off Cape Verde. Here is everything you need to know about the rare virus. [...] Australian Centre for Disease Control principal medical advisor Dr Gary Lum said hantavirus infections were "rare in humans" for several reasons, and most hantaviruses "do not transmit between people at all."

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

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### **Hantavirus-hit cruise ship MV Hondius evacuates three passengers to the Netherlands**

7News.com.au, Other, 06/05/2026, Bart H Meijer and Nellie Peyton

Authorities have reassured there is 'low' risk to the broader population. Three people, two of them seriously ill, have been evacuated from a luxury cruise ship hit by a deadly hantavirus outbreak and

marooned for days off the coast of Cape Verde.

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## **Little risk of onward hantavirus transmission as variant identified - expert**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 06/05/2026

The risk of hantavirus spreading from the outbreak linked to a cruise ship is "essentially zero", a top expert has said. Professor Sir Andrew Pollard, director of the Oxford Vaccine Group at the University of Oxford, said that the virus is "rarely" spread between people.

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## **The two possible causes for the cruise ship hantavirus outbreak -one is disgusting, the other terrifying**

NEWS.com.au, Other, 06/05/2026, Georgia Worrell

There are two possible causes for the cruise ship hantavirus outbreak – one is disgusting, the other terrifying, according to experts. The suspected hantavirus outbreak on the MV Hondius cruise ship, which killed three people and sickened at least seven others, has two likely causes — and both are bad news for the 150 passengers on board, experts say.

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## **Three people evacuated from hantavirus-hit ship as Spain says vessel can dock**

The Guardian, Other, 07/05/2026, Jamie Grierson

Three people with suspected hantavirus, including a British doctor, have been medically evacuated from a cruise ship. The British crew member, along with a Dutch colleague and another passenger, were taken from the Dutch-flagged cruise ship MV Hondius for onward travel to the Netherlands, the World Health Organization (WHO) said.

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## **Poliovirus detected in Perth wastewater**

Medical Forum, Other, 06/05/2026

Poliovirus has been detected in Perth wastewater, health officials have confirmed. The national polio surveillance program detected the virus in a sample taken from a wastewater catchment in the Western Australian capital in mid-April.

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## **Channel 7, Seven News, 06/05/2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings**

The MV Hondius cruise ship, carrying four Australians among 147 passengers and crew, has reported seven illnesses and three deaths, with the WHO investigating possible human-to-human transmission as it travels from Cape Verde to the Canary Islands, where it has permission to dock. Dr Maria Van Kerkhove of the WHO is also considering possible infection sources linked to island exposure and wildlife interaction during the voyage.

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## **ABC Radio Darwin , Breakfast, 06/05/2026, Jess Ong**

Health authorities have issued an urgent warning for Greater Darwin after the Murray Valley encephalitis (MVE) virus was detected in local mosquito populations. NT Health confirmed today that surveillance traps in Darwin's northern suburbs have tested positive for the rare but potentially fatal virus.

[Play Now](#)

## **2GB, Drive, 06/05/2026, Clinton Maynard**

Interview with infectious diseases expert Professor Peter Collignon. Collignon says cruise ships can

experience outbreaks of norovirus and respiratory viruses like influenza and COVID-19, with transmission facilitated by close indoor conditions and shared environments. He says that risks can be reduced by practicing alcohol hand hygiene, spending time outside in fresh air, and getting vaccinated against influenza and COVID-19, which significantly reduce but do not eliminate infection risk.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### **Call for action on cold and flu products containing herb linked to anaphylaxis**

ABC Online, Other, 06/05/2026, Joanna Woodburn

Andrographis paniculata is an ingredient in about 84 products marketed to relieve cold and flu symptoms and boost immunity. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration is considering whether to reclassify the herb, which is listed as a low-risk ingredient.

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### **In alarming news, people are now using cadaver fat for their boob jobs and butt lifts**

Mamamia, Other, 06/05/2026, Erin Docherty

In a world where 'clean' beauty dominates our skincare shelves and social feeds, it seems our quest for authenticity and all things 'natural' has led us to an unexpected place: the morgue Welcome to the rise of the 'ghost lift'. [...] Despite the viral headlines in the US, the Australian aesthetic landscape is tempered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

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### **Act on nicotine pouches now: AMA**

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 06/05/2026

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) is calling for increased regulation of nicotine pouches, warning the products are being promoted and sold in ways that risk repeating the public health harms seen with vaping. In a submission to the Therapeutic Goods Administration's targeted consultation on the regulation of nicotine pouches, the AMA has urged the Federal Government and enforcement agencies to move quickly to close loopholes that are allowing unapproved nicotine products to enter the market.

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### **New COPD med**

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 06/05/2026

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has registered Nucala (mepolizumab, GSK) for use as an add-on maintenance treatment for adult patients with uncontrolled chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), with raised blood eosinophils on stable inhaler triple therapy.

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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## FOOD STANDARDS

## Mother issues warning after cake decorating dust leaves toddler in induced coma

ABC Online, Other, 06/05/2026, Claudia Williams

The mother of a Queensland toddler who is in an induced coma after inhaling a dust used for decorating cakes is calling for similar products to no longer be sold. Gold Coast baker Katie Robinson said she was making a cake for her friend's child on Friday with her 14-month-old son Dustin Wildman, who she calls Dusty, roaming around her studio, like he often does.

[Read More](#)

## Food recall: The Han Kitchen Topokki Cup Original pulled from supermarket shelves over mould contamination

West Australian, Other, 06/05/2026, Peta Rasdien

A popular snack product sold at supermarkets across Australia has been urgently recalled, with consumers warned they could get sick if they eat it. [...] Any consumers concerned about their health should seek medical advice," a Food Standards Australia and New Zealand notice reads.

[Read More](#)

## Gold Coast: Toddler in induced coma after inhaling gold dust powder while baking Bluey-themed cake with mum

West Australian, Other, 06/05/2026, Emily Williams

A healthy, 14-month-old toddler is fighting for his life after a horrifying baking incident put him in an induced coma. [...] At the time of publication, no recall had been posted on the Food Standards Australia and New Zealand website.

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