



# TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 16th May 2026

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The **[Weekend Australian](#)** (page 2) leads widespread coverage reporting that Health Minister Mark Butler has stated quarantine measures imposed on five Australians, following their evacuation from a hantavirus-stricken cruise ship, were the strongest in the world, with the measures imposed to ensure the virus is not transmitted. *Also reported by: [Saturday Age](#), [The West Australian \(Saturday Edition\)](#), [Herald Sun](#), [ABC Online](#)*
- The **[Weekend Australian](#)** (page 4) reports that NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister has stated that NDIS reform legislation, introduced in the House of Representatives by Health Minister Mark Butler, represented a vital policy measure to ensure the long-term sustainability of the NDIS. *Also reported by: [AFR Weekend](#), [Sydney Morning Herald](#)*
- **[The Saturday Paper](#)** (page 12) features an interview with Health Minister Mark Butler in which he discusses policy initiatives which will reform NDIS eligibility and funding guidelines to ensure the scheme is able to maintain funding sustainability.
- **[The Weekly Source](#)** (online) reports that the Australian National Audit Office has released a report featuring nine recommendations to assist the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing in implementing guidelines for the Commonwealth Home Support Program, with the department agreeing to all recommendations. *Also reported by: [Australian Ageing Agenda](#)*

- The [Canberra Times](#) (page 14) reports that Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi has endorsed a public awareness campaign to improve detection and prevention rates of prostate cancer, with the goal of eventually eliminating the disease.
- The [Weekend Australian](#) (page 3) reports that Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia head of research, Jeff Dunn, has stated that the latest Cochrane review, which details the efficiency of blood tests in detecting prostate cancer, will lead to improved detection methodology for individuals with the disease.
- [ABC Online](#) (online) reports that a study into the introduction of a cost-free RSV vaccine, which monitored hospitalisation rates at 13 hospitals nationwide, has found the immunisation policy has led to a 43.8 per cent reduction in hospital admissions for the disease in children. *Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph](#)*
- [ABC Online](#) (online) reports that an individual in the Northern Territory has died after contracting diphtheria, with the death marking the first fatality resulting from the vaccine-preventable disease since 2018. *Also reported by: [The Australian](#), [ABC News](#)*
- [ABC Online](#) (online) reports that the recently released Federal Budget included a funding measure which would enable the Therapeutic Goods Administration to utilise artificial intelligence in assessing the suitability of medicines which have received approvals in comparable overseas jurisdictions.

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## MINISTER BUTLER

### 'Home' at last: hantavirus Aussies enter \$400m quarantine hub

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/05/2026, Paul Garvey, Page 2

The five Australian passengers from the hantavirus-stricken cruise ship have arrived in Australia to begin their three-week stint in quarantine. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler thanked the passengers for their patience and suggested they should be comfortable during their time in quarantine.

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

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### NDIS spending still rising despite clamp

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/05/2026, Sarah Ison, Page 4

[...] Diverting children aged nine and under with mild to moderate autism away from the NDIS has been a priority of government since Health Minister Mark Butler unveiled the Thriving Kids program in August, before revealing last month that eligibility changes would apply more broadly and result in 160,000 people coming off the scheme in the next decade. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said it was clear the NDIS was growing too fast and costing "much more than ever anticipated".

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

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### Butler slashes NDIS to protect 'social licence'

The Saturday Paper, General News, 16/05/2026, Karen Barlow, Page 12

Mark Butler is not denying that the fraud regularly cited as justification for a further overhaul of the National Disability Insurance Scheme represents only a small fraction of the proposed deep cuts. Asked whether the scale of fraud is being exaggerated, the minister for Health and the NDIS tells The Saturday Paper he's been careful not to do so.

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

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### Fresh NDIS data shows costs of the scheme ballooning

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 16/05/2026, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 8

Labor's efforts to control the NDIS have gone backwards this year and growth is picking up speed, raising the stakes for Health Minister Mark Butler as his laws to cut costs by \$38 billion within four

years meet resistance from affected participants. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said the \$350 million blowout in the quarterly report showed why the government's changes were urgent.

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

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## Hantavirus passengers land in Perth

The Saturday Age, General News, 16/05/2026, Holly Thompson, Page 16

Dressed head to toe in bright yellow PPE complete with blue gloves, glasses and face masks, six passengers from a cruise ship struck down by the hantavirus arrived in Perth's north-east yesterday morning to begin three weeks of quarantine at a purpose-built COVID-era centre. [...] On Thursday, Health Minister Mark Butler said the passengers were in good health and had all tested negative for the deadly virus, and were showing no symptoms.

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

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## Virus-hit Aussies return

Herald Sun, General News, 16/05/2026, Alexandra Feiam & Ria Pandey, Page 15

A group of Australians and a New Zealander who were on board a cruise ship exposed to the deadly hantavirus have landed on Australian soil ahead of their gruelling weeklong isolation. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the group had no symptoms of hantavirus during the flight and through the initial health assessment at the RAAF base.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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## Perth goes viral

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 16/05/2026, Jessica Evensen & Caitlyn Rintoul, Page 1

Six passengers from the hantavirus-stricken MV Hondius cruise ship are spending three weeks in quarantine following a mammoth global repatriation effort to bring them back to home soil. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler on Friday confirmed the flight crew would not be required to isolate if all tests returned a negative result.

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

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## Albo's welfare check

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/05/2026, Ria Pandey, Page 23

Anthony Albanese has derided Angus Taylor's budget reply speech for its "dog whistling" after the Opposition Leader vowed to target noncitizens claiming welfare. [...] NDIS Minister Mark Butler said Mr Taylor's proposed changes would specifically target permanent residents, arguing the policy would deny support to taxpayers who had made their lives in Australia.

Also reported by: [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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## Hantavirus infected will quarantine in Bullsbrook

Echo, General News, 15/05/2026, Guan hao Cheng, Page 3

Bullsbrook's long inactive quarantine facility will soon be put to use for six passengers who were onboard the MV Hondius cruise ship during a hantavirus outbreak. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said on Tuesday although there were other facilities around the country, Perth was always going to be the first port of call for the returning flight for the passengers.

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## Coalition 'puffing on dog whistle': Labor

Massive cuts to migration and an overhaul of the tax system are being spruiked to Australians by the coalition in an economic pitch that's been labelled by opponents as a One Nation-lite "dog whistle". [...] Cabinet minister Mark Butler said Mr Taylor was "huffing and puffing on the dog whistle" he borrowed from Pauline Hanson's increasingly popular party.

Also reported by: [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#),

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## Sister's worry over NDIS funding overhaul

Maitland Mercury, General News, 15/05/2026, Chloe Coleman, Page 1

When Karley Moran was born with Down syndrome, her family was told she'd never live a normal life. [...] Disability and NDIS Minister Mark Butler said in a speech at the National Press Club in April that the NDIS costs too much and is growing too fast.

Also reported by: [Singleton Argus \(Singleton\)](#),

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## Centre zeroes in on 'terrible disease'

Port Macquarie News, General News, 16/05/2026, Morgan Reinwald, Page 7

Health 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.

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## Pandemic flashbacks as hantavirus group touches down

Canberra Times, Other, 15/05/2026, Duncan Murray & Kat Wong

Hidden behind a veil of protective clothing, a group of passengers from a hantavirus-affected cruise ship have been shuttled into quarantine after touching down in Australia. [...] All passengers are in good health and showed no symptoms, Health Minister Mark Butler told media on Friday.

Also reported by: [Central Western Daily \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#),

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## NDIS reform to clean-up fraud, improve care: providers

Canberra Times, Other, 15/05/2026, Samantha Lock

People living with disabilities face systemic risks under an insurance system plagued by limited visibility, poor regulation and widespread integrity issues. [...] The bill will also give Health Minister Mark Butler sweeping powers to put a break on certain parts of the program as well as to enable automated decision-making.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Advocate \(Burnie\) \(Online\)](#),

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## Flight with Australians and New Zealand passengers from hantavirus cruise ship arrives in Perth

ABC Online, Other, 15/05/2026, Cason Ho

Six people who were on board a cruise ship at the centre of a deadly hantavirus outbreak have landed in Australia. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said on Thursday that further arrangements were being organised beyond the three weeks, as the incubation period for hantavirus was about 42 days.

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## What we know about the MV Hondius hantavirus outbreak

ABC Online, Other, 15/05/2026, Lauren Roberts

A few short weeks ago, many Australians had never heard the word hantavirus [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the six people who were to quarantine in Australia had already had a polymerase chain reaction, or PCR, test before boarding a plane.

[Read More](#)

## Six passengers from hantavirus-hit cruise ship land in Perth

SBS, Other, 15/05/2026

Passengers from a cruise ship that was afflicted by the rare and deadly hantavirus have touched down in Australia ahead of a three-week quarantine. [...] As of Thursday, all passengers were in good health and showed no symptoms, Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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## 'Become a citizen': Taylor questioned over welfare payment cuts for permanent migrants

SBS, Other, 15/05/2026, Ewa Staszewska

Opposition leader Angus Taylor has clarified his proposal to cut welfare recipients to permanent migrants. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler clarified that temporary visa holders have never had access to NDIS, so permanent residents would be the main people affected.

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## Aussie hantavirus cruise ship passengers set for weeks in quarantine in Perth after emergency repatriation flight

7News.com.au, Other, 15/05/2026, Bryce Luff

Six passengers evacuated from the hantavirus -infected MV Hondius cruise ship have touched down in Australia, where they will spend at least three weeks in quarantine. [...] "The passengers, I'm pleased to say, remain in good health," Health Minister Mark Butler said on Friday, adding they did not show symptoms during the flight or once they touched down, and have tested negative for the disease.

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## 'You have to pay for these things': Labor demands Coalition explain how budget reply tax cuts would be funded

7News.com.au, Other, 15/05/2026, Aimee Edwards

The Coalition's proposed "tax bracket guarantee" has come under fierce criticism from the Albanese Government, with Health Minister Mark Butler accusing the opposition of promising billions in tax cuts without explaining how they would be funded. In his budget reply speech on Thursday night, Liberal leader Angus Taylor promised a "fairer, freer and better Australia", unveiling a plan to tie income tax brackets to inflation in a bid to tackle bracket creep.

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## Hantavirus cruise evacuees hours away from Australia homecoming

9News, Other, 15/05/2026, Adam Vidler

Six passengers from a hantavirus -stricken cruise ship are just hours away from landing in Australia. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler previously said the government was taking a precautionary approach, emphasising that human-to-human transmission of the virus was extremely rare.

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## Six passengers of hantavirus-stricken cruise ship MV Hondius land in Australia

Sky News Australia, Other, 15/05/2026, Matt Hampson

Six passengers of the MV Hondius cruise ship have landed in Australia after being evacuated from the hantavirus-stricken vessel. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler on Thursday said the passengers would wear personal protective equipment (PPE) gear for the duration of the flight.

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## NDIS Budget reforms fail at first step on First Nations, rural and remote, psychosocial supports

Croakey, Other, 15/05/2026, Fiona Martin

Disability advocates have expressed grave concerns this week about the Government's approach to the reform of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) after the Budget revealed the scope of

the cuts and funding gaps for support services. The Minister for Health, Mark Butler, then tabled the legislation that will drive the process, revealing a worryingly tight timeline for critical analysis of the proposals.

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## **Welcome to hantavirus quarantine: Six people including a Brit arrive at remote Australian facility where they will be kept in isolation for at least three weeks**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/05/2026, Perkin Amalaraj

A Briton is among the six people who have today arrived at a remote quarantine facility in Australia after they all sailed on a hantavirus-affected cruise. [...] The six passengers were in 'good health', showed no symptoms, and recently tested negative for the virus, Health Minister Mark Butler told a news conference in Canberra, adding that they will be held in quarantine for at least three weeks.

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## **6 passengers from hantavirus-hit ship arrive in Australia for 3-week quarantine**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/05/2026

Six passengers from a cruise ship hit by a hantavirus outbreak arrived Friday in Australia for a quarantine expected to last at least three weeks. [...] Australian Health Minister Mark Butler said Thursday the government would implement "one of the strongest quarantine arrangements in response to this virus outbreak you'll find anywhere in the world."

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## **Butler defends delays to HTA Review 'kicking the can' to next strategic agreement**

Health Industry Hub, Other, 15/05/2026

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler fronted around 500 stakeholders from across the health sector at the Australian Institute of Policy. [Paywall]

[Read More](#)

## **Aged Care Budget 2026-27: Incremental funding, unfinished reform**

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/05/2026

While the additional funding is welcome and necessary, the broader question remains unanswered: does this Budget place aged care on a sustainable footing for the future? The Government has pointed to additional funding for in-home personal care, specialist dementia services, increased residential capacity, and the extension of end-of-life pathways as evidence of meaningful reform. These measures address genuine areas of need, and few would dispute their importance.

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## **How to avoid needing a 'crisis comms expert'**

Health Services Daily, Other, 16/05/2026, Cate Swannell

As I got older and the realities of life became unavoidable I added a third Golden Rule: If you must lie, keep it simple. [...] This week, federal health minister Mark Butler got a little flustered by media attention on the timing, rather than the content of a couple of his announcements.

[Read More](#)

## **Experts back quarantine plan for cruise ship evacuees**

HealthTimes, Other, 15/05/2026

A 500-bed quarantine facility, sitting empty in a rural suburb, will shape Australia's response to a deadly hantavirus outbreak aboard a cruise ship. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler told the ABC the quarantine requirements were the strongest of any country taking passengers back from the cruise ship.

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## Hantavirus travellers return: What GPs should know

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 15/05/2026, Pratiksha Nirmal

Six passengers are now quarantining in Australia – what does this mean for GPs and what should they do to prepare? [...] On Thursday, Federal Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler confirmed there is a PCR test for hantavirus and all six returning passengers will be subject to testing when they arrive in Australia and will be in full PPE during the duration of the flight.

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## Specialist doctors are charging too much. 4 options to rein in excessive fees

The Point Australia, Other, 15/05/2026

Australia's Health Minister Mark Butler has declared reducing specialists' fees will be his next key focus of health policy reform. Doctors are currently free to set their own fees and many have rapidly increased them over the past 15 years.

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## Parliamentary inquiry to probe NDIS as scheme hit with sweeping reforms to rein in spiralling costs

Thenightly.com.au, Other, 15/05/2026

A parliamentary inquiry will hear from those at the forefront of disability services as the NDIS tightens eligibility to cut spending. [...] The bill will also give Health Minister Mark Butler sweeping powers to put a break on certain parts of the program as well as to enable automated decision-making.

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## Facility where Aussies will be quarantined

Yahoo! Lifestyle Australia, Other, 15/05/2026, Emma Kirk

Six passengers from Australia and New Zealand will be quarantined at a facility in Perth after they were stranded on a cruise ship exposed to the deadly hantavirus. [...] Federal Minister for Health Mark Butler earlier said an order was to be made for the Australians and New Zealander to be quarantined at the Commonwealth owned centre, which will be operated by WA Health during the quarantine period.

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## Aussie passengers from hantavirus-ridden cruise face 21 days in 'world's strongest quarantine'

Yahoo! Lifestyle Australia, Other, 15/05/2026, Carly Bass

The group were on board the MS Hondius that became exposed to the contagious rodent-borne hantavirus. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler confirmed the passengers — four Australian citizens, one permanent resident and one New Zealander — all tested negative for the virus before boarding the flight to Perth.

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## Aussies caught up in hantavirus ordeal fly home

Yahoo! Lifestyle Australia, Other, 15/05/2026, Joseph Olbrycht-Palmer

Six Australians on board a cruise ship exposed to the deadly hantavirus have departed The Netherlands. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said on Thursday the returnees had taken a "pre-flight test" and all "tested negative".

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## 6 passengers from hantavirus-hit ship arrive in Australia for 3-week quarantine

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 15/05/2026, Rod McGuirk

Six passengers from a cruise ship hit by a hantavirus outbreak arrived Friday in Australia for a quarantine expected to last at least three weeks. [...] Australian Health Minister Mark Butler said Thursday the government would implement "one of the strongest quarantine arrangements in response to this virus outbreak you'll find anywhere in the world."

## **ABC, ABC News , 15/05/2026, Charlotte Hamblyn**

The six passengers who were stuck on the hantavirus-stricken MV Hondius cruise ship have arrived at Perth, where they will be tested and quarantined. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler confirms that five Australians and one New Zealand national remain in good health, and he also states that they rate the virus as low-risk, but they have put in place protocols to deal with it.

*Similar coverage reported by: [ABC \(Canberra\)](#), [ABC \(Hobart\)](#), [ABC \(Adelaide\)](#), [SBS \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Brisbane\)](#), [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Darwin\)](#), [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).*

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## **ABC News, News Breakfast, 15/05/2026, Emma Reballato and James Glenday**

Panel Discussion with First Nations Foundation Chairperson Ian Hamm and ABC Sports Reporter Alexia Pesce. Hamm says Federal Health Minister Mark Butler will be given powers to limit NDIS spending under proposed reforms. He notes that the Greens have not expressed their support for the bill.

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## **ABC News, News Breakfast, 15/05/2026, Emma Reballato and James Glenday**

Interview with Federal Minister for Health Mark Butler. Butler says the passengers of a hantavirus-stricken ship have tested negative for the disease before they get into the plane, and their plane is expected to land in Perth, where they will undergo testing again. He notes that the Australian citizens and a New Zealand national will be subject to one of the strongest quarantine arrangements in the world.

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## **Channel 7, Seven News, 15/05/2026, Angela Cox and Mark Ferguson**

The six passengers who were stuck on the hantavirus-stricken MV Hondius cruise ship have arrived at Perth's Bullsbrook quarantine facility. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler confirms the five Australians and one New Zealand national remain in good health, but they will be tested again for hantavirus.

*Similar coverage reported by: [Sky News Live \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Perth\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Perth\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Perth\)](#).*

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## **Sky News Live, First Edition, 15/05/2026, Peter Stefanovic**

Interview with Federal Minister for NDIS Mark Butler. Butler says the Australian passengers of a hantavirus-stricken ship have tested negative for the disease before they get into the plane, and their plane is expected to land in Perth. He also says the passengers will be tested again after they land, and they are going to be put into the strongest quarantine arrangements in the world.

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## **WIN Wollongong, WIN News, 15/05/2026, Jared Constable**

Mother Jade Broome is pleading with the NDIA to allow her daughter's carers to continue life-saving support while she's being treated in hospital. When asked, Federal Minister for Disability and the NDIS Mark Butler refused to front the camera.

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## **ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 15/05/2026, Samantha Donovan**

Report by Angus Randall. Six passengers who were on board a hantavirus-stricken cruise ship have arrived in Perth, where they will spend at least three weeks in isolation, and after their possible

exposure to the rodent-borne virus, the group's physical health will be the top priority for doctors, but isolation experts say protecting their mental health will also be a major challenge. Meanwhile, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says there is no reason for Australians to fear an outbreak.

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### **ABC Radio Canberra, 18:00 News, 15/05/2026, Unspecified**

A plane carrying a group of people evacuated from a hantavirus-linked cruise ship earlier this week has landed in Perth, where they will be quarantined for three weeks. Earlier today, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler confirmed none of the group had tested positive for hantavirus.

*Also reported by: [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Gold Coast \(Gold Coast\)](#), [ABC Sunshine Coast \(Sunshine Coast\)](#), [ABC Radio Darwin \(Darwin\)](#), [ABC Radio Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Triple J \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC NewsRadio \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#), [ABC Radio Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#).*

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### **Radio National, Breakfast, 15/05/2026, Sally Sara**

Interview with Federal Minister for Health, Ageing, Disability and the NDIS Mark Butler. Butler says the NDIS is accessed by permanent Australian citizens, and not temporary visa holders. On revelations that it takes 12 months on average to get a spot in an aged care home, he states that their quarterly report showed that the wait period for home care packages was down by about 25,000, and even though it continues to be a challenge, he also notes that they are determined to meet the surging demand.

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### **2GB, Drive, 15/05/2026, Clinton Maynard**

Maynard says Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced the \$3b aged care package a few weeks ago, but the private health insurance rebates for Australians over 65 will be cut, making them pay an extra \$250 a year. He states that there are around a million Australians aged over 80, but the Federal Government does not see them as important when it comes to winning elections.

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### **4BC, Afternoons, 15/05/2026, Carla Bignasca**

Bignasca says Federal Health Minister Mark Butler confirmed that the Australian and Kiwi passengers have tested negative for hantavirus after being stranded on a ship affected by the outbreak. She also states that the World Health Organization noted that the potential incubation period of the virus is 42 days.

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### **6PR, 08:30 News, 15/05/2026**

Six passengers from a Hantavirus-stricken cruise ship are expected to land in Perth late this morning after being forced to quarantine in the Netherlands for two days. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the passengers tested negative for hantavirus, but he also notes that every precaution will be taken as the group prepares to quarantine in Perth.

*Also reported by: [3AW \(Melbourne\)](#), [2GB \(Sydney\)](#), [2CC \(Canberra\)](#).*

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### **FIVEAA, 08:00 News, 15/05/2026**

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler will be given broad powers to limit NDIS spending under proposed reforms. Labor's bill would allow Butler to make mass cuts to budgets or therapies, and limit who can access the disability scheme.

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### **ABC Ballarat, Australia Wide, 15/05/2026, Sinead Mangan**

Report by ABC reporter Shannon Pearce. Kirsty Johnson, a South Australian mother of a boy with

autism, has invited Federal Health Minister Mark Butler to spend a week in her home after the Federal Government announced sweeping changes to the NDIS, which will see 160,000 participants kicked off the scheme by the end of the decade, including some children with autism or mild developmental delay. Butler did not respond to Johnson's invitation to stay at her home, but she still wants her family's voice to be heard.

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## NOVA 100.3, 16:00 News, 15/05/2026

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler insists that the six passengers who have arrived back in Australia from a hantavirus-stricken cruise ship will be very comfortable as they undertake three weeks of quarantine. The five Australians and a New Zealand national have tested negative for the deadly virus, but they will spend 21 days at a special facility north of Perth.

*Also reported by: [NOVA 106.9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [B105 \(Brisbane\)](#), [SENQ \(Brisbane\)](#), [GOLD FM 104.3 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hot Tomato \(Gold Coast\)](#), [River FM \(Ipswich\)](#), [Gold 101.7 \(Sydney\)](#), [GOLD 96FM \(Perth\)](#), [Sonshine 98.5 FM \(Perth\)](#), [Curtin FM \(Perth\)](#), [GOLD 1323 \(Adelaide\)](#), [2MCE \(Orange\)](#), [BAY FM \(Geelong\)](#).*

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## MINISTER MCALLISTER

### NDIS spending still rising despite clamp

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/05/2026, Sarah Ison, Page 4

[...] Diverting children aged nine and under with mild to moderate autism away from the NDIS has been a priority of government since Health Minister Mark Butler unveiled the Thriving Kids program in August, before revealing last month that eligibility changes would apply more broadly and result in 160,000 people coming off the scheme in the next decade. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said it was clear the NDIS was growing too fast and costing "much more than ever anticipated".

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

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### NDIS expenses jump 11pc, average plan \$67,000 a year

AFR Weekend, General News, 16/05/2026, Michael Smith, Page 6

The National Disability Insurance Scheme's latest report shows expenses have jumped 11.3 per cent over the past year as the average plan cost soared to \$67,000 and tens of thousands of people had their budgets increased.

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

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### Fresh NDIS data shows costs of the scheme ballooning

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 16/05/2026, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 8

Labor's efforts to control the NDIS have gone backwards this year and growth is picking up speed, raising the stakes for Health Minister Mark Butler as his laws to cut costs by \$38 billion within four years meet resistance from affected participants. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said the \$350 million blowout in the quarterly report showed why the government's changes were urgent.

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

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### Labor students cover up party with NDIS Minister in wake of devastating cuts

Honi Soit, Other, 15/05/2026, James Fitzgerald Sice & Sebastien Tuzilovic

On 7 May, the newly founded "USyd Fabian's" society launched at the Royal Hotel with Federal Labor

Senator and NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister in attendance as a guest speaker. Honi Soit can confirm that over 40 members from the National Labor Students (NLS) and NSW Labor Students (NSWLS) factions were present at the party.

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## MINISTER RAE

### **WA Premier Roger Cook backs federal budget housing focus**

ABC Online, Other, 15/05/2026, Courtney Withers

"Standing up to Canberra" has been a favourite battle cry of successive premiers from the west, and after the splash of the Albanese government's "ambitious" fifth budget this week, Roger Cook was more than happy to roll it out once again. [...] "Older people have a right to access health care in hospitals and hospitals have always had older people in them, so I don't always appreciate the language that's being used," Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said last month.

[Read More](#)

### **New aged-care design guidance aims to make homes safer for First Nations Elders**

Indigenous News Australia, Other, 15/05/2026, Dean Foley

The Albanese Government has released new design guidance to help aged care providers create homes that are culturally safe, respectful and supportive for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents, including Elders. [...] Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae said designing principles for First Nations people, with First Nations people, was non-negotiable for the Government.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

No relevant coverage

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## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

### **'One man lost, is one too many': making blokes notice**

Canberra Times, General News, 16/05/2026, Megan Doherty, Page 14

Sometimes, you just need a "a bloody big truck" to draw attention to an issue. [...] That was music to the ears of Hunter MP and Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi.

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

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

### **'Awareness truck' key to eliminating prostate cancer deaths**

Daily Cargo News, Other, 15/05/2026

A major new national effort to eliminate deaths from prostate cancer has been launched at Parliament

House in Canberra this week. [...] Special envoy for men's health, Dan Repacholi MP, said the initiative represents an important step forward in improving health outcomes for Australian men.

[Read More](#)

## J & J Robertson & Sons drives prostate cancer awareness

Trailer Magazine, Other, 15/05/2026, Luke Applebee

A major national push to eliminate avoidable deaths from prostate cancer has been launched at Parliament House in Canberra. [...] Special Envoy for Men's Health, Dan Repacholi, said the initiative is urgently needed.

[Read More](#)

## Mental health funding announced at Budget Day Truck Week event

Big Rigs, Other, 15/05/2026

Minister Catherine King (centre) with Naomi Frauenfelder (Healthy Heads), Senator Glenn Sterle, Special Envoy Men's Health Dan Repacholi and Ben Maguire (Healthy Heads). One of the most significant announcements of Truck Week 2026 came on Wednesday, May 13, outside Parliament House in Canberra, where the Australian Government confirmed its investment in frontline mental health support for Australia's transport, warehousing and logistics workforce.

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## DEPARTMENT

### I grew up Labor now I see the real inequity

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/05/2026, Claire Lehmann, Page 16

I come from a Labor family. [...] The Department of Health is situated in a gigantic office building in Woden.

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

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

### PSA workforce consultation open

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 15/05/2026, Page 1

The National Pharmacy Workforce Analysis, led by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) in partnership with the University of Queensland, has progressed to the consultation stage, with pharmacists invited to have their say through a survey. Commissioned and funded by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, the analysis is a part of the Strategic Agreement on Pharmacist Professional Practice.

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

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

### Inklings comes to regions

Whyalla News, Other, 15/05/2026, Jack O'Halloran

A free early intervention program is being introduced in Whyalla and Port Pirie to support families with young children showing early differences in communication and social interaction. [...] Inklings is jointly funded by the Government of South Australia and the Commonwealth Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

[Read More](#)

### Wait times growing, no directive for CHSP

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 15/05/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones & Natasha Egan

The government has denied it attempted to bury a report showing that older Australians are, on average, waiting 12 months to access aged care services. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and

Ageing Portfolio Budget Statement 2026–27 shows the government is aiming to fund 420,000 Support at Home packages in 2026–27.

[Read More](#)

## **Disability advocates on the imperatives for NDIS co-design and co-governance**

Croakey, Other, 15/05/2026, Fiona Martin

Reactions to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) overhaul have been pouring into the Croakey mailbox, as disability advocacy groups and the healthcare sector pore over the Federal Budget details. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has said that ahead of the new framework planning process that it will "put the community back into community participation."

[Read More](#)

## **Reactions to the Federal Budget from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations**

Croakey, Other, 15/05/2026, Fiona Martin

This year's Federal Budget papers say the Government will invest \$144.1 million over the next two years to meet infrastructure needs of the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services sector and \$44.4 million for Birthing on Country, supporting culturally safe maternal healthcare for approximately 1,100 First Nations mothers. [...] The needs-based ACCHO funding model, developed over nine years in close partnership with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, is exactly that kind of reform, structural, evidence-based, and designed to shift outcomes across a generation.

[Read More](#)

## **DoHDA's bad governance of CHSP threatens proposed SaH transition**

Health Services Daily, Other, 15/05/2026, Cate Swannell

An excoriating ANAO review shows the government has no idea how many use the program, whether it delivers good care and whether it meets its objectives. [Paywall]

[Read More](#)

## **800,000 older Australians, eight cents in the dollar: Why the CHSP is worth saving**

HelloCare, Other, 15/05/2026, Jakob Neeland

Australia is on the cusp of dismantling one of its most cost-effective social programs at precisely the moment it needs it most. [...] But the audit also found that the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has no robust methodology for measuring unmet demand, no end-to-end monitoring of how long people wait from first contact to receiving a service, and has never conducted a comprehensive evaluation of whether the program is meeting its objectives in the decade since it was established.

[Read More](#)

## **New aged-care design guidance aims to make homes safer for First Nations Elders**

Indigenous News Australia, Other, 15/05/2026, Dean Foley

The Albanese Government has released new design guidance to help aged care providers create homes that are culturally safe, respectful and supportive for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents, including Elders. [...] Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae said designing principles for First Nations people, with First Nations people, was non-negotiable for the Government.

[Read More](#)

## **Central Australian Aboriginal Congress reports diphtheria death in NT, Indigenous cases 98 per cent of outbreak**

National Indigenous Times, Other, 15/05/2026, Giovanni Torre

The diphtheria outbreak in the Northern Territory which has overwhelmingly impacted Aboriginal communities has caused at least one death, the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress reports. [...] A spokesperson from the federal Department of Health, Disability and Ageing told the ABC the federal

government has been working with the NT government, the Australian Health Protection Committee, and the Aboriginal community controlled health sector on "a range of measures to support the response to Diphtheria in the NT".

[Read More](#)

## CHSP effective but admin weaknesses hurting quality

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 15/05/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The Australian National Audit Office has found the Commonwealth Home Support Program is "partly effective" in its performance audit report released this week, and made nine recommendations including measurement and monitoring of demand and supply to support advice, decision-making and planning. [...] This includes the Department of Health and Disability and Ageing not collecting enough information to understand whether the program is being delivered well or to check whether those eligible for the program are able to access the services when needed.

Also reported by: [Community Care Review \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

## Health Department does not properly understand its own \$3B CHSP program

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/05/2026, Caroline Egan

The Australian National Audit Office has released nine recommendations after analysing the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP). The 162-page Effectiveness of the CHSP report by the Australian National Audit Office concludes the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DOHDA) should put better controls in place before the CHSP is rolled into Support at Home, a transition currently scheduled for "no earlier than 1 July 2027".

[Read More](#)

## Home care is becoming a hospital system – but the workforce isn't there

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/05/2026, Lauren Broomham

Support at Home may have dominated the sector's attention for the past year – but another pressure point is rapidly emerging underneath it. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's own Nursing Supply and Demand Study 2023-2035 projected an undersupply of 17,551 FTE nurses in residential aged care by 2035 – not counting demand in home care.

[Read More](#)

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Public oligarchs keep lining their pockets

AFR Weekend, Companies and Markets, 16/05/2026, Christopher Joye, Page 29

Australia increasingly resembles an oligarchy run for the benefit of those who control it that is, those who directly or indirectly work for the government.

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

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

### Deputy defends migrant policies

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/05/2026, Remy Varga, Page 5

Deputy Liberal leader Jane Hume has defended plans to tie migration to housing and withholding social services, saying migrants needed to commit to Australia. [...] Senator Hume stressed the policy, widely seen as the Coalition's attempt to stem the bleeding of votes to One Nation, would not prohibit access to Medicare and aged-care services.

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

## Major parties in same battle

Courier Mail, General News, 16/05/2026, Ellen Ransley, Page 71

The next election may be another two years away, but Labor and the Coalition drew their battle lines this week. [...] The second: A damning report showing older Australians are now waiting a year for aged care services.

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

## Dean's vision to help a 'broken' society

Daily Advertiser, General News, 16/05/2026, Taylor Dodge, Page 10

Concerns have been raised homelessness will worsen across Wagga, and the wider country, as immigration levels are "too high" and housing availability "too low". [...] "Migration helps to raise living standards for all Australians, by boosting productivity and meeting critical skill shortages, including in construction, health and aged care, childcare and education," the spokesperson said.

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

## Budget trash drop: What the govt didn't want you to see

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 16/05/2026, Page 23

What does a politically savvy left-wing government do on a day when it knows the media will be preoccupied with the litany of lies and broken promises that underpin the most talked about budget in years? [...] The other bucket of ordure discreetly pushed out on Tuesday was the first of the quarterly reports on waiting times the government must make public under the terms of the new Aged Care Act.

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

## Dementia is a health crisis, not a law-and-order problem

The Australian, Other, 15/05/2026, Louise Bryant

Dementia is a wicked problem in our society. Every case is unique, ambiguous and not linear; there is no one-size-fits-all solution. When emergency services are called to known dementia cases, responses must be tailored to acknowledge this, or the problem will only spiral out of control. When you add shame and stigma, and the unpredictability of care needs, you end up with a cascade of risk and failures.

[Read More](#)

## Why 48,000 older Australians are stuck on a 'triage' waitlist

Canberra Times, Other, 15/05/2026, Phoebe Loomes

Vulnerable older Australians are languishing for a year before receiving care in their homes, according to a new report which was quietly released by the government on the same day as the budget. People looking for residential aged care placements can expect to wait even longer, for more than a year.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Giving room instead of tasing gran 'least of all evils'

Canberra Times, Other, 15/05/2026, Miklos Bolza

The heartbroken family of a fatally tasered 95-year-old great-grandmother is lamenting the lack of remorse shown by the responsible police officer. Then-senior constable Kristian James Samuel White fired his weapon at Clare Nowland after being called to Yallambee Lodge nursing home at Cooma in southern NSW early on the morning of May 17, 2023.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## NSW coroner acknowledges "powerful presence" of Clare Nowland's family at inquest

ABC Online, Other, 15/05/2026, Adriane Reardon & Isla Evans

One of Clare Nowland's daughters has appeared before the inquest into the death of the 95-year-old great-grandmother, sharing the distress the family has felt as they process the tragedy. Ms Nowland was a resident at Cooma's Yallabee Lodge aged care home in May 2023, when a staff member called Triple Zero (000) to report that she was wandering the property initially with two knives and entering other residents' rooms.

[Read More](#)

## Getting down in the mud with Pauline Hanson won't help Angus Taylor – but principled policy could

The Guardian, Other, 16/05/2026, Tom McLroy

In the hours after Angus Taylor delivered his budget reply on Thursday night, Labor figures shared a grainy photo of the opposition leader shaking hands with Pauline Hanson. [...] Business groups have obviously failed in their attempts to explain to the Coalition that overseas born tradies are badly needed to build new homes here, let alone do difficult and low paid work – such as in aged care and hospitality – that many Australians don't want to do themselves.

[Read More](#)

## Fuel, Ageing, Budget: Responsibility required

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/05/2026, Chris Baynes

How did Australia get to this: our Prime Minister jumping on planes to beg other countries for fuel and fertiliser? [...] Aged care is the same as fuel, but different.

[Read More](#)

## Australia wants ageing at home – but dementia could break the model

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/05/2026, Lauren Broomham

HammondCare CEO Andrew Thorburn says dementia is becoming the defining challenge of ageing – and solving it will require new technology, new partnerships and an entirely different approach to care at home. Australia is building an aged care system around ageing at home – but according to HammondCare CEO Andrew Thorburn (pictured top), dementia could become the pressure point that determines whether the model survives.

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## DISABILITY AND CARERS

### Prepare yourself for the revolution over conviction

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/05/2026, Paul Kelly, Page 1

A revolution is coming to our national politics a battle over conviction. [...] He pledges to reserve the National Disability Insurance Scheme and 17 welfare programs - including JobSeeker, Youth Allowance and Family Tax Benefit - for Australians.

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

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### Inside the cutting-edge surgery that will change young Oscar's life for good

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/05/2026, Helen Trinca, Page 1

Twelve-year-old Oscar Tanner is lying flat on his tummy, his body almost completely covered by blue sterile sheets. His back is cut open.

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### Under one roof: how housing reforms hit four life stages

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/05/2026, Jamie Walker, Page 5

Like most Australian households, this blended and extended family in Townsville has spent the week

working out where they fit into Jim Chalmers' project of intergenerational snakes and ladders. [...] Kath accepts that the NDIS had to be reformed; as a former employee of the National Disability Insurance Agency, she recognises the need to reduce the waste and sorting.

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## Jim launches mission to woo young voters

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/05/2026, Tom Dusevic, Page 13

Jim Chalmers chewed up four years doing warm-up squats and lunges on the tarmac before declaring on Tuesday his fifth budget was the "most important and ambitious" sortie in decades. [...] Plainly, the make-or-break part of the savings plan is the reengineering of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, a program where participant costs were growing at an annual rate of 21 per cent for five years; across the coming four years the government says it will freeze its total cost at \$55bn.

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

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## Taylor tax plan may cost budget \$200b

AFR Weekend, General News, 16/05/2026, Lea Jurkovic & John Kehoe, Page 4

Opposition Leader Angus Taylor's vow to eliminate income tax bracket creep will save taxpayers but cost the federal budget more than \$200 billion over a decade.

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

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## Just enough

The Saturday Paper, Editorials, 16/05/2026, Page 16

It is an assumption of the Westminster tradition that good government requires good opposition. [...] The largest single saving comes from cuts to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

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## Unfinished Federation

The Saturday Paper, General News, 16/05/2026, John Hewson, Page 18

To borrow from Paul Keating, with respect: lately, all the parrots in the pet shop have been squawking about reform. [...] It is most disturbing how readily the main objectives of the NDIS are sacrificed in such squabbling surely the end game is the support for the disabled in our society and its effective delivery, not just another opportunity for political point-scoring.

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

## Taylor sets sights on 'big government'

Canberra Times, General News, 16/05/2026, Dana Daniel, Page 8

Opposition Leader Angus Taylor has vowed to end "big government" and slash spending with a radical plan to restrict publicly-funded services to Australian citizens, while pledging to end "mass migration" and deliver \$22.5 billion worth of income tax cuts. "Anthony Albanese promised that you would be better off under a big Labor government," Mr Taylor said in his budget-in-reply speech on Thursday night.

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

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## Bold pitch to get the drifters back

Canberra Times, General News, 16/05/2026, Michelle Grattan, Page 48

Angus Taylor might have reckoned he and the opposition are in such deep doo-doo that he might as well throw everything at Thursday night's budget reply. [...] The pledge to restrict access to 17 welfare benefits and payments (and the NDIS) to Australian citizens falls into a very different category.

Also reported by: [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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## Taylor just alienated families like mine and doomed the Libs

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 16/05/2026, Kos Samaras, Page 30

This will possibly be the second-last budget reply delivered by a Liberal MP. [...] Strip the NDIS from a PR and you have not touched a single voter directly.

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

## Chinese-Australians lash out at 'unfair' welfare payment move

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 16/05/2026, Sebastian Tan, Page 9

Chinese-Australians' distrust of the Coalition will only increase after the conservatives unveiled plans to strip welfare payments from non-citizens, community advocates and experts warn. While delivering his first Budget reply speech on Thursday, Opposition Leader Angus Taylor promised to put 17 welfare programs on a citizens-only list should the Coalition win the next election.

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

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## Disabled pay a big price in rollback of rights

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 16/05/2026, Jo Russell, Page 10

Let's drop the polite fiction - what the Albanese Government is calling "NDIS reform" is nothing more than a demolition job. You don't "strengthen" a disability rights scheme by ripping out \$185 billion and quietly planning the mass removal of 160,000 people.

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## Rural health concerns following budget

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 16/05/2026, Lochlainn Heley, Page 12

Leaders in rural health have welcomed the Federal Budget's latest funding investments but say more is needed to remove barriers to access. The Federal Budget 2026-27 was announced on Tuesday night 12 May, spotlighting cost-of-living pressures as a priority issue in its distribution of funds.

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## Migrant advocates slam Coalition proposal to restrict welfare payments

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/05/2026, Ria Pandey

Anthony Albanese has derided Angus Taylor's budget reply speech for its "dog-whistling" after the Opposition Leader vowed to target non-citizens claiming welfare benefits. Mr Taylor's policy will restrict access to the NDIS, paid parental leave and 16 other welfare benefits to Australian citizens.

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

[Read More](#)

## Coalition's bracket creep plan to cost tens of billions

Canberra Times, Other, 15/05/2026, Tess Ikonomou

A permanent tax cut would cost government coffers \$22 billion but could be offset by paring back bureaucracy under a coalition plan. Delivering his first budget reply speech on Thursday evening, Opposition Leader Angus Taylor promised to end bracket creep by indexing tax rates in line with inflation, claiming the move will deliver workers an extra \$1000 a year, four years into the policy.

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

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## Chinese Australians lash Coalition proposal to block non-citizens from welfare services

ABC Online, Other, 15/05/2026, Samantha Dick

Chinese Australians have lashed the Coalition's plan to block future non-citizens from accessing welfare services, likening the opposition's targeting of migrants to One Nation. Opposition Leader Angus Taylor has used his budget reply speech to pledge a crackdown on migration, slashing

Australia's intake to align with housing construction rates and blocking any non-citizens from the NDIS and 17 welfare programs.

[Read More](#)

## Angus Taylor's budget reply shows times have changed since Peter Dutton

ABC Online, Other, 15/05/2026, Annabel Crabb

"Change or die." That was Angus Taylor's self-imposed remit for the Liberal Party he stepped up to lead just three months ago.

[Read More](#)

## 'We are not in Trump's America': migrant groups say Angus Taylor in race to bottom with far-right

The Guardian, Other, 15/05/2026, Josh Butler & Cait Kelly

Anthony Albanese has accused Angus Taylor of copying One Nation and "dog-whistling" to marginalise immigrants to Australia, as the Coalition seeks to cut social benefits and government programs for permanent residents. Delivering his budget reply speech on Thursday night, the opposition leader announced plans to slash immigration and restrict welfare programs to citizens only.

[Read More](#)

## Massive proposed changes to taxation in Federal Budget branded "shambolic" by MP Melissa Price

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 15/05/2026

Accountants and finance managers may be the biggest winners from Tuesday's Federal Budget, but not everyone in the sector is celebrating the huge proposed tax reforms. While the Budget did not contain announcement specific to Geraldton and the Mid West, it contains big reforms that will affect the West Australians living in the region.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Specialist doctor delayed for 18 months

Canberra Times, General News, 16/05/2026, Lanie Tindale, Page 18

An overseas doctor that could provide life-changing surgery for Canberra women remains held up by "administrative delays" more than 18 months after being recruited, the health minister says. Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith told an ACT Legislative Assembly inquiry into endometriosis that she will write to the federal government about the delay in approving a specialist obstetric and gynaecologist surgeon to work in the capital.

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

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### Lost chance

Northern Territory News, General News, 14/05/2026, Page 14

The federal budget failed to offer any meaningful boost to Territory infrastructure. [...] While Giant Pandas on loan from China in Adelaide Zoo continue to receive \$800k a year, the North Queensland Cowboys secure a nice \$5m boost for a Community and Performance Centre and \$105.9m is funnelled towards infrastructure in Western Sydney, the Territory can't even secure funding for private maternity services.

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### What the budget's cost-of-living relief means for you

Burnie Advocate, General News, 16/05/2026, Anne Urquhart, Page 22

The Albanese Labor Government is focused on building a fairer Australia, and this year's federal budget is all about helping Australians with the cost of living while investing in our future. [...] Our free Medicare Urgent Care Clinics are a cornerstone of the Albanese Labor government, and that's why we're making them a permanent part of Medicare.

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## Residents feel impact of no permanent GP in Strahan since 2017

ABC Online, Other, 15/05/2026, Sandy Powell

Since a car crash 20 years ago, Jamie McGuinness has been living with a permanent brain injury. But Jamie lives in Strahan on Tasmania's west coast, a town that has not had a permanent GP since 2017.

[Read More](#)

## TasInsure unravelling a lesson for Tasmanian Liberals in promise management

ABC Online, Other, 15/05/2026, Josh Duggan

Expectations rarely meet reality. [...] With good ideas in short supply during last year's campaign, the Liberals immediately matched Labor's pledge for state-owned GP bulk-billing clinics.

[Read More](#)

## Board seeks CPD input

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 15/05/2026

Revised standards would align requirements across professions, according to the consultation. The Pharmacy Board of Australia and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) are seeking feedback from pharmacists on proposed recency of practice and continuing professional development (CPD) registration standards.

[Read More](#)

## Top barriers to scope and how to overcome them

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 15/05/2026, Kate Cowling

Time pressure and competing priorities are consistently listed as hurdles to scope, but other obstacles stand in the way that can be solved with the right strategy, a pharmacist says. Pharmacists have the capability and training to expand their scope, but the biggest barriers include marketing the services and delivering them on a consistent basis,

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## NBN Newcastle Hunter, NBN News, 15/05/2026, Natasha Beyersdorf

The Federal Government has committed more than \$25m for up to six new bulk billing GP clinics across the Hunter and Central Coast, where rates are historically low, and Labor is arguing the move will not only allow more patients to see a doctor for free, but also drive competition in the region. The Hunter GPs Association says families are struggling to access health care, with emergency departments bearing the load due to a doctor shortage.

Also reported by: [NBN Central Coast \(Gosford\)](#).

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Is this real reform?

The Saturday Paper, General News, 16/05/2026, Stephen Long, Page 8

It's the word no one dared to mention, but Jim Chalmers' fifth budget puts class back at the centre of politics. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, nearly half of all households with a mortgage a staggering 44.5 per cent are spending more than 30 per cent of their disposable income on housing, up from less than a quarter five years ago.

## 'Lucky one': The gift of my family

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/05/2026, Janet Albrechtsen, Page 19

I was one of the lucky ones. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's April report on adoption in Australia, in 2024-25, adoptions fell by 98 per cent to 155, most of those being adoptions of Australian children.

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

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## Why menopause is men's problem too

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/05/2026, Stephen Corby, Page 21

Here is just one of the 9843 interesting facts you probably don't know about menopause: other than humans, the only other animals that experience this late-lifechanging hormonal wave are a very few species of whales, most notably the orca. Given what many men who've lived with it, rather than through it, do know about menopause, some may prefer, on certain days, to jump into the water with a killer whale than spend another hour with their human female partners.

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

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## Writers air anxieties at community centre's literary festival

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 16/05/2026, Helen Pitt, Page 20

Like many writers, Sonya Voumard knows the crippling feeling of paralysis known as writer's block. [...] According to Beyond Blue, one in four Australians (3.4 million) live with anxiety and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare says 17 per cent of Australians have experienced an anxiety disorder at some point.

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

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## Smoke signals point to a policy disaster

Northern Territory News, General News, 14/05/2026, Alexander Downer, Page 15

Over the past few years, Australia has abandoned economic rationality for populist economic irrationality. There's no better example than the increases in tobacco excise.

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## Adult point of pressure

Courier Mail, General News, 16/05/2026, Page 31

High blood pressure affects two in five Australian adults aged 18 and over. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found that in 2022, 39 per cent or 7.2 million Australians had high blood pressure or hypertension.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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

## Bootlegging booms as 'excessive' excise fuels black market in booze

Central Western Daily, General News, 16/05/2026, Jacob Shteyman & Nick Wilson, Page 26

A spate of fire bombings could be just the beginning as concerns mount the tax system is driving a burgeoning alcohol black market putting lives and the Federal Budget bottom line at risk. Police have not confirmed whether or not illicit alcohol was behind 15 incidents at hospitality venues across inner Melbourne since April 14, but the industry is warning Australia's high excise settings is fuelling organised crime.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#).

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## Forget looksmaxxing. We've moved onto deathmaxxing

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 15/05/2026, Sarah Berry

Skydiving or nosediving in an aerobatic plane, drinking champagne like it's a not a group one carcinogen or eating the rice that's been left out on the bench for two days. I get the thrill of taking a risk: we all have our vices.

[Read More](#)

## Report reveals high prevalence of hypertension

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/05/2026

A new report published today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has revealed that hypertension affects nearly two in five Australian adults aged 18 and over, with many people unaware they have the condition. The report, Hypertension in Australia, provided a detailed picture of the prevalence of the condition, how effectively it is managed and its impact on the health system including emergency department presentations, hospitalisations and deaths.

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## CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

### Prostate cancer blood test success

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/05/2026, Stephen Lunn, Page 3

Screening for prostate cancer using blood tests likely reduces the number of men dying from the disease, a new study has found, reviving a debate over who should be tested. The latest Cochrane review concludes that screening with a PSA (prostate-specific antigen) blood test lowers prostate cancer deaths by two for every 1000 men screened.

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

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

### Public farewell for ABC legend

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 16/05/2026, Alexandra Feiam, Page 21

Legendary broadcaster and talented saxophonist James Valentine will be honoured with a public memorial. The late ABC radio host, TV presenter and musician died on April 22 at the age of 64, using voluntary assisted dying, two years after a cancer diagnosis.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#)

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### Walls' hidden fears

Herald Sun, General News, 16/05/2026, Glenn Mcfarlane & Jon Ralph, Page 1

Robert Walls dubbed it "poison ivy". [...] Walls would "warn" all who came to see him in his East Melbourne apartment to be wary of the "poison ivy" as he prepared to use Voluntary Assisted Dying to end his battle against acute lymphoblastic leukaemia.

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

### Host's fitting farewell

Herald Sun, General News, 16/05/2026, Page 15

Legendary broadcaster and talented saxophonist James Valentine will be honoured with a public memorial. The late ABC radio host, TV presenter and musician (right) died on April 22 at the age of 64, using Voluntary Assisted Dying, two years after a cancer diagnosis.

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### Di on a mission for sun safety

Hobart Mercury, General News, 16/05/2026, Bridget Clarke, Page 20

Like many Tasmanians, Di Mason knows the heartache of losing someone to cancer. Amid the grief of losing her mother to melanoma within eight weeks of diagnosis in 2003, the former nurse found solace in action, embarking on a mission to educate Tasmanians about the importance of sun safety.

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## Steve's fight to restore Orange's AEDs

Central Western Daily, General News, 16/05/2026, Reidun Berntsen, Page 5

For 43 minutes in 2017, Steve Hamson was technically dead; today, he is a walking reminder of why Orange's empty AED cabinets represent a critical risk to community safety. According to the Heart Foundation, the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) within three minutes of a cardiac arrest increases the chances of survival.

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## 'Blackmail': Sam's extra fight while battling incurable cancer

Launceston Examiner, General News, 16/05/2026, Saree Salter, Page 16

Sam Ikin was diagnosed with an incurable cancer in 2024 that has no curative standard of care, so he turned to non-conventional treatment options. But that cost him "a ridiculous amount of money".

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## Walk returns to break the silence on bladder cancer

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 16/05/2026, Tom Plevy, Page 6

"Blood in your pee? See your GP." That's the slogan of Beat Bladder Cancer Australia, and while bladder cancer might not be the most common type of cancer around, that does not mean it's not devastating for those who live with it.

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

## Fewer deaths on prostate

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 16/05/2026, Page 12

Researchers say we are likely reducing the number of deaths from prostate cancer by screening for the disease. The researchers, including Monash University scientists, looked at data from six trials that included almost 800,000 people.

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 15/05/2026, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort

Dozens of Australians are diagnosed with Parkinson's disease every day. A major study by the QIMR Berghofer, which involved 11,000 Australians, has found that men experienced more memory and sleep issues, while reports of pain, falls, depression, and anxiety are more common among women.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Perth\)](#)

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## ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 15/05/2026, Rory McClaren

Interview with Dementia Australia Executive Director of Services, Advocacy, and Research Dr Kaele Stokes, on Dementia Australia's latest research, which revealed that nearly half of dementia cases are linked to factors like smoking, obesity, inactivity, and high blood pressure. Stokes says about 35,800 people are living with dementia in SA, and they are part of more than 446,000 Australians living with the said condition, but people still have a systemic lack of understanding of the risk factors for dementia. She also states that avoiding smoking, wearing hearing aids, and maintaining a healthy diet can reduce the risk of developing dementia.

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## ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 15/05/2026, Ross Solly

Interview with Australian Medical Association ACT President Dr Kerrie Aust. Aust says she is pleased that Wayne Swan is advocating for men's health, and she also states that they would like to see a reduction of stigma about men having a chat with their GPs about prostate cancer and bowel cancer.

She also notes that, according to the RACGP guidelines, GPs should only order a Prostate-Specific Antigen if they have given men an opportunity to have a discussion about informed consent for screening.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 15/05/2026, Thomas Oriti

Interview with Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia Chair Wayne Swan. Oriti says the UK's Cochrane Medical Institute has suggested that blood tests can reduce the risk of dying from prostate cancer. Swan, who is a prostate cancer survivor, says most men are not aware that they have a risk of developing the disease, and they have now formed a committee to redress the neglect of awareness and testing for men at risk.

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

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Boy. Interrupted

Sydney Morning Herald, Good Weekend Magazine, 16/05/2026, Cassandra Morgan, Page 1

Elijah\* was 10 when he watched a woman in a fluorescent green bikini walk into a bedroom. Giggly and confused, his friend had wedged an iPod between them and typed "porn" into a search engine.

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

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### Fine the tech giants to protect our kids

Courier Mail, Editorials, 16/05/2026, Page 73

The change to Australian society that came into effect on December 10, 2025 was truly revolutionary. [...] In turn, our campaign was sparked by years of reporting the truly horrific legacy of unfettered and unmoderated social media access by children bullying, radicalisation, eating disorders, self harm, depression, anxiety and, most tragically, suicide.

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### Anger as age bans rorted

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/05/2026, Eilidh Sproul-Mellis, Page 19

Five months into Australia's world-first social media ban for under 16s, the eSafety Commissioner still won't fine platforms flagrantly flouting the rules, citing "procedural fairness" and lack of "sufficient evidence". [...] Melbourne dad Wayne Holdsworth, who lost his teenage son Mac in October 2023, was at the centre of the campaign, going on to become one of Australia's most prominent advocates for education around online harms.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Weekend Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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### In pursuit of innovation

Border Mail, General News, 16/05/2026, Jodie Bruton, Page 1

A pioneering mental health project is calling on Border residents and national supporters to help build a first-of-its-kind trauma recovery facility in Wodonga. The Murray River Centre will be a dedicated integrated centre for trauma-focused mental healthcare in the heart of Wodonga.

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### Almost \$60,000 in community grants awarded to local initiatives in the City of Greater Geraldton

West Australian, Other, 15/05/2026, Sienna Seychell

A first aid program for young drivers has received a \$10,000 boost, which will better prepare more Mid West motorists for an emergency on the roads. [...] The selected not-for-profits will share in almost \$60,000 through Round 34 grants, which will be used to support projects ranging from events and cultural storytelling to sport, safety and mental health initiatives.

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

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## Flagged for winning, inducements when losing: how betting firms watched a Melbourne man gamble \$895,000 before his death at 22

The Guardian, Other, 16/05/2026, Stephanie Convery

The WNBA match between the Dallas Wings and New York Liberty in July 2021 was a nail-biter. The lead bounced back and forth between the teams more than a dozen times. Liberty kept the Wings at bay in the third quarter but Dallas took the lead with just under five minutes left in the fourth. Thirty seconds later, the score was tied.

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## IMMUNISATION

### Baby jab a shot in arm against RSV

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/05/2026, Page 22

Australia's new respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunisation program cut hospital admissions for Australia's youngest babies by almost half in its first year. Research involving The Kids Research Institute Australia found RSV-associated hospitalisations fell by 43.8 per cent in babies aged less than three months.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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### Vaccine program almost halves number of young babies hospitalised with RSV

ABC Online, Other, 15/05/2026, Caitlyn Gribbin & Rachel Carbonell

A new immunisation program for pregnant mothers and newborns has almost halved the number of young babies being hospitalised with a serious respiratory virus, according to a new report. The analysis, which compared 2024 hospitalisation data with 2025 numbers, showed a 43.8 per cent drop in respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) hospital admissions across 13 hospitals Australia-wide in babies under three months old.

[Read More](#)

### Call for free MenB vax in NSW

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/05/2026

The Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) is urging the NSW Government to fund meningococcal B (MenB) vaccines as part of the state's routine immunisation program, as it is in Queensland, South Australia, the NT, and recently, Victoria (PD 11 May). The peak body warned that current arrangements leave children and young people at unnecessary risk, with the cost of vaccination creating barriers to protection

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### RSV immunisation program halves baby hospitalisations

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 15/05/2026, Karen Burge

Early research shows a 'phenomenal' shift in admissions – a turnaround one expert says underscores GPs' role in patients' vaccination understanding. Dr Ushma Wadia, a clinician-scientist at The Kids Research Institute Australia, with Katryna Cygler, who received the maternal RSV immunisation last year while pregnant with her son, Hugo Brown.

## FIVEAA, Afternoons, 15/05/2026, Stacy Lee

Interview with Adelaide University Professor Adrian Esterman. Esterman says it is important for Australians under the age of 65 to get their annual Covid vaccination before it protects them from the disease. He also says Australians over 65 are urged to get their RSV vaccines, which are now available for free.

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## Radio National, AM, 15/05/2026, Isabella Higgins

Report by Caitlyn Gribbin. A new immunisation program for pregnant mothers and newborns has almost halved the number of young babies being hospitalised with a serious respiratory virus, according to a new report. The highly contagious RSV is a leading cause of hospitalisation in infants under one year of age.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Penalising enterprise, thrift changes nation for worse

Weekend Australian, Editorials, 16/05/2026, Page 12

Among many Australians dealt a blow by Jim Chalmers' budget, two groups typify its underlying weaknesses. [...] And citizens over 65 and 70 also will be penalised for paying their way with private health insurance - an ideological measure that will impose uniformity on many older citizens while costing taxpayers more by adding to public hospital overcrowding.

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

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

### Murdoch's medical milestone

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/05/2026, Robyn Riley, Page 9

Murdoch Children's Research Institute will celebrate its 40th anniversary with a gala event tonight. The event will be attended by more than 300 of Australia's finest medical minds, political leaders, philanthropists and sporting stars.

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

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### It's the illiteracy, stupid: why sport won't fix literacy crisis

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/05/2026, Noel Pearson, Page 18

"Something changed forever in Chris Drage around the time he turned 13." [...] There is nothing to show in terms of the education and health of Aboriginal children

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

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## Aboriginal Housing and Homelands Conference to champion self-determined solutions

National Indigenous Times, Other, 15/05/2026, Nicole Brown

Housing in the Northern Territory is about more than roofs over people's heads; it is about dignity, justice, culture, health and the right for Aboriginal people to remain connected to Country. Those conversations will take centre stage next week as leaders from across the country gather on Larrakia Country for the 2026 Aboriginal Housing and Homelands Conference in Darwin.

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## PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

### We spent \$600,000 in Farrer and all we got was David Farley

The Saturday Paper, General News, 16/05/2026, Paul Ferris, Page 7

Over the six weeks leading up to May 9, GetUp spent \$600,000 campaigning against One Nation in the Farrer byelection. [...] These advertisements focused on issues that consistently resonated in testing: local hospital funding, cost-of-living pressures, and Pauline Hanson's ideological and political alignment with Donald Trump.

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### Despite some broken promises, 'budget a win for Bendigo': MP

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 16/05/2026, Joseph Najjar, Page 2

Job security, tax relief and helping first home buyers appear to be the major benefits for Bendigo from the 2026-27 federal budget handed down on Tuesday. Bendigo MP Lisa Chesters spoke to The Bendigo Advertiser to promote the budget, and summarised it by saying "it is about resilience and reform".

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### Wenty funds skin truck's return

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 16/05/2026, Lochlainn Heley, Page 14

Wentworth Shire Council has supplied its share of a \$33,000 fund to bring the Mildura Base Public Hospital's Skin Check Truck over the river. The WSC will cover one third of the fund, allocated in the budget for their next financial year, with the remaining \$22,000 being supplied by the Community Bank Wentworth and District as well as the Coomealla Memorial Sporting Club.

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### New chief medical officer THHS

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 16/05/2026, Daneka Hill, Page 3

A new chief medical officer has been appointed to the Townsville Hospital and Health Service, promoted from his role as medical director. Kunwarjit Sangla AM is the clinician picked to step up into the role, backed by decades of experience working in North Queensland as a GP, endocrinologist, and obstetric medicine physician.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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### Mid-year nursing intake aims to solve healthcare shortage

Ballarat Courier, General News, 16/05/2026, Michelle Smith, Page 4

Aspiring nurses in Ballarat can jumpstart their careers months earlier as local health leaders move to head off a massive workforce crisis. With the region facing a shortfall of 11,900 healthcare workers over the next decade, Federation University and Grampians Health have cemented their alliance to train and retain talent close to home.

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### ED nurse left in fear after violent threat

Ballarat Courier, General News, 16/05/2026, Amy Roulston, Page 5

A female nurse was left "shaken and in fear" after a patient threatened to "bash" her after a long wait in the Ballarat Base Hospital emergency department. Zane Handley appeared before Ballarat Magistrates Court on Thursday on charges stemming from the outburst on August 18, 2025.

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### What findings of sweeping maternity inquiry could mean for Tasmanian women, midwives

Adelaide Now, Other, 15/05/2026, Rob Inglis

The harrowing personal stories heard in a public inquiry into Tasmania's maternity services struck a chord with the community – but midwives say the problems are getting worse, not better. A three-year inquiry into maternal health services across Tasmania heard harrowing stories of birth trauma, non-consensual medical interventions, and bureaucratic cover-ups, but the state government is yet to confirm whether it will adopt all of the recommendations emerging from the review.

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

[Read More](#)

### NT diabetes educator Helen Lamech named Australia's nurse of the year

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/05/2026, Fia Walsh

Northern Territory diabetes educator Helen Lamech has been named Australia's nurse of the year at the national industry awards. Ms Lamech took home the top honour at the Australian Nursing & Midwifery Awards event in Melbourne on Thursday evening.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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### Winners of 2026 HESTA Australian Nursing and Midwifery Awards revealed

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 15/05/2026

A nurse from the Northern Territory alongside a midwife and an organisation from New South Wales were crowned the three major winners of the HESTA Australian Nursing & Midwifery Awards in Melbourne last night. Now in its 20th year, the awards honour the vital contributions of Australia's nurses, midwives, nurse educators, researchers, and personal care workers.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Reza is free to wield a scalpel

Courier Mail, General News, 16/05/2026, Greg Stolz, Page 25

The medical regulator has defended allowing former premier Annastacia Palaszczuk's surgeon partner Reza Adib to continue practising unrestricted despite him being hit with multiple rape charges. [...] Dr Adib's medical registration remains intact more than two weeks after he was charged, with the publicly-accessible Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency showing no conditions or restrictions have been imposed.

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

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### Death faked for a refund

Courier Mail, General News, 16/05/2026, Patrick Billings, Page 13

A nurse who faked a relative's death for a flight refund has been reprimanded for professional misconduct by a tribunal. The tribunal heard the Brisbane nurse, who suffered a number of health difficulties, purchased an airfare for a relative to attend a special occasion.

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### Woman files court action against gynaecologist

The Saturday Age, General News, 16/05/2026, Carla Jaeger & Henrietta Cook, Page 3

A woman who saw disgraced gynaecologist Simon Gordon for contraception and ended up having her ovary and fallopian tube removed has filed the first case in a tranche of expected legal action against the former doctor. [...] This masthead revealed in February the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) launched an ongoing investigation into Gordon over allegations he performed unwarranted surgeries on women to treat endometriosis, including full hysterectomies.

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

### Prominent Brisbane surgeon allowed to continue practising medicine despite rape charges

9News, Other, 15/05/2026, Eleanor Wilson

Prominent Brisbane bariatric surgeon Dr Vahid Reza Adib will be allowed to continue practising medicine without restrictions despite being charged with rape.

The medical regulator has elected not to take any immediate action against the long-term partner of former Queensland premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, saying it must follow due process.

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## AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Australia records first diphtheria fatality in almost a decade after person dies in the NT

The Australian, Other, 15/05/2026, David Hannant

Australia has recorded its first death from the deadly diphtheria disease in almost a decade, a public health official has announced. John Boffa, a public medical officer at the Central Australian Aboriginal

Congress, told the ABC that an individual has died from the bacterial infection in the Northern Territory.

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

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## Northern Territory records Australia's first diphtheria death reported in almost a decade amid outbreak

ABC Online, Other, 15/05/2026, Olivana Lathouris

The Northern Territory has recorded the country's first reported death from diphtheria in almost a decade, according to a senior physician and public health officer in Central Australia. Diphtheria is a vaccine-preventable disease, and the strain of respiratory diphtheria can be deadly if left untreated.

[Read More](#)

## Tragic update on a rare outbreak of life-threatening disease in an Aussie territory

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/05/2026, Caitlin Powell

A patient in the Northern Territory has reportedly died after contracting the life-threatening disease diphtheria, the first fatality in Australia for nearly a decade. Diphtheria can manifest as a sore throat or as skin infections that heal poorly.

[Read More](#)

## Healthcare workers urged to wear respirators

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 15/05/2026, Natalie Dragon

With Australian passengers of the affected cruise ship due to return home, initially to quarantine in Perth, University of the Sunshine Coast microbiology and infection prevention/control experts have urged vigilance for healthcare professionals at risk. It has been reported that five Australian passengers from the affected ship – two believed to be from Queensland – will be quarantined in Perth for three weeks.

[Read More](#)

## ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 15/05/2026, Manny Tsigas

Australia has recorded more than 200 cases of diphtheria this year, with more than half occurring in the NT, and the NT Health Department is now investigating a possible diphtheria-related death. The Central Australia Aboriginal Health Congress told the ABC a young man has died in a remote NT community, most likely from the disease, while the Federal Government has confirmed it is supporting the territory to obtain extra vaccines.

[Play Now](#)

## Channel 7, Sunrise, 15/05/2026, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

A group of Australian passengers are finally en route home after being aboard the deadly hantavirus-infected cruise ship. They tested negative after leaving the hotel quarantine and the virus-stricken ship, MV Hondias, that was left in the Canary Islands.

Similar coverage reported by: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

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## ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 15/05/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Australian Medical Association WA President Dr Kyle Hoath says six people evacuated from a cruise at the centre of a hantavirus outbreak will go straight to quarantine. The group is due to land in Perth in moments and will then be transferred to a quarantine facility for three weeks.

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## ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 15/05/2026, Adam Steer

The Northern Territory has recorded its first death from diphtheria in almost a decade, according to

Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Public Health Medical Officer Dr John Boffa. He told the ABC that federal resources are urgently needed to surge the healthcare workforce in the NT to boost vaccination rates.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [ABC Radio Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#).

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Medical emergency hits legal system

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 16/05/2026, Daneka Hill, Page 8

People prescribed medical cannabis by their doctors are flooding the court system and being stripped of their driver's licences in droves, prompting some magistrates to question the current law. [...]

According to Therapeutic Goods Administration data, " Losing your licence is a really harsh penalty.

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### The federal government wants to use AI to speed up drug and housing approvals. Can we trust it?

ABC Online, Other, 15/05/2026, Cameron Wilson

When it comes to building or making anything, there's usually paperwork involved. [...] The medicine approval process by Australia's medicines regulator, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), already considers other countries' approvals of medicines as a shortcut to avoid drug makers repeating unnecessary trials.

[Read More](#)

### TGA issues new guidance on compounding

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 15/05/2026

New compounding guidance outlines restrictions and expectations for "higher risk" products including GLP-1s and medicinal cannabis. Pharmacists are being urged to review new guidance from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) to ensure their compounding, supply and advertising practices comply with legal and professional requirements and any applicable exemptions.

[Read More](#)

### New TGA compounded medicines guidance

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/05/2026

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has published new guidance on manufacturing, supplying and advertising compounded medicines lawfully to clarify requirements and support compliance with regulations. While generally encouraging the use of medicines included in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG), the legislative framework recognises that compounding may sometimes be necessary to meet an individual patient's clinical needs.

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### McEvoy enhances clean reputation

Weekend Australian, Sport, 16/05/2026, Julian Linden, Page 44

Cameron McEvoy is paying a high price for playing by the rules. The fastest swimmer in history, the Australian speedster received plenty of slaps on the back and well wishes after he broke the 50m freestyle world record in China eight weeks ago.

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

## Med cannabis and women's health

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/05/2026

Medicinal cannabis education platform SAGED recently ran a CPD-accredited masterclass for prescribers about the clinical role of cannabis in endometriosis and chronic pelvic pain. Designed for practising clinicians and non-prescribing health professionals, the session outlined the latest clinical evidence and research.

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### Foodies divided over kids' fried favourites

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/05/2026, Angela Mollard, Page 26

Kids' menus are boring, bland, beige and unhealthy and have barely changed in decades despite greater nutritional awareness, experts say. Yet while chicken nuggets, fish and chips, pizza and pasta are still fixtures on the majority of menus, parents are divided.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#)

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### Community speakers unanimous in opposition to Tarago waste-to-energy plan at Goulburn hearing

ABC Online, Other, 15/05/2026, Kelly Fuller

A NSW parliamentary inquiry in Goulburn has heard "universal non-support" for a proposed waste-to-energy plant at Tarago, with speakers questioning if existing environmental issues at the Woodlawn site undermine trust in the project. [...] "There is a risk to food safety ... a risk that agricultural produce from contaminated areas will be banned from entering the food chain ... and a risk to farmers' livelihoods should their land become contaminated," he said.

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## AICIS

No relevant coverage

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