



TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 23rd May 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
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| [Population Health](#) | [Chronic Conditions and Screening](#) |
[Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Immunisation](#) | [Health Systems Strategies](#)
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[ABC Radio Canberra](#)** (radio) features an interview with Health Minister Mark Butler in which he discusses \$7.2 million in emergency support funding provided by the Federal Government to address an increase in the cases of diphtheria, with Mr Butler also providing updated vaccine booster advice. *Also reported by: [Canberra Times](#), [Radio National](#), [ABC Online](#), [West Australian](#)*
- The **[Canberra Times](#)** (page 16) reports that the number of complaints submitted to the Aged Care Quality & Safety Commission increased to 3,576 in the four-month period to March 31, with spokesperson for Minister for Aged Care, Sam Rae, responding by stating that the Federal Government had announced additional funding to strengthen protections for older Australians.
- **[The Guardian](#)** (online) reports that former Australian disability discrimination commissioner, Alastair McEwin, has contended that the Federal Government's proposed amendments to NDIS funding and eligibility standards will increase social isolation and segregation for people living with disabilities.
- The **[Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports that a report by the Queensland Audit Office has found insufficient measures were established by the Queensland Government to plan, track and evaluate the the use of \$1.2 billion in funding generated by the state's mental health levy. *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald](#)*

- The [Hobart Mercury](#) (page 4) reports that the Tasmanian Treasurer Eric Abetz has released the state budget which includes a 0.7 per cent increase in health spending, with the increase to be supplemented by \$705 million in federal funding under the recently signed National Health Reform Agreement. *Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury](#)*
- The [AFR Weekend](#) (page 3) reports that former Novo Nordisk employee, Michael Kha, has taken legal action against the pharmaceutical company in the Federal Court, with Mr Kha alleging that he was fired after raising concerns that Novo Nordisk were directing sales of Ozempic more toward weight loss than the treatment of diabetes.
- [The Saturday Age](#) (page 10) reports that a clinical trial, lead by researchers at the Epworth Centre for Immunotherapies and Snowdome Laboratories, has found that 60 per cent of individuals with myeloma who were injected with immunotherapy drug Elranatamab had their cancer reduce in size.
- The [Courier Mail](#) (page 5) reports that health workers at the Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital have revealed internal wait-list data which displays significant discrepancies with official Queensland Health wait-list times, with the internal data displaying a wait-list for an urogynaecology appointment three times the official length.
- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 39) reports that the World Health Organisation has declared that the ongoing outbreak of Ebola virus in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has become a public health issue of international concern. *Also reported by: [The Australian](#), [ABC Online](#), [The Guardian](#)*

MINISTER BUTLER

Government punishes people for trying to get ahead in life

AFR Weekend, General News, 23/05/2026, Michael Stutchbury, Page 39

Jim Chalmers' fifth budget was promoted as his most ambitious.

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

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Shaky foundations

The Saturday Paper, General News, 23/05/2026, Sara Gingold, Page 8

This week, Mark Butler introduced a bill that would subject all current and prospective users of the National Disability Insurance Scheme to a test of their ability to perform daily activities. It also paves the way for thresholds that would disqualify disabled people from joining. This marks the implementation phase of the plan the NDIS minister announced to the National Press Club in April, intended to cut the number of participants from 760,000 to 600,000 by 2030 to slash \$37.8 billion from the scheme.

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

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Claim govt response to outbreak was too slow

Canberra Times, General News, 23/05/2026, Lloyd Jones, Page 3

Government responses to a fast-spreading outbreak of the potentially deadly virus diphtheria were initially too slow, a peak Aboriginal health body says. The criticism came as federal Health Minister Mark Butler admitted "something has gone wrong" to allow such an outbreak when most developed countries had relegated the disease to the "dustbin of history".

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Thenightly.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#)

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Deadly disease outbreak linked to waning vaccinations

The Longreach Leader, General News, 22/05/2026, Lloyd Jones, Page 23

A dip in vaccination rates has been blamed for one of Australia's worst diphtheria outbreaks as the rare

respiratory disease continues to spread. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler described it as the biggest diphtheria outbreak in Australia for decades.

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'Something has gone wrong': vaccine push amid outbreak

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 23/05/2026, Lloyd Jones, Page 18

A serious outbreak of a disease most developed countries have relegated to the "dustbin of history" occurred despite high children vaccination rates, the government says. [...] "Obviously something has gone wrong to have a disease that most developed countries have assigned to the dustbin of history," federal Health Minister Mark Butler told ABC Radio National yesterday.

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

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Couple face devastating \$40k shock after tumour surgery amid calls for the system to be fixed

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 22/05/2026, Sarah Keoghan

At just 38 years old, Ian Villareal is staring at a reality no one in Australia should be facing – having almost a quarter of his face removed, alongside a bill of up to \$40,000. [...] Federal Minister for Health Mark Butler said he knows the enormous challenges survivors of head and neck cancer can face managing the physical side effects of their treatment.

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

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Labor's NDIS overhaul will leave participants more 'isolated' and 'segregated', former royal commissioner warns

The Guardian, Other, 23/05/2026, Dan Jervis-Bardy

[...] The health minister, Mark Butler, has argued the cost of the supports were skyrocketing and not all were providing value for money, citing examples of support workers taking participants out only to spend the entire time scrolling on their phone. [...] The health department estimates the social funding reduction will result in an average 25% reduction for participants – rather than the full 50% cut – because not everyone spends all of their allocated funding.

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The online threat linked to Australia's worst diphtheria outbreak in decades

SBS, Other, 22/05/2026, Mikele Syron

Once one of Australia's most feared childhood diseases, diphtheria killed thousands of children before vaccination programs introduced in the 1930s all but eliminated the infection for decades. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler says there has been a global decline in vaccination rates since the COVID-19 pandemic, alongside growing vaccine hesitancy fuelled in part by misinformation online.

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For intergenerational equity, calls for urgent and bolder investment in climate and health

Croakey, Other, 22/05/2026, Alison Barrett

The United Nations General Assembly has this week voted to adopt the 2025 International Court of Justice's ruling that countries have a legal obligation to address climate change. [...] The campaign will also support: The launch of an open letter from health professionals to be published in national mastheads and delivered to the Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing Mark Butler.

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Special report: Mark Butler and his attack on specialist fees

Australian Doctor, Other, 22/05/2026, Ciarra Seccombe & Paul Smith

Mark Butler's declaration that he would "test the boundaries" of the constitution to cap specialist fees

has revived an old spectre for the medical profession: civil conscription. That prohibition means the government cannot force its civilians to perform labour for it.

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

HealthTimes, Other, 22/05/2026

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.

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Your 5-minute news explainer to get you up to date today.

Mamamia, Other, 22/05/2026

The news moves fast and so do we. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has announced \$7.2 million to contain the outbreak, dubbed one of the worst diphtheria outbreaks in Australian history.

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Australia's largest diphtheria outbreak prompts \$7.2m federal vaccine blitz

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), Other, 22/05/2026, Paige Cockburn & Stephanie Dalzell

The federal government has unveiled a \$7.2 million package for more diphtheria vaccines, as it tries to stem the spread of the disease. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said while the package was primarily for the Northern Territory, he would be writing to other affected states to see if they also needed Commonwealth support.

[Read More](#)

'Manufactured consent': Advocates criticise NDIS overhaul and housing reforms

The Point Australia, Other, 22/05/2026, Tegan George

The Albanese government has been accused of 'manufacturing consent' for sweeping cuts to the NDIS while failing to invest in the social supports needed to replace them. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said it was necessary to rein in spending to ensure the long-term sustainability of the program.

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ABC News, ABC News Afternoons, 22/05/2026, Ros Childs

Report by Joseph Hathaway-Wilson. The Federal Government's announcement of a \$7.2m funding package yesterday to mitigate the spread of diphtheria has been welcomed by health practitioners in the Northern Territory, but they raised concerns about the availability of azithromycin, an antibiotic that is used to treat the symptoms of diphtheria but is not currently listed on the PBS. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler stated that the listing is a decision for the medical experts in charge of the PBS, but he and Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Malarndirri McCarthy have maintained that the outbreak needs to be taken seriously.

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Sky News Live, Steve Price, 22/05/2026, Steve Price

Interview with Shadow Health Minister Anne Ruston. Price says new figures have revealed that Australians are waiting on average 12 months for a home care package, and more than 396 days if they want an aged care bed. Ruston says the Federal Government has completely lost control of the country's aged care, and people like Price's mother are in limbo because the Federal Government is not doing its job, and 200,000 older Australians are still waiting for their home care packages. She also blames Aged Care Minister Sam Rae, Health Minister Mark Butler, and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, stating they are responsible for older Australians who are still waiting for proper care.

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ABC Radio Canberra, AM, 22/05/2026, Barbara Miller

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, on the Federal Government's \$7m emergency package for diphtheria, and WA leaders' call for a diphtheria antibiotic to be listed on the PBS. Butler says the addition of the antibiotic is a matter for the medicine experts, who will be considering an expanded listing over the coming months, but the Federal Government is providing free vaccines and anti-toxins to communities affected by diphtheria through the WA Government, and they are determined to get the outbreak under the control. He also states that vaccination rates among young children are still strong, and they have been reinforcing to adults the importance of getting a booster in the communities.

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ABC NewsRadio, Drive, 22/05/2026, Dijana Damjanovic

Report by Joseph Hathaway-Wilson. The Federal Government's announcement of a \$7.2m funding package yesterday to mitigate the spread of diphtheria has been welcomed by health practitioners in the Northern Territory, but they raised concerns about the availability of azithromycin, an antibiotic that is used to treat the symptoms of diphtheria but is not currently listed on the PBS. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler stated that the listing is a decision for the medical experts in charge of the PBS, but he and Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Malarndirri McCarthy have maintained that the outbreak needs to be taken seriously.

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ABC Radio Sydney, 15:00 News, 22/05/2026

Dr Dawn Casey from the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation says they warned the Northern Territory Government about the threat of a diphtheria outbreak a month before it requested federal assistance to contain the current surge in cases. NT Health issued an alert over the outbreak in late March, and Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the NT Government requested Commonwealth assistance in late April.

Also reported by: [ABC Newcastle \(Newcastle\)](#), [Triple J \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#), [ABC Radio Darwin \(Darwin\)](#).

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FIVEAA, Mornings, 22/05/2026, Graeme Goodings

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler. Butler says the restructuring of the NDIS is confronting to many people with a disability, but he is convinced that the reforms are necessary to get the scheme back on track and ensure that it is sustainable. He also defends the Federal Government's decision to reduce the private health insurance rebates for older Australians, stating that they are moving to an equitable position where all Australians get the same level of support for their private health insurance.

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2MCE, 18:00 National Radio News, 22/05/2026

The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation says the Federal Government should have acted sooner to contain an outbreak of diphtheria in the Northern Territory and some other states. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has admitted that something has gone wrong after reports of overcrowding and poor living conditions in remote Indigenous communities affected by the outbreak.

Also reported by: [Curtin FM \(Perth\)](#).

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2MCE, 13:00 National Radio News, 22/05/2026

Indigenous Australians Minister Malarndirri McCarthy says the diphtheria outbreak, mainly affecting the Northern Territory, is of national concern. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is holding discussions with other impacted jurisdictions after the Federal Government provided \$7.2m to respond to the outbreak quickly.

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3WM, Country Today, 22/05/2026, Libby Price

The Federal Government and the NT Government have joined forces in tackling the diphtheria outbreak in the Northern Territory, which is currently impacting communities. Dr Nick Coatsworth says the outbreak is due to the close confines of the community and the decreasing immunity of children, while Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says he wants to get on top of the outbreak.

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Radio National, AM, 22/05/2026, Barbara Miller

Report by Isabel Moussalli. As the Federal Government begins to roll out its \$7m emergency package for diphtheria, health workers in WA say they also need support. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the emergency package will largely go to the NT, where 60% of the cases are, but he also adds that support is needed in the Kimberley.

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER MCALLISTER

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER RAE

Computer says no to Mum's care

Herald Sun, General News, 23/05/2026, Steve Price, Page 21

[...] The minister in charge, Sam Rae, while promising a crackdown on inflated home care assistance uttered this nonsensical explanation around price caps - he pointed to global volatility and cost pressures hitting the sector, risking an "unstable baseline against which to set price caps". [...] But the real kick in the guts was the revelation that if the assessor believed the computer-generated outcome was unfair to the elderly person, the department had told interviewers they were unable to protest the level offered.

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

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Aged care system complaints double

Canberra Times, General News, 23/05/2026, Phoebe Loomes, Page 16

The Federal Government has been accused of "rationing" in-home support for the elderly as new data shows complaints to the aged care watch dog about Support At Home have doubled. [...] In March this year, the Senator joined with 21 MPs in an open letter urging Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae to reform the troubled Support at Home program.

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

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Aged care protections too late: Webster

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 23/05/2026, Lochlainn Heley, Page 11

Member for Mallee Anne Webster has said the recently announced protections for aged care consumers is too little too late after Mallee residents are now waiting a reported 295 days to access services. [...] Dr Webster said she also questioned the Minister for Aged care and Seniors Sam Rae earlier this month hoping to get a response on the lack of price caps on aged care services.

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

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Aged Care Pressure

107.7 MIXX FM, Other, 23/05/2026, Sam Collidge

Shadow Minister for Regional Health Anne Webster has accused the Federal Government of mishandling the rollout of aged care reforms following another delay to Support at Home price caps. [...] The Mallee MP also criticised comments from Aged Care Minister Sam Rae suggesting international events had contributed to the delays.

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Sky News Live, News Night, 22/05/2026, Candice Wyatt

Report by Sky News Investigations Reporter Jonathan Lea. Uniting AgeWell, an aged care service provider in Mildura, has been forced to apologise for overcharging customers, and it raises serious questions about the transparency of invoices and how much is being docked from the packages of older Australians. A spokesperson for Aged Care Minister Sam Rae stated that the Federal Government has legislated to require providers to deliver services at reasonable prices that accurately reflect the cost of delivery.

Also reported by: [Sky News Live \(Sydney\)](#), [Sky News Live \(Sydney\)](#).

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WIN Sunshine Coast, WIN News Sunshine Coast & Wide Bay, 22/05/2026, Steve Hart

There are concerns that home aged care support services are becoming harder to access following legislation changes made by the Federal Government last year. In a statement, a spokesperson for Aged Care Minister Sam Rae told WIN News that the Federal Government will continue to monitor and refine the integrated assessment tool classification and prioritisation components of the system to support clear decisions, fair outcomes and a system that people can trust.

Also reported by: [WIN Ballarat \(Ballarat\)](#), [WIN Gippsland \(Sale\)](#), [WIN Orange \(Orange\)](#), [WIN Townsville \(Townsville\)](#), [WIN Toowoomba \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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[Back to Top](#)

SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

Joey finds his rhythm for a good cause

Singleton Argus, General News, 22/05/2026, Laura Rumbel, Page 4

Joey Butler is the first to admit he has no business being on a dance floor. [...] He'll share the stage with other local stars, including Federal MP Dan Repacholi, musician Piper Butcher, and principal Tim Shields, all stepping out of their comfort zones for the cause.

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

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The fight of our lives: inside Phil's unconventional war on Orange's silent health crisis

Central Western Daily, Other, 22/05/2026, Nick McGrath

Faced with a regional community struggling to find crucial and timely access to mental health support, Orange MP Phil Donato is launching an entirely unconventional fightback. [...] The arm-wrestling tournament - overseen by president of arm-wrestling Australia Phil Rasmussen - will see figures from across the political divide lock hands, including NSW Minister for Sport Steve Kamper MP and Federal Government Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi MP.

Also reported by: [Blayney Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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Jim Lloyd to help lead prostate cancer committee

Coast Community News, Other, 22/05/2026

Former Member for Robertson Jim Lloyd has been appointed alongside former Deputy Prime Minister Wayne Swan to lead a National Committee for the Elimination of Prostate Cancer. [...] Special Envoy for Men's Health, MP Dan Repacholi, said the initiative represented an important step forward in improving health outcomes for Australian men.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 22/05/2026, Loretta Ryan and Craig Zonca

Interview with Assistant Minister for Social Services and Prevention of Family Violence Ged Kearney, on the launch of Healthy Men Community Conversations in Brisbane. Kearney discusses the Healthy Men Community Conversations, stating that it is a project that aims to start a national conversation around men's health and well-being. She also notes that she will be travelling with Member for Hunter and Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi, whom she calls a great asset to the whole conversation.

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[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

Computer says no to Mum's care

Herald Sun, General News, 23/05/2026, Steve Price, Page 21

[...] The minister in charge, Sam Rae, while promising a crackdown on inflated home care assistance uttered this nonsensical explanation around price caps - he pointed to global volatility and cost pressures hitting the sector, risking an "unstable baseline against which to set price caps". [...] But the real kick in the guts was the revelation that if the assessor believed the computer-generated outcome was unfair to the elderly person, the department had told interviewers they were unable to protest the level offered.

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

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Travelling with tea bags & water boilers

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Travel, 23/05/2026, Stephen Scourfield, Page 5

Michael Palin likes to always travel with a certain leather satchel. [...] The Australian Government's Department of Health and Aged Care says the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends a rolling boil for one minute to make water microbiologically safe.

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GyMEA Bay Aged Care company owes Federal Government \$5.99m after shutdown

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 22/05/2026, Savannah Pocock & Kathleen Skene

Families of former residents in a disgraced South Sydney nursing home have been paid back millions of dollars in deposits, but the NSW Government is still waiting to be reimbursed - almost three years after the company behind it plunged into liquidation. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is still owed \$5.99m and is pursuing recovery of funds through the liquidation process after reimbursing residents whose deposits had allegedly been misused.

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

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Labor's NDIS overhaul will leave participants more 'isolated' and 'segregated', former royal commissioner warns

The Guardian, Other, 23/05/2026, Dan Jervis-Bardy

[...] The health minister, Mark Butler, has argued the cost of the supports were skyrocketing and not all were providing value for money, citing examples of support workers taking participants out only to spend the entire time scrolling on their phone. [...] The health department estimates the social funding reduction will result in an average 25% reduction for participants – rather than the full 50% cut – because not everyone spends all of their allocated funding.

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Pay rises for aged care nurses funded with additional \$2.6 billion

Aged Care Insite, Other, 22/05/2026, Stefanie Schultz

The Albanese government has quashed any remaining questions of how it will afford a pay rise for over 60,000 aged care nurses, with the Department of Health announcing an additional \$2.6 billion investment into delivering higher wages. The extra funding will bring the government's total investment in support of award wage increases for aged care workers to \$17.7 billion, facilitating the Fair Work Commission's Aged Care Work Value Case decision.

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New telehealth cart keeps residents connected

Aged Care Insite, Other, 22/05/2026

An innovative telehealth cart is bringing families closer together at The Good Shepherd Home, in Townsville, especially for crucial conversations with health professionals. [...] The Good Shepherd Home is one of 36 North Queensland residential aged care homes (RACHs) using the new VisionFlex telehealth cart, which is funded by the Northern Australian Regional Digital Health Collaborative (NARDHC) and the Department of Health and Aged Care through Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN).

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NDIS Impact Analysis a 'blunt instrument' and Bill will cause harms if not amended

Croakey, Other, 22/05/2026, Fiona Martin

This week the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing released the Impact Analysis which informed the changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) outlined in the 2026-27 Budget. It comes as the disability sector is deep in preparing submissions to the Senate Inquiry into the new NDIS Bill.

[Read More](#)

Do Commonwealth Budget rules stifle policy reform?

Croakey, Other, 22/05/2026, Fiona Martin

The lack of focus on preventive health and climate change in the Albanese Government's 2026-27 Federal Budget was somewhat predictable, given the tight fiscal environment and the Government's focus on big moves in housing policy and the National Disability Insurance Scheme. [...] There, the Secretary of the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DoHDA), Blair Comley, shed light on the dilemma, suggested how to better pitch proposals to government, and perhaps most importantly, provided insights to how government operates.

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Farewell Mr McCabe, and job well done – if unfinished

Health Services Daily, Other, 22/05/2026, Cate Swannell

Every human wants a little agency in their life, right? [...] Currently Mr McCabe is the first assistant secretary of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's Medicare Benefits and Digital Health division.

[Read More](#)

Ryan flags amendments to NDIS bill on the cards

Health Services Daily, Other, 22/05/2026, Amanda Sheppeard

Independent Member for Kooyong Dr Monique Ryan today called on the federal government to address fundamental flaws in its legislation before the debate begins next week, after community consultation revealed widespread anxiety about its potential impact. [...] The 106-page analysis, prepared by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, revealed the NDIS has moved well beyond the vision set out by the Productivity Commission more than a decade ago, with participant numbers and spending now far exceeding original forecasts.

[Read More](#)

Do we need more psychologists?

Inside Story, Other, 22/05/2026, Nick Haslam

According to the World Health Organization, Argentina has 222 psychologists working in mental health settings for every 100,000 residents, and the rate in the capital is reported to be seven times higher. [...] A report on the psychology workforce released in April by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing recognises the profession plays a key role in the mental health system, providing roughly half of Medicare-billed mental health services.

[Read More](#)

How team sports build confidence and resilience in pre-teens

Kiddipedia, Other, 22/05/2026

The pre-teen years are a crucial period of growth, marking a time when children begin to form a stronger sense of self. [...] According to the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care, their guidelines for children and young people highlight that daily physical activity provides significant social and emotional benefits.

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Health brings in new negotiations lead

MedNews, Other, 22/05/2026, Megan Brodie

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing will make a significant strategic...[Paywall]

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Dementia strategy rethink

pakenhamgazette.com.au, Other, 23/05/2026

Monash University has opened a public consultation process for the first major update to Australia's national clinical guidelines for dementia in more than ten years. Commissioned by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing in May 2024, the draft update aims to modernise clinical decision-making by incorporating a decade of medical advancements and shifting care strategies.

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Warning over private script claims

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 22/05/2026

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is reminding pharmacy owners and dispensing pharmacists that a private prescription cannot be claimed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). [Paywall]

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Aged Care Morning Tea – Barmera

5RM 801 AM, Other, 22/05/2026

You're invited to the Berri Barmera Health Advisory Council Aged Care Morning Tea on Tuesday 26 May 2026. [...] There will be guest speakers from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, Services Australia, Focus One Health, Uniting SA, Country Health Connect, Resthaven, Barmera Independent Living Units, Barmera Health Service, Barmera Medical Centre and the Aged Rights Advocacy Service.

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[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Why increased nurse hours aren't enough to fix aged care: opinion

Aged Care Insite, Other, 22/05/2026, Claire Hewat

Allied Health Professions Australia strongly supports increasing the hours of registered nurses in aged care, just as we support all the recommendations of the Royal Commission. Unfortunately, cherry picking recommendations does people in aged care a disservice.

[Read More](#)

Using complaints to improve aged care

Aged Care Insite, Other, 22/05/2026, Susan Gravier & Katrina Erny-Albrecht

As a sector, aged care has a breadth of responsibility that sets it apart. Supporting not only older people's daily activities, living arrangements, and social needs but also attending to many of their health-related care needs.

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Automation promises the support Australia's aged care workers need – opinion

Aged Care Insite, Other, 22/05/2026, Rajith Haththotuwagama

In a sector that epitomises meaningful work, it's only recently that technology has emerged that can aid staff and facilities to focus more on frontline care. Meaningful work, as a concept, has been discussed in academic, people and cultural circles for some time but really only burst into the collective consciousness of employees - and onto the radar of employers - over the past two years.

[Read More](#)

There's still joy and connection in aged care amid the horrific stories

Aged Care Insite, Other, 22/05/2026, Lincoln Hopper

Residential aged care has suffered two fresh blows in the past fortnight. First, there was the terrible story of 95-year-old Clare Nowland, who was allegedly tasered by a police officer in her aged care home in Cooma.

[Read More](#)

Ageism may be the result, but is it the cause? – opinion

Aged Care Insite, Other, 22/05/2026, Michael Fine

This is a difficult time for aged care in Australia in so many ways. We know this from personal experience working in aged care or from using it or visiting loved ones dependent on it.

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Positive ageing is 'smartest economic strategy we have'

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 22/05/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The transactional nature and complex entry process makes aged care more costly for the government and less able to support reablement, says Inspector-General of Aged Care Natalie Siegel-Brown. The new Aged Care Act codifies compassion, dignity and agency into law, but rather than looking at care

from a positive ageing lens, the aged care system is stuck in a transactional approach that intervenes once frailty has already set in.

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Spiritual care key to wellbeing but misunderstood

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 22/05/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Despite the new Aged Care Act enshrining wellbeing and connection as central to care, there is a gap between the recognised importance of spiritual care and its consistent delivery, a new national benchmarking report has found. Peak body for emotional wellbeing and spiritual care Meaningful Ageing Australia and provider peak body Ageing Australia collaborated on the report, which was published this month.

[Read More](#)

CEO calls on sector to celebrate frontline workers

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 22/05/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Longevity comes from recognising the frontline workers on the ground who are interacting with residents daily, Castalia Group chief executive officer Andrew Meek tells Australian Ageing Agenda. That's why the management, investment, and strategic advisory firm decided to name the new wing at Seabrae Manor Aged Care in the coastal suburb of Rothwell in Moreton Bay, Queensland, after long-serving employee Janet Chapman.

[Read More](#)

When systems lose space for good judgement

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 22/05/2026, Mark Jeffery

Every federal budget creates a familiar cycle. Announcements are made.

[Read More](#)

Can a purple humanoid with Disney charm help combat the country's loneliness epidemic?

Aged Care Insite, Other, 22/05/2026, Stefanie Schultz

In an Australian first, aged care provider mecwacare, has teamed up with home-grown robotics company Andromeda, to bring new age companionship to Melbourne aged care homes. Abi, the 5-foot-tall purple and orange humanoid inspired by Disney characters, was originally designed to combat one mechatronics engineer's loneliness during the height of the pandemic but has since revealed it's potential to enrich the lives of older people.

[Read More](#)

The GP factor keeping more older people out of hospital

Medical Forum, Other, 22/05/2026

New research has revealed older Australians receiving home care services are significantly less likely to be hospitalised when they continue seeing a regular GP. The study analysed health outcomes for more than 120,000 people aged 65 and over receiving long term home care.

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[Back to Top](#)

DISABILITY AND CARERS

Every way, young workers will pay

Weekend Australian, General News, 23/05/2026, Greg Brown & Matthew Cranston, Page 1

Former Treasury secretary Ken Henry has warned that young workers are on track to pay higher taxes while receiving virtually no real wage increases under the plan handed down in Jim Chalmers' fifth budget, as business declares the proposed overhaul of capital gains tax will deliver a sledgehammer blow to the government's aim to improve productivity. The Australian can also reveal the Coalition is

threatening to block Labor's NDIS reform bill from passing the parliament in the first half of the year unless Anthony Albanese agrees to hold a months-long public inquiry into his proposed overhaul of the CGT and negative gearing, complicating Labor's aim of striking a quick deal with the Greens.

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

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

Skipper fumbles when passed the budget ball

Canberra Times, General News, 23/05/2026, Jack Waterford, Page 46

Of all the things which most frustrate the Albanese government is the tendency of ministers to fall into a form of paralysis the moment it meets any sort of organised opposition, particularly from lobbies of the rich and powerful. [...] Although disability care through the National Disability Insurance Scheme faces cuts whichever party is in power, many voters would fear that the knife would be sharper from groups, including One Nation, cobbled together to form a government.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#).

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

Funding prompts mixed response

Hobart Mercury, General News, 23/05/2026, David Killick, Page 4

Community sector groups have offered a mixed reaction to the 2026-27 state budget, praising ongoing funding for key programs but lamenting cuts to support from some vulnerable Tasmanians. [...] "When NDIS supports are tightened and aged care reforms shift more responsibility back to families, it is carers who fill the gap," she said.

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Cultural shame over disability stops Asian families seeking help

The Australian, Other, 22/05/2026, Stephen Lunn

A deep sense of shame about disability is leading to many Asian Australians not seeking the help they or their families are entitled to under the National Disability Insurance Scheme. As federal Opposition Leader Angus Taylor floats a new Coalition policy to restrict NDIS access to Australian citizens, there is already a significant cultural barrier to seeking help, particularly among families with Chinese and Southeast Asian backgrounds, experts and advocates say.

[Read More](#)

What should 'foundational supports' look like for people ineligible for the NDIS?

The Conversation, Other, 22/05/2026, Sam Bennett & Owain Emslie

Most of the savings in this year's budget came from cuts to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The government wants to save A\$37.8 billion over four years, predominantly by cutting NDIS eligibility for more than 300,000 people with higher functional capacity.

[Read More](#)

2CC, Breakfast, 22/05/2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with MS Australia CEO Rohan Greenland, on the Federal Government's NDIS reforms. Greenland says one in three Australians with multiple sclerosis is on the NDIS, and their experience with the scheme is critically important to improving their quality of life. He also says they have made recommendations to improve MS-specific training for NDIS staff and assessors, and they will be seeking to engage with the Minister's office.

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[Back to Top](#)

Pill scripts are about to change. As a GP, I'm concerned

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 23/05/2026, Hayley Glasson, Page 35

She booked the appointment to talk about contraception. Nineteen years old, she had recently moved to the coast to start university, and was trying hard to cope.

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

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

Boost to urgent care clinics

Weekend Post, General News, 23/05/2026, Catherine Duffy, Page 2

Northern Queensland Primary Health Network chief executive Ben Tooth has welcomed a budget boost for urgent care clinics, which comes less than two months after the Cairns North Medicare Urgent Care Clinic opened at Smithfield. Urgent care clinics will be a permanent feature of the Far North's medical landscape after the announcement of an extra \$1.8bn over five years from 2025-26 and \$579.6m a year from 2030-31, aimed at keeping care clinics open and free.

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Green whistle a game-changer for women

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 23/05/2026, Carla Hancock, Page 3

Women no longer need to be in severe pain during a procedure many medical professionals have supplied paracetamol for. Pentrox - also known as the green whistle - will be available for free for the women's procedure known as inter-uterine device, which has often been without adequate pain relief.

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

Compensation payments for veterans grow by billions

Canberra Times, Other, 22/05/2026, Tess Ikonomou

Spending on veteran compensation and health payments has grown by \$5 billion in the past four years, as advocates warn new savings measures in the federal budget risk undermining overall well-being. The Albanese government has increased funding for income support, health care and other services for veterans every year since it took office in 2022, with the annual cost coming in at \$15 billion for the 2025/

[Read More](#)

Doctors call for e-bike ban for riders aged under 16 in South Australia

ABC Online, Other, 22/05/2026, Josephine Lim

South Australia's peak medical body is calling for reforms to current e-bike laws in the state, including a ban on children aged under 16 from riding them. The Australian Medical Association (AMA) SA also wants to see mandatory standards for selling e-bikes and lower speed limits on shared paths.

[Read More](#)

Pharmacist prescriber or pharmacist practitioner?

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 22/05/2026

Pharmacist practitioner Kate Gunthorpe takes a look at why the language we use matters. Over the past few years, the term "pharmacist prescriber" has rapidly entered our professional and public vocabulary.

[Read More](#)

Axing kids check retrograde

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 22/05/2026, Sarah Colyer

Vulnerable children will fall through preventive health care gaps when the Healthy Kids Check is discontinued at the end of this month, two GPs have warned. In a "Perspectives" article published in the MJA, Dr Karyn Alexander and Dr Danielle Mazza, of the department of general practice at Monash University, described the federal government's axing of the one-off preventive health and developmental check for 4-year-olds as "a retrograde step for Australia's future".

[Read More](#)

Tas pharmacy gets budget boost

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 22/05/2026

The Tasmanian Government yesterday announced significant funding to strengthen pharmacist-led care, including \$1 million for expanded scope of practice training and \$1 million for grants to support increased opening hours for community pharmacies.

[Read More](#)

“You've got to be where the people are”

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 22/05/2026

Two Australian clinical pharmacists have launched a new evidence-based women's health education platform to address what they believe is one of the biggest emerging challenges in modern healthcare – women feeling increasingly overwhelmed, confused and unsupported when navigating health information online.

[Read More](#)

'Bleak' wellbeing survey shows sharp fall in healthcare trust

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 22/05/2026, Jolyon Attwooll

Fraying connections, a sharp decline in healthcare trust, and more money worries: such are the somewhat bleak results of an Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) social survey released this month. Using responses gathered from 13,302 households in May and June last year, the ABS reports falling trust in the police, healthcare and justice systems, and other people.

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, News Night, 22/05/2026, Rhiannon Elston

The Tasmanian Government is defending more than a billion dollars in spending cuts included in Thursday's state budget. Health spending was reduced by \$700 million. The reduction in health spending will be offset by new funding from the Federal Government, but the Australian Medical Association says hospitals need increased funding from both levels of government.

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[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Nang country

The Saturday Paper, General News, 23/05/2026, Anna Saunders, Page 10

Michelle can barely remember the first time she tried nitrous oxide. After four years inhaling up to five large canisters of the gas every day, her memories are elusive, slipping away almost as quickly as she can recall them.

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

Students ditch the bus

Northern Territory News, General News, 23/05/2026, Page 3

Hundreds of young Territorians will one day tell tales of how hard it was to get to school, with flocks of students leaving their bikes at home and choosing to trudge their way to the classroom on Friday morning. [...] With new research showing active travel to school has halved since the 1970s, and fewer than one in four Australian children meeting daily physical activity guidelines, Jingili Primary School did their part this week to keep the movement alive.

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

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Body on the line to remedy injustice

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 23/05/2026, Rhianna Mitchell, Page 22

Celebrated journalist Liz Hayes has uncovered plenty of shocking truths throughout her career, but few have been so personal as the discoveries from her latest investigation. What she learnt has sparked a "reckoning" for Hayes, but she hopes it will also drive a wider national conversation on the potentially deadly consequences of women's health being ignored "for decades".

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

What's at stake: myths about masculinity and meat eating pose a challenge for the climate crisis

The Guardian, Other, 23/05/2026, Matthew Ward Agius

Eating too much of it risks chronic disease, growing it contributes about an eighth of human-made climate pollution, and there is evidence linking it to certain cancers. But there's no denying meat – especially red and processed meat – remains a firm fixture on dinner plates.

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[Back to Top](#)

CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Immunotherapy offers lifeline for cancer patients

The Saturday Age, General News, 23/05/2026, Melissa Cunningham, Page 10

Carolyn McGrath was certain she would be dead by now. When she was diagnosed with multiple myeloma more than a decade ago, there was no hope of a cure for the cancer that was eating away at her bones and leaving her in agony.

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

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Tributes flood in from big names

Courier Mail, General News, 23/05/2026, Jeremy Pierce & Peter Badel, Page 13

Queensland rugby league star Jai Arrow will tackle his fight against motor neurone disease with an entire state behind him after an extraordinary outpouring of support from our most distinguished voices. Arrow shocked the state and the rugby league world in announcing his MND diagnosis during an emotional media conference with his NRL club South Sydney this week and Queenslanders have responded en masse in sharing their support for the 30-year-old, a veteran of 12 Origins.

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

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Cells attack melanoma

Courier Mail, General News, 23/05/2026, Page 19

Australian scientists have for the first time captured "housekeeping" immune cells actively attacking and engulfing live melanoma cells a discovery that could change the way one of Australia's most common and deadly cancers is treated. The Garvan Institute of Medical Research findings reveal previously overlooked immune cells called macrophages that patrol the edges of melanoma tumours, steadily engulfing cancer cells and slowing tumour growth.

Also reported by: [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\) \(Perth\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#)

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Brain tumour hotspots

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/05/2026, Page 22

New research has uncovered why some parts of the brain may be more vulnerable to tumour growth, offering new clues into how brain cancers begin and how they could one day be stopped. The Peter MacCallum study identified a protein called "Chinmo" as a critical factor that determines whether brain cells carrying cancer mutations can grow into tumours in fruit flies.

Also reported by: [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#)

After 17 years of pain, I'm free

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/05/2026, Briana Domjen, Page 28

A young man who spent most of his childhood and early adult life crippled by Crohn's disease says a breakthrough treatment has given him his life back - and he is now calling for Australians to have affordable access to the same medicine. Sam Tohill was diagnosed with the chronic inflammatory bowel disease, which affects the digestive tract and causes swelling, persistent abdominal pain and bowel movements, at just nine years old.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#)

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Gen wants to breathe easier

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 23/05/2026, Evangeline Polymeneas, Page 29

Genevieve Handley takes 30 tablets a day to survive and has, in total, spent more than two years in hospital. Diagnosed with cystic fibrosis (CF) when she was three and cystic fibrosis-related diabetes (CFRD) at 16, the 40-year-old constantly monitors her health.

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Hurley able to hit the right notes again

Canberra Times, General News, 23/05/2026, Page 53

He's known as Australia's King of Country Rock, and Jade Hurley- together with other octogenarian legends Digger Revell, Dinah Lee, Lucky Starr and 70-something youngster Little Pattie - are currently touring the country with the live stage show The Good Old Days of Rock 'n' Roll. [...] Data from Arthritis Australia shows that 3.6 million people (or one in seven of us) are living with arthritis, a leading cause of chronic pain and the second most common cause of disability and early retirement due to ill health.

Also reported by: [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#)

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Sashimi your way into better fast food choices

The Nightly, General News, 22/05/2026, Sarah Di Lorenzo, Page 36

With busy lives and long days, takeaway food can be saviour for busy families.[...] Regular intake of ultra-processed foods is associated with higher risks of obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, depression and earlier death.

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Condition 'living death' for sufferers

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 23/05/2026, Natalie Croxon, Page 14

At 45 years old, Aran Chevalier was an active man who enjoyed spending time with his family, travelling, hiking, and helping his community. When he fell ill with a bowel infection, another set of symptoms emerged: headaches, pain around his neck and shoulders, a feeling like he was constantly hungover, and exhaustion that would not go away.

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Western Australian of the year 2026: Professor Nick Gottardo nominated for changing child cancer treatment

West Australian, Other, 22/05/2026, Kirsty Lichtenstein

Paediatric Oncologist and Clinical Director of the WA Comprehensive Kids Cancer Centre, Professor Nick Gottardo is changing the way cancer is treated in children, and has been recognised with a West Australian of the year nomination for it. Professor Gottardo leads the major Australian and New Zealand AIM-BRAIN project which uses advanced molecular profiling to improve diagnosis and personalise treatment for brain tumours.

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

[Read More](#)

Dermatologist drought in central Queensland leaves patients with few treatment options

ABC Online, Other, 22/05/2026, Jacob Gamble

Samara Watson describes her skin condition as "agonisingly painful". The Rockhampton mum lives with psoriasis, a chronic skin condition that causes painful scaly rashes, sore joints, nausea, and makes her prone to infections.

[Read More](#)

Sydney scientists capture body fighting cancer cells in groundbreaking discovery

7News.com.au, Other, 22/05/2026, Jennifer Bechwati

Sydney scientists have made a major cancer breakthrough, watching the body fight off tumour cells in real time in a development they say could help improve treatment for one of Australia's worst cancers. Remarkable footage shows immune cells known as macrophages, displayed in green, attacking and devouring live melanoma cancer cells shown in pink.

[Read More](#)

Childhood obesity: what can we do about it?

Aged Care Insite, Other, 22/05/2026

Despite abundant opportunities to engage in a healthy lifestyle, Australian adults are experiencing critical levels of overweight and obesity (63 per cent in total). So too are our children, with 20 per cent overweight and 7 per cent obese. These statistics go hand in hand with the fact that only 4 per cent of children aged 2–18 years consume their recommended daily intake of vegetables, and only a third eat the recommended two serves of fruit daily.

[Read More](#)

Using 'human touch' to care for people living with advanced dementia: opinion

Aged Care Insite, Other, 22/05/2026, Sara Karacsony

More people living with the advanced stages of dementia are transitioning to residential aged care facilities as they approach the end of life. Palliative care, aimed at improving quality of life, is primarily provided as terminal care.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 22/05/2026, Peter Overton

Garvan Institute researchers have discovered a potential new approach to treating melanoma. In a world first, they have captured video footage of immune cells called macrophages moonlighting as fighters and eating cancerous tissue.

Similar coverage reported by: [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Perth\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Screens link to student disability spike

Weekend Australian, General News, 23/05/2026, Natasha Bitá, Page 7

Children's mental health experts have blamed the pandemic and "brain-damaging" digital addictions for an alarming rise in disability rates among Australian school students. Headspace founder Professor Patrick McGorry, a former Australian of the Year who is president of the International Association for Youth Mental Health, too much screen time can "harm brain development".

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

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Where's the money gone

Courier Mail, General News, 23/05/2026, Taylah Fellows, Page 1

A damning report has found the state's billion-dollar mental health levy is being mismanaged without any evidence of where the money is being spent or how it is benefiting Queenslanders. The levy, introduced by the former Labor government in 2023, operates as a payroll tax surcharge on businesses and was sold as a dedicated funding stream to boost mental health services, expand treatment and reform the system.

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

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A personal problem

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/05/2026, Page 3

Australians' personal lives have the biggest impact on their mental health. Six in 10 (60 per cent) respondents to The Push-Up Challenge survey cited their personal lives (health, relationships, etc) as having the biggest impact on their mental health right now.

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

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Unexpected beginning to healing

Canberra Times, General News, 23/05/2026, Page 13

January 12 was when parents-to-be Tayla Rippingale and Rory Baines were due to welcome their first child into their arms. Yet only five days prior, their lives were frozen in time by a single ultrasound.

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

Canberra's Francis Owusu is unstoppable

Canberra Times, General News, 23/05/2026, Megan Doherty, Page 44

From a young boy who was ostracised and ridiculed because he was different, Canberra's own Francis Owusu is now a leader in his community and spearheading a potential revolution in schools across Australia. He found acceptance, resilience and freedom through dance and movement, and now he's encouraging the next generations to do the same.

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Source of salvation for four decades

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 23/05/2026, Kirsty Lichtenstein, Page 20

Across Australia demand for mental health support is drastically on the rise. For many it means a call to Lifeline, where for them it feels like the volunteer on the other end of the line is the only person willing to listen.

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

Depression in 2 weeks

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 23/05/2026, Page 4

Removing everyday positive mental health behaviours for just two weeks can rapidly trigger symptoms of depression and anxiety in otherwise healthy adults. Maintaining realistic thinking; engaging in meaningful activities; having goals and plans; keeping healthy routines, including sleep; and staying socially connected are what Macquarie University researchers call the big five for a healthy life.

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

Facing his demons

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 23/05/2026, Ben Cameron, Page 56

After several tough formative years growing up in Hoppers Crossing, local footballer Kelly Pickard got to the point where suicide became his only option by age 20. Crucially, though, Pickard (pictured) had the foresight to seek out support from several leaders at his local club, including his senior coach and president, during a period of extreme vulnerability.

No system to check how \$1.2b levy is spent: auditor-general

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 22/05/2026, Courtney Kruk

Queensland's \$1.2 billion mental health levy is directionless and poorly run, a review from the auditor-general has found, prompting fears taxpayer money is being wasted on ineffective services. The levy, a parliamentary recommendation to establish a dedicated funding stream for mental health, alcohol and other drugs (MHAOD) services, was introduced in early 2023 and is collected through payroll taxes.

[Read More](#)

Almost 1.2 billion people living with mental disorders worldwide as case numbers nearly double since 1990

ABC Online, Other, 22/05/2026, Brianna Morris-Grant

Globally, mental health disorders have nearly doubled since 1990 — with new research finding almost 1.2 billion people worldwide are living with a mental health condition. The surge over the last three decades means mental disorders now account for more than 17 per cent of all disability worldwide, according to a report published this week.

[Read More](#)

2CC, Breakfast, 22/05/2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with IPA Adjunct Professor Claire Rowe, on the recent data from the Australian Institute of Family Studies, the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, and the Australian Human Rights Commission, which revealed that COVID-19 lockdowns in Australia caused prolonged disruption to mental health, education and physical wellbeing of children and teenagers. Rowe says they are still seeing the effects of the lockdowns because they interrupted the social development and learning of children. She also notes that the pandemic intensified many of the problems, but they still exist today.

[Play Now](#)

2GB, Afternoons, 22/05/2026, Michael McLaren

Interview with University of Queensland School of Public Health Associate Professor Damian Santomauro. Santomauro says the number of mental health concerns has spiked during the pandemic, and he adds that they expected a higher rate of anxiety disorder in 2023 than major depressive disorder. He notes that they hope that the prevalence will decrease post-pandemic, but he does not think it is going to return to pre-pandemic levels.

Also reported by: [2GB \(Sydney\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

IMMUNISATION

Yellow fever certificates and over-60s

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Travel, 23/05/2026, Stephen Scourfield, Page 6

Brazil, Kenya and Uganda are among the countries that require a yellow fever vaccination certificate to enter. And returning to WA after visiting a country where yellow fever is a risk, you'll be asked to show your certificate if you were there six or fewer days before arriving in Australia.

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WA cases of diphtheria up to 85 as authorities forced to play catch up on vaccinations

West Australian, Other, 22/05/2026, Oliver Lane

The number of cases in WA's worst diphtheria outbreak has risen to 85, as health officials seek to boost vaccinations rates of the illness in vulnerable communities. The cases have been almost

exclusively in WA's northern-most region of the Kimberley, with 78 reported in that area, while a handful have been detected in the Pilbara and Goldfields.

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

[Read More](#)

Why Australia's diphtheria outbreak is a problem of our making

Canberra Times, Other, 22/05/2026

The diphtheria outbreak spreading across the Northern Territory, Western Australia, South Australia, and Queensland has become a matter of national concern. With more than 230 cases recorded, including one fatality, it is reportedly the largest outbreak of the disease since national records began.

[Read More](#)

Diphtheria outbreak could be 'contained within months' but response criticised as too slow

ABC Online, Other, 22/05/2026, Olivana Lathouris

Australia's growing diphtheria outbreak could be contained within months but government response to the disease was too slow, the head of a peak body for Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations has said. The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), which represents 148 Aboriginal community-controlled health services, said while the response from government in the past few days had been welcomed, they initially took too long to respond to concerns about the disease.

[Read More](#)

'Please get vaccinated': Indigenous leaders' urgent plea amid worst-ever recorded diphtheria outbreak

SBS, Other, 22/05/2026, Emma Kellaway

Australia's worst diphtheria outbreak in decades has been key to discussions at a meeting of Indigenous affairs ministers and leading First Nations organisations in Sydney. Once considered virtually eradicated, Australia is currently experiencing its worst-ever recorded outbreak of diphtheria.

[Read More](#)

Check diphtheria vax status: Guild

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 22/05/2026

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia is urging Australians to visit a community pharmacy to check their vaccination status for diphtheria amid the growing number of cases reported in northern and central Australia (PD 20 May).

[Read More](#)

ABC, Late Night ABC News, 22/05/2026, Pip Waller

Aboriginal health groups, including the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, say the Federal Government and the Northern Territory Government have not acted fast enough to stem the spread of diphtheria in remote communities across northern Australia. About 220 cases have been reported nationally, with more than half in the NT.

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

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 22/05/2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

According to SA Health, the number of South Australians falling ill with RSV has spiked. A free vaccine is now available for high-risk groups.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 22/05/2026, Melissa Downes and Joel Dry

Australia's first nasal flu vaccine has been approved. A new research has found the recipients tolerated the alternative well, experiencing the same level of side effects to those who chose the needle.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 22/05/2026, Adam Steer

Rebecca Curr, the Nurse Manager of the Alice Springs Public Health Unit, is encouraging frontline workers to get a booster immunisation against diphtheria if they have not had one in the past five years. The NT has reported more than 150 cases of the infectious disease since the start of the year.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Breakfast, 22/05/2026, Jess Ong

Ong says a new vaccine supply is now available in the NT. She plays an audio clip of Peter Haswell from the Northern Territory Pharmacy Guild, where he stated that the NT Government has allocated a significant number of diphtheria vaccines, and Aboriginal frontline workers will also be eligible for the free vaccine.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Breakfast, 22/05/2026, Jess Ong

Ong says the Federal Government has unveiled a \$7.2m package for more diphtheria vaccines. She plays an audio clip of AMSANT CEO Dr Donna Ah Chee, where she stated that many are continuing to deliver primary health care while also managing vaccinations and dealing with the outbreak response.

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

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 22/05/2026, Sonya Feldhoff and Jules Schiller

Interview with RACGP SA Chair Dr Sian Goodson. Goodson discusses diphtheria and its symptoms, noting that the bacteria affect the skin, throat, heart, and respiratory system, and it can also cause death. She also says childhood vaccination rates in SA are high, but people are urged to get their immunity boosters to better protect themselves from the disease.

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

[Play Now](#)

FIVEAA, Afternoons, 22/05/2026, Stacy Lee

The Northern Territory Government and the Federal Governments have joined forces to tackle a diphtheria outbreak with the Commonwealth to spend \$7m on a vaccination program.

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 22/05/2026, Sally Sara

Interview with Kalumburu Aboriginal Corporation CEO Kim Holm, on the diphtheria outbreak. Holm says a clinic in Kalumburu has now isolated a patient, along with a household member, and the diphtheria has not spread any further. She also notes that members of the community are welcome to go to the clinic and get a vaccine.

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 22/05/2026, Sally Sara

Interview with NT Minister for Health and Aboriginal Affairs Steve Edgington, on the Federal Government's \$7.2 funding package announcement to combat the diphtheria outbreak, which has spread from NT to WA, SA, and Queensland. Edgington says he briefly communicated with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler yesterday, and they welcomed the Federal Government's announcement. He notes that \$5.2m of the \$7.2m package announced will go to the National Care and Trauma

Response Centre in Darwin, and it will provide a surge workforce to administer booster, vaccinations, and treatments, while the rest will go towards Aboriginal corporations, particularly AMSANT.

Also reported by: [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

'Bad' cholesterol hit before it turns deadly

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 23/05/2026, Sarah Booth, Page 13

A breakthrough gene therapy trial is set to test whether a one-off treatment can protect patients from suffering a heart attack years before it occurs. The therapy designed to lower a patient's "bad" LDL cholesterol by silencing a crucial gene could "significantly change" our approach to preventing cardiovascular disease.

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What is immunotherapy and how does it treat cancer and other conditions?

The Guardian, Other, 23/05/2026, Ian Sample

Clinical trials of immunotherapies have rocketed in the past decade as researchers have turned their understanding of the body's defences into powerful new treatments. Leading the pack are cancer therapies, but researchers have other conditions in their sights, from infections and allergies to brain diseases and autoimmune disorders.

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[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Hundred red flags: little boy NT failed

Weekend Australian, General News, 23/05/2026, Christine Middap & Liam Mendes, Page 1

The little Aboriginal boy is 12 years old but he's already lived a lifetime of trouble. [...] But our examination of multiple other cases shows many mandatory reports from frontline health, police and social workers do not meet a threshold for investigation.

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

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'Tireless champion for our children' Dallas finishes up at BDAC

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 23/05/2026, Ben Loughran, Page 16

After more than a decade at the Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-operative, including a period as the chief executive, Dallas Widdicombe will soon start a new position in the state government. Mr Widdicombe will take up the role of Victoria's new Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People at the Commission for Children and Young People.

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Northern Territory Chief Minister dismisses concerns about 'landmark'

child protection changes as 'hysteria'

ABC Online, Other, 22/05/2026, Lara Stimpson, Elsie Lange & Jacqueline Breen

Northern Territory Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro has labelled concerns about proposed child protection changes as "hysteria", a day after the prime minister called for "respectful" consultation with outraged Aboriginal groups. [...] Aboriginal health and legal services argue the proposed changes will make it easier for children to be removed and harder for families to be reunited.

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[Back to Top](#)

PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Libs promise fair go for regions

Weekend Australian, General News, 23/05/2026, Anthony Galloway, Page 8

Victorian Opposition Leader Jess Wilson will guarantee that a quarter of infrastructure funding under her premiership would be spent in regional areas, as Anthony Albanese and Angus Taylor prepare to give rival speeches at the major parties' state conferences this weekend. [...] The PBO analysis also found metropolitan asset investment per person was more than double that of regional Victoria, with the Coalition citing delays and cancellations to projects including the Wonthaggi, Torquay and West Gippsland hospitals, Bendigo's new fire station and multiple regional schools.

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Camp courage

Courier Mail, Qweekend, 23/05/2026, Jane Armitstead, Page 1

Each week, about 100 Queensland children end up in hospital with burns. We go inside the camp helping children with life-changing scars, including Lily, who survived a traumatic accident 10 years ago.

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

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Fed up workers leak list

Courier Mail, General News, 23/05/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 5

Fed up health workers have taken the extraordinary step of challenging the accuracy of government wait list data by leaking a photo of what they say are the real patient numbers posted on hospital walls. Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital's gynaecology list, displayed in-house, appears to show three times more women on wait lists in some subspecialties than the numbers reported by Queensland Health.

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

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'Extreme cuts of \$700m' to health funding slammed

Hobart Mercury, General News, 23/05/2026, David Killick, Page 4

The size and nature of cuts to health funding have emerged as the major battleground between the government and opposition as pundits digest Eric Abetz's 2026-27 state budget. Health Minister Bridget Archer claimed record spending in health, but Labor begs to differ.

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

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Budget a bitter pill for health

Hobart Mercury, General News, 23/05/2026, Nick Clark, Page 4

Treasurer Eric Abetz with a nod to alliteration, described his day promoting the state budget as "lunch in Launceston", "dinner in Devonport" following "breakfast in the bureaucratic black hole" that was Hobart. [...] Mr Abetz said the Launceston General Hospital would receive expenditure of \$363m.

Govt grounds CareFlight

Northern Territory News, General News, 23/05/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 5

It is understood the Royal Flying Doctor Service will be taking over the Northern Territory's aeromedical contract from CareFlight after a tender process nears its end. The news brings CareFlight's 20-year operations in the NT, at least for the aeromedical retrieval and interhospital transfer services, to an abrupt close.

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

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Mum's the word

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 23/05/2026, Natalie Croxon, Page 1

Health Minister Ryan Park has assured residents that the new Shellharbour Hospital will eventually have a birthing unit - but that won't be when it opens in 2027. While the new hospital will have maternity services, including various clinics, antenatal and postnatal services, lactation support, gynaecology, women's health physiotherapy, and childbirth classes - women will not be able to give birth there.

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Budget: what's in it for the North and when will it land?

Launceston Examiner, General News, 23/05/2026, Bailey Forbes, Page 2

Treasurer Eric Abetz has handed down his budget, and though it boasts new projects for the North-East, many are still years off. [...] The largest of which is a two-stage redevelopment of the Launceston General Hospital.

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Delays and recycled promises for North-West and West

Burnie Advocate, General News, 23/05/2026, Anthony Haneveer, Page 4

There is a strong whiff of deja vu about the latest state budget. [...] The budget papers suggest delays and cost blowouts in the new Mental Health Precinct at the North West Regional Hospital.

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Mildura still top responder

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 23/05/2026, Lochlainn Heley, Page 12

Mildura Ambulance Victoria response times have stayed close to average, reaching code one cases under 15 minutes more than 70 per cent of the time. Mildura's Local Government Area cases specifically had an average time of 14 minutes and 9 seconds in this quarter, up from 13 minutes and 32 seconds in the same quarter last year.

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Minister faces grilling as government accused of misleading voters on hospital promise

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 22/05/2026, Luke Griffiths

The state government's evasiveness over the future of the Torquay community hospital continues, with local MP Richard Riordan accusing Labor of chasing "cheap votes" on the issue. Mr Riordan clashed with Health Minister Harriet Shing on Thursday during a Public Accounts and Estimates Committee hearing as he sought clarity on whether plans for the hospital had been abandoned.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

'It's unacceptable': will this hospital become an election battleground?

Warrnambool Standard, Other, 22/05/2026, Sophia Baker

Will the Hamilton hospital's long-awaited emergency department and ICU upgrade become a hot-button issue as the state counts down towards the November election? At the 2022 state election, state opposition health spokeswoman Georgie Crozier with The Nationals' member for Lowan, Emma Kealy, committed \$17 million towards a new intensive care unit and emergency department in Hamilton if a Liberal and Nationals government was elected.

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[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Eyes on full-day strike in June

Canberra Times, General News, 23/05/2026, Nieve Walton, Page 3

"it's heartbreaking when I have students that say to me 'I feel like no one cares about me.'" [...]

Canberra public hospital doctors were also to take industrial action on Friday over a pay dispute.

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'Strength to others'

Daily Liberal, General News, 23/05/2026, Ciara Bastow, Page 1

A childhood cancer diagnosis has inspired nursing student Addison Knaggs to pursue a career supporting children and families facing serious illness. "Having experienced cancer at a young age, I understand how frightening and overwhelming hospital environments can feel," Ms Knaggs said.

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Hospital doctors call out 17-hour shifts

Newcastle Herald, General News, 23/05/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

Doctors working shifts of up to 17 hours in Hunter hospitals say they are being pushed to breaking point and patient care is being compromised. The region's biggest hospitals - John Hunter, Maitland, Calvary Mater and Belmont - have been cited by the doctors' union as examples of the problem.

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'Marshmallow-gate' was a warning

Newcastle Herald, General News, 23/05/2026, Page 48

The warning signs have been flashing red in the Hunter's health system for years. Now they are impossible to ignore.

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NSW Health apologises to doctors over 'IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY' rostering

The Mandarin, Other, 22/05/2026, Julian Bajkowski

The NSW Department of Health has issued a humbling apology to junior doctors working at Nepean Hospital after its administrators berated clinical staff, already suffering extreme work hours, saying they had signed up for an "implicit acceptance" of a heavily contested culture of excessively long shifts. In an illuminating case of what bureaucrats should not put in an email and how not to put it, the Doctors Union (also known as the Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation, or ASMOF) has recirculated a castigating missive to Nepean clinicians.

[Read More](#)

Riverina health service announces successor to long-serving chief executive

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 22/05/2026, Jac Marshall

Newly-appointed Murrumbidgee Local Health District chief executive Emma Field knows she has big shoes to fill. The new leader of the Riverina health service was announced as Jill Ludford's successor on Friday, May 22, after more than a decade in the role.

[Read More](#)

Hospital apologises after junior doctors told 'struggling is not a great indicator for professional longevity'

Australian Doctor, Other, 22/05/2026

Hospital managers have apologised to junior doctors for an email suggesting anybody struggling with rostering was not cut out for medicine. The email, with the sender removed, was shared by the Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation (ASMOF) of NSW, which said it had been sent to junior doctors at Nepean Hospital in Sydney last week.

[Read More](#)

How pharmacists' intern pay ranks

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 22/05/2026, Kate Cowling

A survey from a federal department reflects where graduates stand when they start and how quickly their pay escalates. [Paywall]

[Read More](#)

'Creating sustainable, high-quality training environments'

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 22/05/2026, Michelle Wisbey

The RACGP is looking to accredit new training sites in areas of identified workforce need, with EOIs now open. The RACGP currently partners with more than 3000 accredited GP training facilities.

[Read More](#)

First-of-its-kind part-time study option to attract future GPs

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 22/05/2026, Karen Burge

Labelled a 'long overdue shift', University of Sydney students will soon be able to study its Doctor of Medicine degree part-time. 'Students who opt for a part-time study option in medicine are more likely to be interested in a career in general practice.

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[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Trainee doctor to admit to secretly filming hundreds of hospital

employees using toilets, showers

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 22/05/2026, Erin Pearson

A trainee doctor will admit to installing hidden cameras in multiple hospital bathrooms to secretly film intimate videos of hundreds of women in toilets and showers, including at a cancer treatment facility, over four years. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has since barred the junior doctor from practising medicine.

[Read More](#)

Emails to Ahpra 'an affront to the respondent's profession'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 22/05/2026, Megan Haggan

A man has had his registration cancelled after he claimed a patient wore makeup to an appointment to impress him, and pursued her at her pharmacy workplace. He also called AHPRA investigators "snivelling, Machiavellian minded little Bureaucrats" and addressed an AHPRA lawyer as a "stupid little girl".

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'Guilty' twist over hospital 'spycam' doctor accused of filming HUNDREDS of his workmates in toilets

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 22/05/2026, Wayne Flower

A junior surgeon who allegedly took explicit images of doctors and nurses in hospital toilets plans to plead guilty if Crown prosecutors 'roll up' the charges against him. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency suspended Cho's medical licence, meaning he can no longer work or study medicine.

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[Back to Top](#)

AUSTRALIAN CDC

US-bound plane diverts over Ebola alert

Sydney Morning Herald, International News, 23/05/2026, Rob Gillies, Page 39

An Air France flight bound for Detroit was diverted to Montreal after a passenger from the Democratic Republic of the Congo boarded a flight in Paris "in error" amid flight restrictions tied to the Ebola outbreak, US Customs and Border Protection said. A spokesperson for the agency said the passenger "should not have boarded" the plane on Wednesday (Paris time) due to entry restrictions put in place to reduce the risk of Ebola spreading.

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

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Ebola risk now at highest level in DR Congo, says WHO

The Australian, Other, 23/05/2026

The risk from the deadly Ebola outbreak has been raised to the highest level for the Democratic Republic of Congo, the World Health Organization said Friday, as the toll continued to rise. There are now 82 confirmed cases and seven confirmed deaths in the DR Congo, with almost 750 suspected cases and 177 suspected deaths, the WHO said.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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WHO warns of high risk that Ebola 'spreading rapidly'

Canberra Times, Other, 23/05/2026

The World Health Organisation has raised the risk of the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola turning into an outbreak across the Democratic Republic of Congo to "very high". The strain, for which there is no approved vaccine or treatment, was declared an emergency of international concern by the WHO on Sunday.

[Read More](#)

US-bound plane diverted after passenger from Ebola-hit Congo boards 'in error'

ABC Online, Other, 22/05/2026

A plane bound for Detroit has been diverted to Canada after a passenger from the Ebola-hit Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) boarded the flight "in error", US officials say. A US Customs and Border Protection spokesperson said the passenger "should not have boarded" the plane leaving from Paris on Wednesday due to US entry restrictions to reduce the risk of Ebola spreading.

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Suspected Ebola cases triple in a week as WHO warns of rapid spread in DRC

The Guardian, Other, 23/05/2026, Kat Lay

The Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo poses a "very high" risk to the country, the World Health Organization said on Friday, revising its threat assessment upwards. The outbreak is spreading rapidly, WHO leaders said, with almost 750 suspected cases and 177 suspected deaths, up from 246 cases and 65 deaths when it was first reported a week earlier.

[Read More](#)

Ebola treatment centre burned down amid growing fear and anger over deadly outbreak

7News.com.au, Other, 22/05/2026, Monika Pronczuk, Justin Kabumba & Gerald Imray

People set fire to an Ebola treatment centre in a town at the heart of the outbreak in eastern Congo on Thursday after being stopped from retrieving the body of a local man, a witness and a senior police officer said, as fear and anger grow over a health crisis that doctors are struggling to contain. The arson attack in Rwampara reflects the challenges of health workers trying to curb a rare Ebola virus by using stringent measures that might clash with local customs, such as burial rites.

[Read More](#)

Ex CDC head warns Ebola outbreak will become a 'very significant pandemic'

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 22/05/2026, Josh Marcus

The ongoing Ebola outbreak in Africa could become a major regional pandemic, according to the former CDC director. "I suspect this is going to become a very significant pandemic," Dr. Robert Redfield told NewsNation. "[It will] probably leak into Tanzania, leak into South Sudan, maybe leak into Rwanda."

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SBS, World News Australia (Late), 22/05/2026

Authorities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are struggling to contain the latest Ebola outbreak. The World Health Organization says 177 people in the DRC are thought to have died from Ebola out of around 750 suspected cases.

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[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Ozempic maker accused of using sales bonuses to push off-label use

AFR Weekend, General News, 23/05/2026, Max Mason, Page 3

Ozempic manufacturer Novo Nordisk has been accused of targeting a former Australian employee

after he raised concerns sales bonuses were encouraging staff to sell the drug to people wanting weight loss.

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

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Ketamine more than Musk mania

AFR Weekend, General News, 23/05/2026, Michael Smith, Page 20

Elon Musk takes it, actor Matthew Perry died from it, and now thousands of Australians are accessing ketamine to treat severe depression.

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

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Vic hospital to trial ground-breaking cholesterol treatment

The New Daily, Other, 22/05/2026

A Victorian hospital is about to begin world-first human trials of a potential breakthrough in treating high cholesterol. [...] The study has regulatory clearance from Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration and builds on growing international interest in genetic approaches to cardiovascular disease prevention.

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Dementia drug rejected by TGA

Aged Care Insite, Other, 22/05/2026, Stefanie Schultz

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has decided not to register Alzheimer's drug lecanemab (LEQEMBI) on the basis that "the demonstrated efficacy did not outweigh the safety risks associated with the use of this medicine." Lecanemab is an antibody infusion therapy developed by pharmaceutical company Eisai as a treatment for slow cognitive decline for individuals in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease.

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TGA doubles down on rejection of Alzheimer's drug

Aged Care Insite, Other, 22/05/2026, Stefanie Schultz

The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has confirmed its decision not to register Alzheimer's disease drug lecanemab (LEQEMBI). Lecanemab is an antibody infusion therapy, developed by pharmaceutical company Eisai, which has been shown to slow cognitive decline in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease.

[Read More](#)

Fines issued for 'unlawful' tanning product supply

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 22/05/2026, Kate Cowling

The TGA issued a renewed warning about the prescription-only product. An individual has dozens of paid fines totalling more than \$100,000 for the alleged supply of Melanotan II.

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[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

How an RFK-inspired start-up is cashing in on peptide craze

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 23/05/2026, Kishor Napier-Raman, Page 2

Bobbi, a new Australian online doctor shop, has an unusual namesake: the United States health secretary notorious for pushing views on vaccinations at odds with those of the medical mainstream. [...] Unlike Ozempic, many peptides lack long-term clinical data about their effectiveness, and documented health risks to some range from severe allergic reactions and infections in the short term to a heightened chance of kidney damage and cancer.

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

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Enhanced Games are a dangerous circus and no celebration of science

Sydney Morning Herald, Sport, 23/05/2026, Darren Kane, Page 47

Twelve months ago I proposed that the Enhanced Games constitute a circus freak show masquerading as sport. I was wrong, by some measure.

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

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Inside the controversial Enhanced Games fronted by swimmer James Magnussen

The Australian, Other, 22/05/2026, Todd Balym

World champion turned swimfluencer James Magnussen once warned the world “brace yourselves” as he stood on the precipice of a swimming breakthrough that would change the sport. [...] The TGA warns the use of unapproved peptides risks contamination, severe allergic reactions, insomnia, blurred vision and systemic inflammatory response syndrome requiring hospital management among other significant side effects.

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

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‘History will prove me right’: Inside Magnussen's Enhanced Games gamble

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 22/05/2026

James Magnussen is sitting shirtless beside a luxury Las Vegas hotel pool, veins protruding from his forearms, soaking in the Nevada sun and completely comfortable that he has made the right call. “History will prove me right,” Magnussen says behind oversized black sunglasses.

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

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