



# TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 27th May 2026

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian \(page 1\)](#)** reports that the federal government has already spent all of its announced NDIS savings in the latest budget.
- **[The Australian \(page 3\)](#)** reports that the TGA has recommended a rapid expansion of the field of medical practitioners who can conduct psychedelic-led therapy sessions.
- **[The Australian \(page 9\)](#)** reports that Opposition NDIS spokeswoman Melissa McIntosh has left the door open to delaying Labor's NDIS cost cutting legislation, stating there are "no guarantees" the Coalition will support Labor's bill.
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald \(page 8\)](#)** reports that residents at the Blue Haven Bonaira aged care home in Kiama were charged \$15 each to attend musical performances provided for free. Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said charging for volunteer performances "clearly falls short of the community's expectations" but said such cases were rare.
- **[The Herald Sun \(page 13\)](#)** reports that the TGA has approved Tzield (teplizumab), a treatment that delays the onset of severe type 1 diabetes symptoms and the need for insulin injections, for use in Australia.
- **[The Northern Territory \(page 1\)](#)** reports that NT Health have confirmed a man died in Royal Darwin Hospital in April from diphtheria.

### 'No guarantees' on Labor's NDIS bill

The Australian, General News, 27/05/2026, Page 9

Opposition NDIS spokeswoman Melissa McIntosh says there are "no guarantees" the Coalition will support Labor's legislation to rein in the cost of the \$50bn-a-year scheme, leaving the door open to delaying the bill even if it puts at risk the government's growth targets. [...] The Liberal frontbencher said that on top of working closely with NDIS Minister Mark Butler on NDIS reforms, she had "had long conversations with Greens disability spokesman Jordon Steele-John, revealing the two of them " shared some concerns".

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

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### First death

Northern Territory News, Editorials, 27/05/2026, Page 10

Diphtheria fatality is a worry but cases are declining and vaccines being administered The Northern Territory has confirmed Australia's first diphtheria death in eight years. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has suggested an investigation into the source of the outbreak should be conducted, with NT Health and the Chief Health Officer agreeing they would "absolutely welcome" the idea.

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### Doctor urges jabs as diphtheria outbreak grows

Cape York Weekly, General News, 26/05/2026, Luke Mortimer, Page 10

The biggest diphtheria outbreak ever recorded in Australia has spread from the Northern Territory into Queensland about four years after an upsurge in cases led to a mass vaccination campaign in Cape York's Wujal Wujal community. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said he was "very concerned" about "probably the biggest diphtheria outbreak we've seen, certainly for decades".

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### 'Very concerning' outbreak

Katherine Times, General News, 27/05/2026, Page 4

Australia's worst diphtheria outbreak in decades continues to grow, with the prime minister joining calls for at-risk people to get vaccinated. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the current outbreak was about 30 times greater than the average number of diphtheria cases recorded nationally over the past five years.

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### Crackdown on 'sneaky' health premium hikes welcomed

Toodyay Herald, General News, 01/05/2026, Page 21

Australia's peak professional body for doctors has welcomed a move by the federal government to outlaw private health insurance price gouging and improve transparency on medical costs for patients. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler late last year described phoenixing as an "underhanded" and "sneaky" practice.

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### NT Health confirm one diphtheria death but said cases are decreasing as 10,000 vaccinated

Northern Territory News, Other, 26/05/2026, Lottie Hood

One man has died due to the diphtheria outbreak in the Northern Territory health executives confirmed this week. [...] NT Health would 'absolutely' welcome an investigation into the diphtheria outbreak Federal Health Minister, Mark Butler, said on Monday that an investigation into the source of the outbreak should be conducted.

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

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## **NT diphtheria cases falling as 10,000 vaccines rolled out, test confirms man's death related**

ABC Online, Other, 26/05/2026, Jason Walls

The Northern Territory government says diphtheria cases are declining after a vaccine blitz saw more than 10,000 residents immunised against the disease, as authorities confirm the ongoing outbreak has already claimed one life. [...] Dr Burgess said he would "absolutely" welcome an inquiry into the outbreak after federal Health Minister Mark Butler flagged establishing one on Monday.

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## **Has Tasmania's health budget been cut by \$700 million?**

ABC Online, Other, 26/05/2026, Leon Compton

How will the state government find \$700 million of "efficiencies" in the health budget? [...] The health minister last year wrote to Mark Butler about the Cygnet Family Practice, and our calls have fallen on deaf ears.

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## **Rolling funding extensions hampering workforce planning**

Medical Forum, Other, 26/05/2026

The Australian Private Hospitals Associations has criticised the federal government for not providing greater certainty around funding for a program that supports registrar training placements. [...] Medical Forum contacted Health Minister Mark Butler's office about the STP funding arrangements and his office referred the matter to the department.

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## **'Too expensive to keep alive': NDIS cuts push MS patients to crisis point**

The Senior, Other, 26/05/2026, Anna Houlahan

Severe NDIS funding cuts has left a woman living with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) unable to safely eat or shower, exposing what advocates warn is a hidden crisis driven by the government's fiscal crackdown. [...] McClure said comments by Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler regarding scheme rorts were making life harder for those trying to navigate a complex system.

[Read More](#)

## **ABC, ABC News, 26/05/2026, Kyle Dowling**

While NT Health Minister Steve Edgington states that it's important to recognise the reduction in the number of reported cases, NT Chief Health Officer Paul Burgess says he would welcome an investigation into the handling of the diphtheria outbreak that has raced through Central Australia and across state borders. The development comes amid calls from Federal Health Minister Mark Butler for the origins and handling of the particular outbreak to be investigated.

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## **ABC News, ABC News at Noon, 26/05/2026, Melissa Mackay**

In a joint press conference, NT Health Minister Steven Edgington and NT Chief Health Officer Dr Paul Burgess said they would welcome an investigation into the ongoing diphtheria outbreak, which was called by Federal Health Minister Mark Butler earlier this week. Burgess says the Australian Centre for Disease Control will now have a national leadership to coordinate between jurisdictions.

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## **ABC News, News Breakfast, 26/05/2026, Emma Reballato and James Glenday**

The Northern Territory Government is defending its management of Australia's worst diphtheria crisis in

decades, despite compounding warnings from Indigenous Elders and healthcare advocates that localized public health communication has been dangerously deficient. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler stepped in to label the multi-state epidemic as "deeply concerning."

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

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### **Sky News Live, Paul Murray Live, 26/05/2026, Paul Murray**

Murray says Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced a few weeks ago at the National Press Club that private health insurance rebates for Australians over the age of 65 will be slashed. He notes that older Australians have to find an extra \$1500 to keep their private health insurance, or they would join the public hospital queues.

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### **Koori Radio, Blackchat, 26/05/2026, Lola Forester**

Forester says NT Health Minister Steven Edgington confirmed there has been 163 diphtheria cases reported in the territory, including 115 skin infections and 48 of the more severe respiratory illness. She also notes that NT Chief Health Officer Paul Burgess said he would welcome any inquiry into the outbreak flagged by Federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

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### **ABC NewsRadio, Drive, 26/05/2026, Dijana Damjanovic**

Report by ABC reporter Joseph Hathaway-Wilson. In a joint press conference, NT Health Minister Steven Edgington and NT Chief Health Officer Dr Paul Burgess said they would welcome an investigation into the ongoing diphtheria outbreak, which was called by Federal Health Minister Mark Butler earlier this week. Burgess says the Australian Centre for Disease Control will now have a national leadership to coordinate between jurisdictions.

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

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## MINISTER MCALLISTER

No relevant coverage

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## MINISTER RAE

### **Aged care home's 'fee' to see musicians play**

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 27/05/2026, Rachel Rasker, Page 8

Volunteers at a NSW aged care home were appalled to discover residents were charged \$15 each to attend musical performances provided for free. [...] Federal Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae said in a statement the government has been clear the HELF "can only be charged for services that go above and beyond what a provider is already required to deliver".

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### **Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner resigns**

The Weekly Source, Other, 26/05/2026, Caroline Egan

After two-and-half years, Andrea Kelly has announced she will leave the role when her position ends in June. [...] The same month, Aged Care Minister Sam Rae announced Andrea's role as Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner would be extended until June 2026, though a First Nations Aged Care Commissioner had been expected to be appointed in 2025.

## Perth and WA facing 'time-critical' aged care bed shortfall by 2030, report finds

Your Life Choices, Other, 26/05/2026

Western Australia is racing towards a "substantial and time-critical shortfall" in residential aged care beds which it can do little to avoid. [...] Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said the Commonwealth was investing heavily in new beds, with almost \$2 billion to support the sector in building 5,000 extra aged care beds each year.

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## Channel 9, Today , 26/05/2026, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo

Panel discussion with Aged Care Minister Sam Rae and NSW Opposition leader Kellie Sloane. about findings at the Royal Commission into Antisemitism, revealing that two separate tip-offs that warned authorities about the Bondi shooter were ignored. Rae points out that the reports that they are seeing from the Royal Commission are quite sobering, and they'll look to continue hearing stories as the Commission goes on. He believes that security agencies will be listening carefully at the Royal Commission as they are obviously participating as well.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

### Has Tasmania's health budget been cut by \$700 million?

ABC Online, Other, 26/05/2026, Leon Compton

How will the state government find \$700 million of "efficiencies" in the health budget? [...] The health minister last year wrote to Mark Butler about the Cygnet Family Practice, and our calls have fallen on deaf ears.

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## Channel 7, Seven News Qld at 4pm, 25/05/2026, Samantha Heathwood

The Federal Government has officially launched Australia's first National Menopause and Perimenopause Awareness Campaign to support millions of women who have historically suffered through severe hormonal transitions in silence. Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Rebecca White, emphasized that the groundbreaking multimedia initiative will fundamentally transform, and in some instances, save the lives of women who have long felt dismissed or misunderstood by the healthcare system.

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

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## LA FM, Breakfast, 26/05/2026, Belinda King

Federal Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care and Member for Lyons, Rebecca White, has warned that a nominal funding boost for Tasmania's healthcare system will be entirely swallowed by inflation, masking deep underlying cuts. State budget papers for the newly unveiled 2026–2027 Tasmanian Budget show that topline health department funding will technically rise by approximately 7.8 percent over the next four years, pushing total expenditure past \$15 billion.

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## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

### 'Not alone': Harry's powerful fatherhood take

Yahoo! Lifestyle Australia, Other, 26/05/2026

The Duke of Sussex has spoken candidly about his "rollercoaster" experience of parenting, backing a new report into fatherhood to be debated in parliament. [...] The report is set to be tabled in parliament by a cross-party group of MPs, including Dan Repacholi, the special envoy for men's health.

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### ABC NewsRadio, Drive, 26/05/2026, Dijana Damjanovic

Report by ABC reporter Kimberley Price. Mental health support for new dads is in the spotlight in Canberra today as the report, More Than A Provider, from the charity Movember is tabled in Parliament, recommending routine mental health screenings for expecting and new dads and funding for programs tackling isolation. Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi will table the report in the Federal Parliament today.

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

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## DEPARTMENT

### Parents' rare heartache

Courier Mail, General News, 27/05/2026, Tayla Couacaud, Page 18

Axton Hearsey was, by all accounts, a healthy three-year-old but the North Queensland boy had a rare life-limiting time bomb in his genes that his parents had no idea was there. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said it recognised the impacts of rare disease on families and supported them through a nationally co-ordinated response.

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

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### Crackdown on 'sneaky' health premium hikes welcomed

Toodyay Herald, General News, 01/05/2026, Page 21

Australia's peak professional body for doctors has welcomed a move by the federal government to outlaw private health insurance price gouging and improve transparency on medical costs for patients. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler late last year described phoenixing as an "underhanded" and "sneaky" practice.

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### Osteoporosis resources now live

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 26/05/2026, Page 2

A new osteoporosis health literacy initiative through community pharmacy has been launched by Healthily, Fred IT Group, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA), and Healthy Bones Australia. Announced last year and supported by a \$1.1 million Quality Use of Medicines, Consumer Health Literacy grant from the Australian Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (PD 03 Apr 2025), the program delivers evidence-based osteoporosis education designed to improve medication adherence and reduce bone fracture risk directly to patients at the point of dispensing.

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### Government announces new menopause campaign following success of Fire Up!

A new national menopause and perimenopause awareness campaign has been announced, after the success of news.com.au's Fire Up! initiative. [...] When asked about whether the pharmacy trial would be extended to include menopause care, a spokesperson for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said: "On 13 March 2026, the Australian Government announced that, from January 2027, it will commence a 12-month pharmacy trial.

[Read More](#)

## Allied health workforce key to prevention

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 26/05/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

There needs to be a shift in the way Australia thinks about care, allied health chief Anita Hobson-Powell told PAS 2026 delegates. As Australia's population ages, the need to move away from episodic and reactive care becomes more pressing – with allied health playing a key role.

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## Cygnet loses after-hours urgent care

Huon Valley News, Other, 26/05/2026

Huon Valley's only after-hours medical service will cease as part of Eric Abetz's 'operational efficiencies,' otherwise known as health budget cuts. Cygnet Family Practice Urgent and After-Hours Service has been recognised for its innovation, awarded by Medicare, and has been the only service of its kind in the Huon Valley for the past four years.

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## Rolling funding extensions hampering workforce planning

Medical Forum, Other, 26/05/2026

The Australian Private Hospitals Associations has criticised the federal government for not providing greater certainty around funding for a program that supports registrar training placements. [...] Medical Forum contacted Health Minister Mark Butler's office about the STP funding arrangements and his office referred the matter to the department.

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## Who will rip the cohealth band-aid off?

The Medical Republic, Other, 26/05/2026, Caitlin Wright

The government and Cohealth categorically deny standing in the way of the release of the Duckett report. [...] A Department of Health, Disability and Ageing spokesperson told TMR "In line with the review's Terms of Reference, the summary report can only be made public with the agreement of all parties.

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## Small home care boards under "extreme" pressure: Enkindle

The Weekly Source, Other, 26/05/2026, Caroline Egan

Boards implementing the new Aged Care Act have found the transition more resource intensive and complex than expected, Enkindle Consulting's Home Care Provider Outlook Report 2026 Part 3 found. [...] One operator said when they reach out to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DOHDA) for clarification, they are directed to a community of practice for clarification.

[Read More](#)

## Psychologist shortfall to hit staggering 96 percent by 2038

WEB Newsreel, Other, 26/05/2026

The demand for psychologists will outstrip supply by nearly 100 percent in the next decade, a new report from the Federal Government's Department of Health, Disability and Ageing shows.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Old story on ageing plans

Herald Sun, General News, 27/05/2026, Remy Varga, Page 15

Australians overwhelmingly want to age in their own homes instead of going into care but are not planning or preparing adequately to maintain their independence. A new survey of 2250 Australians aged 55 and over by not-for-profit aged care provider Benetas highlights that many Australians are in denial about the reality of ageing.

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

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### Missed opportunities as the state budget leaves older Tasmanians behind with cuts to community services

Hobart Mercury, General News, 27/05/2026, Brigid Wilkinson, Page 16

Budgets are about more than numbers. They are a tangible annual statement of what a government values, what it prioritises, and who it sees.

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### A national endowment model for Australia's ageing challenge

The Mandarin, Other, 26/05/2026, Mainul Haque

Australia is entering a major demographic transition. The population is ageing rapidly, demand for aged care services is rising, and pressure on health and social support systems is intensifying.

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### WA aged care at a turning point, new report warns

The Weekly Source, Other, 26/05/2026, Caroline Egan

EY-Parthenon forecasts up to 2,700 new aged care beds will be needed in WA by 2030 to meet future demand, requiring an investment of around \$1.8 billion - or up to 27 new aged care facilities within four years. Survey respondents indicated approximately 1,200 new aged care beds would come online between 2027 and 3030, mainly in Perth.

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### Australia saw this aged care crisis coming—so why are seniors still waiting?

Your Life Choices, Other, 26/05/2026, Noel Whittaker

Economics often comes down to one brutally simple principle: supply and demand. When demand exceeds supply, prices rise, queues form, and shortages emerge. We see it in housing, childcare, and electricity. Now we are watching the same slow-motion train wreck unfold in aged care.

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## DISABILITY AND CARERS

### Savings for tomorrow spent today

The Australian, General News, 27/05/2026, Matthew Cranston and Greg Brown, Page 1

The Albanese government has already spent the entirety of its announced NDIS savings in its latest budget, with \$36.8bn booked on an array of measures since December, including an \$18bn hospital deal. The revelation on spending comes as small business figures become increasingly optimistic there will be some form of a concession given to a broader range of employers under Labor's reforms to the capital gains tax, although the government is prioritising tech start-ups.

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

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## Disabled recruits

Herald Sun, General News, 27/05/2026, Ashley Argoon, Page 1

Organised crime gangs are recruiting teens with intellectual disabilities to do their dirty work as a children's court heard that a "hospitality wars" firebomber had the cognitive ability of a six-year-old. The boy, 16, who set CBD hotspot Bar Bambi alight causing \$200k in damage was bailed on Tuesday.

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## Quinn 'not a priority'

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 27/05/2026, Alex Treacy, Page 6

A teenage NDIS client threatened to commit suicide three weeks before he did so, but his care regime was not changed as a result of the threat, a coronial inquest has heard. Quinn Cook, 16, died on January 28, 2023, at home at Centrepont Resort Apartments at Surfers Paradise.

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

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## Fed Govt's NDIS Bill is a power grab with no benefit

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 27/05/2026, Jo Russell, Page 6

The National Disability Insurance Scheme is not a gravy train. It never has been.

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## 'Inhumane' NDIS home in Broome subject to allegations of neglect

ABC Online, Other, 26/05/2026

On a quiet cul-de-sac in Western Australia's far north, a suburban home has become the subject of allegations of neglect. The residence has been operating as a privately-run NDIS group home for people with disabilities in Broome for at least two years.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Is the RACGP's definition of general practice outdated, self-serving and wrong?

Australian Doctor, Other, 26/05/2026

The RACGP has, again, changed its definition of general practice to accommodate so-called non-traditional models of the specialty. This was not simply a philosophical exercise.

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### Average gap fee hits \$61 as GP bulk-billing rate rises to 82%

Australian Doctor, Other, 26/05/2026

The average GP gap fee, of those still charging them, has surged by more than \$10, new government data show. The first full quarter of data since the tripled bulk-billing incentives were extended to all patients shows the GP bulk-billing rate rising to 82% for January-March.

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### 2CC, Canberra Live, 26/05/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with Australian Medical Association ACT President Dr Kerrie Aust, on the number of bulk-billed GP consultations reaching 54.1% in the ACT. Aust says the Federal Government's bulk-billing incentive is not enough to cover the cost of providing care, and various clinics across Canberra still struggle to attract and retain GPs. She also says they want to make sure that people can afford to get healthcare, but not at the cost of a financially viable business.

Also reported by: [2CC \(Canberra\)](#), [2CC \(Canberra\)](#), [2CC \(Canberra\)](#), [2CC \(Canberra\)](#).

## ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 26/05/2026, Tracey Strong

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has condemned the Tasmanian Government's decision to ax funding for vital primary health services, labelling the fiscal cuts a highly regressive step for public healthcare. RACGP Tasmania Chair, Dr Tim Jones, expressed deep disappointment over the policy shift, noting a bitter irony given the state's recent success in pioneering innovative rural health solutions.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Extreme measures

Ballarat Courier, General News, 27/05/2026, Nick Powell, Page 1

Six months ago, Ballarat 20-year-old Eli Bolt wouldn't have called himself a runner. [...] According to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data, children and young people aged 12 to 24 make up more than a quarter of all homeless people in Victoria.

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### Ejected MP has no regrets

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 27/05/2026, Josh Mercer, Page 2

Federal MP Phillip Thompson has no regrets about refusing to withdraw comments he made in parliament on Monday, which resulted in him getting suspended for 24 hours. Mr Thompson, who is the Shadow Minister for Defence Personnel, put a question to the Prime Minister during Question Time on Monday about rationing allied health services for veterans.

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### This medical procedure can be extremely painful. Part of the problem is bad research

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 26/05/2026, Liam Mannix

Hysteroscopies are among the most commonly performed medical procedures in the world. Allowing surgeons to check for causes of abnormal bleeding in the uterus and to operate if needed, some practitioners claim it's pain-free, while survey data collected by the UK-based Campaign Against Painful Hysteroscopy suggest that for some women, the procedure is more painful than childbirth

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### Government announces new menopause campaign following success of Fire Up!

NEWS.com.au, Other, 26/05/2026

You demanded action – and your call has been answered. The Federal Government has announced the National Menopause and Perimenopause Awareness Campaign, a landmark initiative aimed at helping Australian women recognise their symptoms earlier, reduce stigma, and access evidence-based information and support.

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### A new plan to support Stolen Generations survivors is being launched

SBS, Other, 26/05/2026

The nation's peak advocate for Stolen Generations survivors has launched a new two-year action plan aimed at finally implementing the recommendations of the landmark Bringing them home report. [...] In 2019, analysis from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found around 27,000 survivors were over 50 years old, representing one fifth of First Nations people in the age group.

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## 6PR, Drive, 26/05/2026, Jamie Burnett

Interview with Asthma Australia CEO Kate Miranda. Miranda notes that they are raising awareness about wool fire heaters because they have real health implications for people with respiratory conditions, including asthma. She also says people with asthma and other respiratory conditions tend to monitor the air quality because they know that it is one of their triggers and they are affected by it.

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## CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

### We're in sight of icing the beast

Herald Sun, General News, 27/05/2026, Robyn Riley and Peter Rolfe, Page 10

From the start, FightMND has been focused on a big goal: a cure for motor neurone disease. The big ask was to beat the disease that AFL legend Neale Daniher labelled "the beast".

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

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### Hope for targeted cancer strategy

Courier Mail, General News, 27/05/2026, Rachel Riley, Page 11

A simple new blood test could end a cruel guessing game for lung cancer patients by matching them more rapidly with personalised treatments to fight the deadly disease. Desperate cancer patients are forking out up to \$500,000 a year on cutting-edge immunotherapies that might not save their lives.

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### There's an extra eye in AI

Courier Mail, General News, 27/05/2026, Rachel Riley, Page 21

Groundbreaking artificial intelligence is being used by specialists to hunt down hidden deadly bowel cancer growths that could be missed by the human eye. Mater Health specialists are using AI and algorithmic software as a hi-tech "second set of eyes" to scan images during patient colonoscopies in real time.

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### The blood pressure brain risk

West Australian, General News, 27/05/2026, Claire Sadler, Page 12

Frequent changes in blood pressure can impact cognitive health and raise the risk of dementia, Australian research has revealed. While high blood pressure has long been recognised as a risk factor for cognitive decline, a Monash University study found that fluctuations in blood pressure throughout the day were also associated with poorer cognition, including in memory, problem solving, and planning.

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### Plea for PM to slide into fight with MND

Canberra Times, General News, 27/05/2026, Shayne Hope, Page 8

Former Melbourne captain Garry Lyon has called on Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to write a "dirty big cheque" for FightMND in honour of Neale Daniher. And Lyon wants the Prime Minister to head down the slide into a pool of iced water at what looms as the most significant Big Freeze event of all in a tribute to Daniher.

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### Calls for early-onset bowel cancer to be considered 'new disease' as cases surge among young Aussies

7News.com.au, Other, 26/05/2026, Jennifer Bechwati

Doctors are warning early-onset bowel cancer should now be considered a "new disease", with cases in young Australians surging and behaving differently to traditional bowel cancer. Bowel cancer is now the deadliest cancer for Australians aged 25 to 54 with 1880 young people diagnosed every year. That's five every day.

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## Melbourne girl, 15, 'angry' at Royal Children's Hospital staff, refuses lifesaving cancer treatment

NEWS.com.au, Other, 26/05/2026, Rohan Smith

A GP who lost his medical license during Covid-19 has slammed a Victorian court for "forcing" a 15-year-old cancer patient into "painful" treatment. A 15-year-old is being "held down" as a central venous catheter is "forcibly pulled out" of her chest.

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## Earlier heart screening for Indigenous people can save lives

Nursing Review, Other, 26/05/2026, Kylie Gwynne, Vita Christie and Katrina Ward

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more than twice as likely to have a stroke as non-Indigenous Australians. These strokes occur younger, are more likely to be fatal, and often result in long-term disability.

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## Channel 7, Seven News, 26/05/2026, Angela Cox and Mark Ferguson

Doctors are warning early-onset bowel cancer should now be treated as an entirely new disease, with cases in young Australians surging. Experts say the cancer is behaving differently to traditional bowel cancer and requires a rethink in diagnosis.

Also reported by: [Channel 7 \(Perth\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Melbourne\)](#).

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Child safety knew of Mum

Courier Mail, General News, 27/05/2026, Thomas Chamberlin, Kyle Rode and Andreas Nicola, Page 7

A mother accused of deliberately drowning her daughter had just undergone mental health treatment, with revelations the family's matters had previously been flagged with Child Safety. Jessie Renee Phillips, a 31-year-old nurse, faced Ipswich Magistrates Court on Tuesday after she was charged with the alleged murder of her four-year-old girl, Cleo Rose Catterall. Emergency services were called to Phillips's home at Lowood about 11.10pm on Monday.

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### New mental health hotline to end police culture of 'toughing things out'

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 26/05/2026, Courtney Kruk

Homicide detective Bree Sonter has seen some of the worst crimes imaginable during her 20-year policing career, but says her first three as a beat cop were the hardest. "That's when you go from living a relatively normal life into being immediately thrust into the world of policing," said Sonter, now a 43-year-old detective senior constable with Queensland Police's Homicide Investigation Unit.

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### Channel 10, 10 News, 26/05/2026, Jennifer Keyte

A new report from Movember has found 72% of men are more involved in daily care than their own fathers, and three-quarters of fathers say fatherhood matters more than their career, but three in five of them are not asked how they are coping or what their mental health is like. Movember is now calling for

routine mental health screening for new fathers, greater investment in training health professionals, and the expansion of grassroots programs.

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## IMMUNISATION

### Slow uptake on flu jabs

Courier Mail, General News, 27/05/2026, Page 10

Queensland's vaccination coverage is at its lowest rate in three years, sparking fears of a horror flu season. Figures released to the opposition reveals, as of May 24, just 1,272,560 flu jabs had been administered across Queensland covering 22.35 per cent of the population.

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### Diphtheria cases are rising. Here's how to check if your vaccines are up to date

ABC Online, Other, 26/05/2026, Lauren Roberts

Australia's current diphtheria outbreak may have you wondering how best to protect yourself — and your family — from this and other preventable diseases, such as measles. The first step is to check that you're up-to-date with your vaccinations, according to Katherine Gibney, infectious diseases physician and principal research fellow at Doherty Institute.

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### NSW rolls out needle-free nasal spray flu vaccine for children, teens

NEWS.com.au, Other, 26/05/2026, Tia Clarkson-Pascoe

One Aussie state has expanded a major needle-free vaccine rollout to children, following record flu numbers and concerningly-low vaccination rates. Children and teens across NSW will be able to access a free nasal spray flu vaccine as part of a new government program to increase vaccine accessibility.

Also reported by: [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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### Pharmacists boost kids' vaccination: study

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 26/05/2026

Pharmacists help to boost vaccination uptake among children across a variety of settings and populations, a systematic review led by the University of Canberra has found.

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### SBS, World News Australia, 26/05/2026, Richelle Harrison Plesse

The Northern Territory Government says diphtheria cases are declining after a growing vaccination blitz. The NT has now recorded 163 cases since January, with another 100 in South Australia and WA, but the numbers have fallen from 22 reports each week at the peak to nine cases in the past seven days, and more than 10,000 people have been vaccinated within the past seven weeks.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Hit job on oldies not healthy

Herald Sun, General News, 27/05/2026, Brett Heffernan, Page 21

The message from the Albanese government is clear. Don't get old. But if you do definitely don't get

sick. The federal budget's breach of faith on two decades of making private health insurance more achievable for those using it the most is a disaster waiting to happen. Not just for oldies. For everyone.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### **Pinoy travel nurse carries 'Filipino care' deep into Indigenous communities across Australia**

SBS, Other, 26/05/2026

For Filipino travel nurse Lindeil Cuevas, no paycheck could ever match the priceless experiences he found in Thursday Island and the Indigenous communities he served. He carries deep pride in being part of the heartfelt 'Filipino care' that Indigenous Australians not only remember, but continue to seek and cherish.

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### **Bianca Jane Hassan: Former medical receptionist who fraudulently claimed patient's Medicare rebates could face jail, court hears**

A former Gold Coast medical receptionist claimed storing her phone under a Medicare rebate machine may have accidentally refunded hundreds of dollars to her own bank card, prompting a magistrate to adjourn her fraud sentencing. Bianca Jane Hassan, 42, pleaded guilty in the Southport Magistrates Court on Tuesday, May 19, to one count of fraud- dishonestly gain benefit/advantage.

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

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Medico's appeal in queue skip case

Courier Mail, General News, 27/05/2026, Chloe Grimshaw, Page 9

A Queensland radiologist has been accused of helping a friend skip the queue for cancer treatment by bumping them ahead of other patients. Radiation therapist Greg Barber allegedly moved an appointment for a friend, which meant they received cancer treatment sooner than their priority classification required, documents filed with the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission reveal.

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## AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Outbreak fatality

Northern Territory News, General News, 27/05/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 1

One man has died due to the diphtheria outbreak in the Northern Territory. NT Health confirmed the man, from the Big Rivers region, died in Royal Darwin Hospital in April from diphtheria, according to autopsy results.

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### Diphtheria cases drop as mass vaccination rollout ramps up

SBS, Other, 26/05/2026, Emma Kellaway

Health officials say diphtheria case numbers are decreasing across remote parts of the NT and Central Australia but warn communities are 'not out of the woods' as a mass vaccination rollout continues. [...] On Friday 22 May, the Australian Centre for Disease Control declared the outbreak a Communicable Disease Incident of National Significance (CDINS).

Also reported by: [Australian Doctor \(Online\)](#), [Nursing Review \(Online\)](#).

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### Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 26/05/2026, Ashleigh Gillon

Northern Territory officials have confirmed that the first Australian death from diphtheria in eight years has occurred. NT Chief Health Officer Paul Burgess has pointed to falling vaccination rates since the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Federal Government has now committed more than \$7m to combat the diphtheria outbreak.

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### ABC Alice Springs, Breakfast, 26/05/2026, Stewart Brash

Interview with Paul Burgess, NT Chief Health Officer, about the recent Diphtheria outbreak in the State. Burgess admits that they are saddened by reports of fatalities from Diphtheria in the region. He admits that oftentimes, there are miscommunications about details that will be seen during these outbreaks in hospitals, and he admits that those are hard to avoid.

## FIVEAA, Mornings, 26/05/2026, Graeme Goodings

The Hep B Get Tested campaign is being launched to reach South Australians living with Hepatitis B to obtain a diagnosis and treatment after estimates revealed that 220,000 people in Australia have the condition, although nearly a third are currently undiagnosed. Hepatitis Australia CEO Lucy Clynes says they will focus on locations with higher rates of Hep B.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### TGA eyes wider access to psychedelic therapy

The Australian, General News, 27/05/2026, Penny Timms, Page 3

Patient access to psychedelic-led therapy is expected to increase and be cheaper after Australia's drug regulator recommended a rapid expansion of the field of medical practitioners who can conduct the therapy sessions. [...] Now, the Therapeutic Goods Administration says that team can be expanded, so long as the medical practitioner meets certain registrations and is appropriately trained in psychedelics.

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

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### New drug injects hope for diabetes

Herald Sun, General News, 27/05/2026, Samantha Landy, Page 13

A life-changing treatment that delays the onset of type 1 diabetes symptoms and the need for insulin injections has been approved for use in Australia. [...] Australians aged eight and older in the pre-symptomatic stage of the auto-immune condition will benefit from the Therapeutic Goods Administration's approval of the therapy.

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

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### Inside the vaults of Australia's legal MDMA and psilocybin magic mushroom trade

ABC Online, Other, 26/05/2026, Adelaide Miller and Eric Hao Zheng

For decades, MDMA, also known as ecstasy or molly, has been traded underground and illegally ingested in the shadows of parties and nightclubs. It is a hard drug known for its euphoric high, and side effects can be fatal. [...] A Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) spokesperson says 40 psychiatrists hold both MDMA and psilocybin approvals outside of clinical trials.

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### Medicinal cannabis goes mainstream, but safety concerns are growing

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 26/05/2026, Ruth Cooper

asty' telehealth consultations. Damaging marketing practices. [...] <sup>3</sup> The vast majority of available products – more than 1,000 – are unapproved and have not been assessed by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for safety, quality or efficacy.<sup>4</sup> They are most often prescribed for chronic pain, anxiety and sleep disorders and are increasingly used by older patients for chronic, long-term conditions.<sup>5</sup> Much of the rapid growth in medicinal cannabis use has occurred through pathways that were not initially designed to scale.

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## Navigating the Special Access Scheme

How does Australia ensure patients can access potentially life-saving or clinically necessary treatments that have not yet been approved for general use, without undermining the integrity of the medicines regulatory system? [...] In 2023, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) received more than 264,000 SAS submissions, compared to fewer than 60,000 a decade earlier.

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## **Karl Stefanovic issues apology to Pete Evans over media treatment**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 26/05/2026, Maisy Rae

Karl Stefanovic has issued a grovelling apology to controversial TV chef Pete Evans, as newly resurfaced footage shows the moment he mocked him over his anti-vaccine views. [...] His social media accounts were later permanently removed for repeated breaches of misinformation policies, and he was fined \$25,000 by Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration for promoting an unproven device as a Covid-19 treatment.

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## **This is exactly how many Australians are on GLP-1's.**

Mamamia, Other, 26/05/2026, Ailish Delaney

For the past few years, it has felt like everyone is talking about the new wave of GLP-1 receptor agonists. [...] Over the last couple of years, we've seen: The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) stepped in to ban compounded, custom-made replicas of these drugs to ensure patient safety.

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### **Cultivation laws in Australia: Key legislation changes**

Shepparton News Online, Other, 26/05/2026

With drug busts continuing to happen locally virtually every month despite calls for reform in Canberra, cannabis cultivation laws continue to be a point of confusion nationwide – and in all honesty, we're far from surprised. One minute you see reports about medicinal access opening up, and the next you're hearing about specially bred marijuana seeds being included in national seed banks.

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