



TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 29th May 2026

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[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](#)
| [Health Economics & Research](#) | [First Nations Health](#)
| [Public Hospital and Health Reform](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **ABC Online** and **The West Australian** (page 8) report that Health Minister Mark Butler has extended the quarantine period for six MV Hondius cruise ship passengers who arrived in Australia on May 15 until June 23 after two more ship passengers tested positive for the deadly infection overseas. *Also reported by:* [News.com.au](#), [9News](#), [Channel 10](#)
- **The Australian** (page 5) and **Sydney Morning Herald** (page 1) lead widespread coverage reporting that the Federal Government has launched legal action against 3M seeking more than \$2 billion in damages over the supply of firefighting foam containing "forever chemicals" PFAS. *Also reported by:* [Herald Sun](#), [The Guardian](#), [ABC News](#), [Channel 10](#)
- **The Herald Sun** (page 1) and **The Age** (page 4) report that a "Specialist Care Reform" blueprint developed by Victorian health authorities encourages Victorian public hospitals to prioritise "telehealth" appointments, cut "unnecessary" patient reviews and direct outpatient services to nurses in moves designed to relieve pressure on waiting lists and reduce costs.
- **The Australian** (page 1) reports that compliance audits conducted by advocacy group Active Watchful Waiting Inc allege that the ACON-run gender clinic The Kaleido Health Centre violated Australian Consumer Law and the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law by failing to disclose risks alongside advertisements for gender-affirming medical interventions.

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 6) reports that the Federal Government has announced a \$7.2 million funding package for contact tracing and diphtheria booster vaccines in Indigenous towns and remote communities throughout the Northern Territory, Western Australia, Queensland and South Australia, where local authorities say a lack of action on immunisation has hampered efforts to contain the recent diphtheria outbreak.
- **[Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 10) reports that social entrepreneur Michael Traill has called for the Federal Government to consider a "social impact investing" model to reform NDIS funding and its structure.

MINISTER BUTLER

700 choirs 'all in' on singing Oils classic for reconciliation

The Australian, General News, 29/05/2026, Andrew McMillen, Page 6

Midnight Oil's Indigenous land rights anthem, Beds Are Burning, has been sung and recorded by more than 41,000 people in 700 choirs across Australia as part of National Reconciliation Week, under the collective banner of Voices for Reconciliation. [...] Federal Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler made an appearance in Alice Springs alongside singers from Purple House - which provides dialysis services in 20 remote communities across the Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia - while female inmates at Dillwynia Correctional Centre in western Sydney got in on the action, led by members of Sydney Street Choir.

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

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Three more weeks of quarantine for hantavirus passengers

West Australian, General News, 29/05/2026, Andrew Greene, Page 8

Australian passengers who recently returned home from the deadly hantavirus-stricken MV Hondius cruise ship have been told they will have to remain in quarantine for another three weeks. [...] "As a result, on the basis of accepting that advice, it's likely an order will be made to extend that quarantine period to the 23 of June," Health Minister Mark Butler told reporters.

Also reported by: [Sound Telegraph \(Online\)](#), [Countryman \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Thenightly.com.au \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Hanta six held in lockdown

Cairns Post, General News, 29/05/2026, Page 9

The five Australians and one New Zealander who travelled on the hantavirus-hit cruise ship will remain quarantined at RAAF Base Pearce until early June, Health Minister Mark Butler says, as two additional reports of the condition emerge. The group are staying in the Covid-era quarantine facility in Bullsbrook after being evacuated from the MV Hondius cruise ship earlier this month.

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

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Push for urgent care

Canowindra News, General News, 28/05/2026, Cara Kemp, Page 3

Cowra Council is continuing its push for a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic, identifying improved healthcare access as a key priority in its draft 2026-2027 operational plan. [...] "Council is seeking clarity from Federal Health Minister Hon Mark Butler as to whether there are any plans for a clinic to be opened in Cowra or will our residents be among the one in five Australians who will not be within 20 minutes of a Medicare UCC," Council said.

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NDIS overhaul concerns

Swan Hill Guardian, General News, 29/05/2026, Peter Bannan, Page 14

A major overhaul of the National Disability Insurance Scheme has regional advocates warning vulnerable communities could be left behind. Health Minister Mark Butler has unveiled sweeping changes to rein in the soaring cost of the NDIS, declaring the scheme can no longer be treated as "an ATM for shonks, grifters, fraudsters and crooks".

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NDIS worry: "It'll be like COVID again"

Western Weekender Penrith, General News, 28/05/2026, Emily Chate, Page 17

NDIS participants across Penrith are becoming increasingly worried about their future as the Federal Government implements changes to the scheme. [...] "These reforms are about saving the NDIS itself," said Minister for NDIS Mark Butler.

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Australians on hantavirus-hit MV Hondius to be quarantined for 42 days

NEWS.com.au, Other, 28/05/2026, Ria Pandey

The five Australians and one New Zealander who travelled on the hantavirus-hit cruise ship will remain quarantined at RAAF Base Pearce until early June, Health Minister Mark Butler says, as two additional reports of the condition emerge. The group are staying in the Covid-era quarantine facility in Bullsbrook after being evacuated from the MV Hondius cruise ship earlier this month.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Weekly Times Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#).

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Bullsbrook quarantine extended for Australian passengers from hantavirus-hit cruise ship

7News.com.au, Other, 28/05/2026, Bryce Luff

Passengers evacuated from the hantavirus-infected MV Hondius cruise ship are set to remain in quarantine in Australia for an additional three weeks. [...] Know the news with the 7NEWS app: Download today "As a result, on the basis of accepting that advice, it is likely an order will be made to extend that quarantine period to June 23," Health Minister Mark Butler said on Thursday.

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Quarantine extended for Australian passengers of hantavirus cruise ship

9News, Other, 28/05/2026, Yashee Sharma

The five Australians and one New Zealander who were on board the hantavirus-infected MV Hondius will spend an extra three weeks in quarantine, Health Minister Mark Butler has confirmed. The group will remain in quarantine at the Bullsbrook Centre for National Resilience

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Hantavirus cruise ship passengers have WA quarantine period extended

ABC Online, Other, 28/05/2026, Lauren Smith

Six people who were on a cruise ship that was hit by an outbreak of hantavirus have had their quarantine period in the outer Perth suburb of Bullsbrook extended until June 23. The four Australian citizens, one permanent resident and one New Zealand citizen arrived at the Centre for National Resilience in Bullsbrook on May 15. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the decision to extend their quarantine period was made based on advice from health authorities after another two passengers, from Spain and the Netherlands, tested positive for the deadly infection.

[Read More](#)

Hantavirus: Cruise ship passengers' quarantine is extended as two new cases of deadly disease are reported

Six people who were aboard a cruise ship at the centre of a hantavirus outbreak have been ordered into an extended quarantine in Perth. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler confirmed on Thursday afternoon they will remain in quarantine until June 23, because there is still a risk they could develop the virus.

[Read More](#)

Australians from hantavirus-hit cruise issued extended quarantine orders

SBS, Other, 28/05/2026

A group of Australian residents and one New Zealander have had their quarantine period extended after being caught up in a deadly hantavirus outbreak on a cruise ship. Health Minister Mark Butler announced on Thursday the six people who have been in isolation at the National Resilience Facility in Western Australia since mid-May will remain there for the full 42-day quarantine period, as recommended by Australian health officials and the World Health Organisation.

[Read More](#)

Six hantavirus-stricken cruise ship passengers' quarantine extended after two more confirmed cases of the deadly disease

Sky News Australia, Other, 28/05/2026, Stamatina Notaras

Health authorities have extended the quarantine period for six cruise ship passengers in Australia by almost three weeks after two passengers, from Spain and the Netherlands, tested positive for the deadly hantavirus infection. [...] Initially scheduled to be released from quarantine on June 5, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has now extended the isolation order to June 23.

[Read More](#)

Big update for hantavirus-hit Aussies

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 28/05/2026

The five Australians and one New Zealander who travelled on the hantavirus-hit cruise ship will remain quarantined at RAAF Base Pearce until early June, Health Minister Mark Butler says, as two additional reports of the condition emerge. The group are staying in the Covid-era quarantine facility in Bullsbrook after being evacuated from the MV Hondius cruise ship earlier this month.

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Quarantine extended for passengers after virus outbreak

Canberra Times, Other, 28/05/2026, Tess Ikonomou

A group of Australian residents and one New Zealander have had their quarantine period extended after being caught up in a deadly hantavirus outbreak on a cruise ship. Health Minister Mark Butler announced on Thursday the six people who have been in isolation at the National Resilience Facility in Western Australia since mid-May after three fellow passengers died of the virus.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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

Ballarat Courier, Other, 28/05/2026, 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.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Blayney Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Braidwood Times \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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Medicare could soon automate 'administrative action' on PIPs

The Medical Republic, Other, 28/05/2026

A bill currently before the House of Representatives will, among other things, change the name of the legislation governing Medicare. [...] Speaking at the bill's second reading on Wednesday, health minister Mark Butler said the reforms will not alter the underlying policy settings of the existing programs like the eligibility criteria or the payment amounts.

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If this model works, why build residential aged care?

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/05/2026, Lauren Broomham

New care models are reshaping aged care Australia needs one new aged care home every three days for the next 20 years, according to Mark Butler. But here's the question more operators are starting to ask privately: why keep building traditional aged care homes at all?

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Home care operators tell Minister: no "price gouging"

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/05/2026, Caroline Egan

December Support at Home pricing data shows home care prices were only modestly higher than indicative prices published last October - yet operators are being forced to defend themselves. [...] But the welcome move was accompanied by claims of "price gouging" by the Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC News Tonight, 28/05/2026, Yvonne Yong

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler extends the quarantine for six hantavirus-exposed people in WA after two additional overseas cases emerge. Five Australians and one New Zealander remain in isolation after arriving on a repatriation flight from the Netherlands, with quarantine now set to continue until 23 June.

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Channel 10, 10 News, 28/05/2026, Sharyn Ghidella

Six passengers returning to Australia from a cruise ship exposed to hantavirus have their quarantine extended to a total of 42 days at the National Centre for Resilience. Health Minister Mark Butler says all six remain well and continue to test negative, but officials extend monitoring due to new overseas cases and the risk of infection during the full incubation period.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 28/05/2026, Peter Overton

Six people quarantined over a cruise ship hantavirus exposure will remain in isolation for at least another three weeks at a facility north of Perth. Health Minister Mark Butler says authorities will extend the quarantine to 23 June, aligning with the WHO's 42-day incubation guidance to manage ongoing infection risk.

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2GB, 14:00 News, 28/05/2026

Six Australians exposed to the Hantavirus will remain in quarantine at the National Centre of Resilience in Perth until 23 June as health officials extend the isolation period over concerns the virus may take more than 40 days to develop. Health Minister Mark Butler says authorities are acting cautiously to prevent potential spread.

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ABC NewsRadio, Drive, 28/05/2026, Dijana Damjanovic

Health Minister Mark Butler says six passengers in Perth exposed to hantavirus will remain in quarantine for an additional three weeks. The WHO is also calling for an immediate ceasefire in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo to help contain an Ebola outbreak.

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER MCALLISTER

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER RAE

Sharkie slams aged care gap delay

Singleton Argus, General News, 28/05/2026, Page 5

Federal Member for Mayo, Rebekha Sharkie, has slammed the government over its deferral of price caps on aged care services. [...] Last October, Ms Sharkie asked a question in Parliament of the Aged Care Minister, Sam Rae, about the increase in fees, and requested that price capping be brought forward.

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“We are not holding up our end of the bargain” on aged care

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/05/2026, Caroline Egan

In Parliament on Tuesday, Dr Monique Ryan recommended the Government implement three "immediate fixes" for aged care. [...] In February, Dr Ryan asked the Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae if the "once-in-a-generation reforms are just 'robo aged care?'"

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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

Jim Lloyd to help lead prostate cancer committee

Coast Community Pelican Post, General News, 28/05/2026, Page 29

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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DEPARTMENT

Law changes a threat for private midwives

Geraldton Guardian, General News, 29/05/2026, Sienna Seychell, Page 12

Cath Tan is the last remaining privately practising homebirth midwife in Geraldton, a role she fears could be stripped away from her when legislative changes come into force at the start of next year. [...] A spokesperson for the Federal Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said: "The Australian Government recognises that midwifery continuity of care is incredibly important and we will continue to work to make sure that it is accessible and supported."

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#), [Albany Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Countryman \(Online\)](#), [Sound Telegraph \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Pilbara News \(Online\)](#).

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Waiting game

Singleton Argus, General News, 28/05/2026, Amarli Wight, Page 1

Struggling to get a doctor's appointment in Strathalbyn has become an all-too-familiar story for many locals. [...] A spokesperson for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said that: "The Australian Government is committed to supporting the health needs of Australians living in rural and remote areas".

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Rapid weight loss linked to strange 'Ozempic Ear' complaints

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/05/2026, Danielle Gusmaroli

Users of fat-shedding and diabetes jabs are reporting alarming cases of "Ozempic ear", describing popping and crackling noises, echolike voices and even hearing the sounds of their own organs working after dramatic weight loss. [...] Figures from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing are thought to be the tip of the iceberg amid concern more are using anti-diabetic Semaglutide such as Mounjaro, Ozempic and Wegovy to control weight.

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

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Anika Wells fails to disclose husband's lobbying role on register of interests as taxpayers funded his travel junkets - and takes a donation from his employer

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 28/05/2026, Nicholas Comino

Anika Wells may have breached ministerial disclosure rules by failing to declare her husband's role at a lobbying firm that donated to her election campaign and operated within her ministerial portfolios. [...] From June 2019 to February 2024, Wells' husband, Finn McCarthy, worked for SEC Newgate, a federally registered lobbying firm whose clients included organisations connected to sectors overseen by Wells in her roles as Sports and Aged Care Minister.

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'Could this be perimenopause?' via Ogilvy

AdNews, Other, 28/05/2026

The Australian Government is pushing to de-stigmatise, normalise and provide resources about the often-disruptive symptoms of perimenopause and menopause in a campaign via Ogilvy. [...] It was developed for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and will be seen from this week nationally across TV, BVOD, OOH, social, audio, digital, Google search and integrated partnership channels.

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Department to 'face off' with angry staffers in Fair Work

Aged Care Housing News, Other, 28/05/2026

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is facing a s.739 staff dispute notice ...

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3M digs in for \$2b 'forever chemicals' fight

Australian Financial Review, Other, 28/05/2026, Callum Godde

Multinational manufacturer 3M is vowing to fight a multibillion-dollar lawsuit over widespread contamination of Australian defence sites with "forever chemicals".

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

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Will Australia follow the US and Canada on Ebola travel restrictions?

SBS, Other, 28/05/2026, Jack Revell

Countries including the United States and Canada have begun placing travel restrictions on travellers from Ebola areas. [...] The Health Department said it and the Australian Centre for Disease Control would continue to monitor the situation and will work with border agencies should the need arise to consider additional actions.

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Australian Government launches first national perimenopause awareness campaign via Ogilvy

Campaign Brief, Other, 28/05/2026, Ricki Green

As part of a push to de-stigmatise, normalise and provide resources about the often-disruptive symptoms of perimenopause and menopause, the Australian Government has today launched a new awareness campaign with creative developed by Ogilvy.[...] It was developed for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing with creative developed by Ogilvy, and will be seen from this week nationally across TV, BVOD, OOH, social, audio, digital, Google search and integrated partnership channels.

Also reported by: [B & T Online \(Online\)](#).

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Australian Government launches first campaign on perimenopause and menopause

Mi3, Other, 28/05/2026

After decades of silence, misdiagnosis and whispered conversations, the federal government has launched its first national campaign on perimenopause and menopause, aiming to drag a long-taboo health issue into public view. [...] This program was developed by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing in partnership with several agencies, including Fiftyfive5, Universal McCann, Fenton, Cultural Perspectives, Carbon, Hall and Partners.

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Australia sues firm for billions over forever chemicals

Canberra Times, Other, 28/05/2026, Callum Godde

A multinational manufacturing heavyweight is vowing to fight a multibillion-dollar lawsuit over widespread contamination of Australian defence sites with "forever chemicals". [...] While the science around the chemicals is evolving, the federal health department says they are associated with low birth weight in babies and altered levels of hormones.

Also reported by: [The Advocate \(Burnie\) \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Online\)](#), [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Michael West Media \(Online\)](#).

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Bulk billing consent changes still murky

The Medical Republic, Other, 28/05/2026, Holly Payne

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's answers on how assignment of benefit will work in aged care from 1 July haven't exactly cleared up the matter. With a little over one month to spare until new rules force GPs to start collecting and storing patient consent to be bulk billed, more information on how the process will look in aged care settings has finally arrived.

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[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Act now on King Eddies to help ease the aged-care crisis

West Australian, General News, 29/05/2026, Basil Zempilas, Page 13

When King Edward Memorial Hospital closes its doors in 2029 it should be turned into a transitional aged-care facility to help with WA's chronic shortage of aged-care beds. More aged-care beds will free up hospital beds, meaning shorter wait times in emergency departments and less ambulance ramping.

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Giving up their homes

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 29/05/2026, Dean Kerrison, Page 7

Gold Coast pensioners are reporting being forced to "count pennies" at supermarket check-outs as skyrocketing living costs vastly outpace fixed retirement incomes. Peak seniors' advocacy bodies warned a critical shortage of age-friendly housing was creating a secondary crisis, forcing elderly residents to choose between injury risk in unsuitable homes or community isolation.

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'Declining demand' behind decision to wind up Lyndoch's weekend respite service

Warrnambool Standard, Other, 28/05/2026, Katrina Lovell

Respect Group has decided to call time on a weekend respite program it had operated at Lyndoch aged care facility in Warrnambool. Chief executive officer and managing director Jason Binder said the three affected staff members had been offered alternative roles.

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Gap between intention and action on ageing in place

Community Care Review, Other, 28/05/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Research by Benetas has found just 6 per cent of people aged 65 and older have enrolled in fall prevention programs or strength training, despite 89 per cent indicating they want to remain at home as they age. Although 89 per cent of Australians aged 65 and over wish to remain at home as they age, few are engaging in preventative strategies that will allow this, new research commissioned by not-for-profit aged care provider Benetas shows.

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Cut to regional migration will impact aged care services

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/05/2026, Caroline Egan

Federal Government has quietly cut the skilled migration program for regional areas, where aged care operators struggle to meet mandatory staffing targets. "We are worried that any cuts to skilled migration will impact our ability to recruit enough workers to care for the surging number of older Australians, particularly in rural and regional markets," said Tom Symondson, CEO of the provider peak body, Ageing Australia

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Why this public aged care home is turning heads

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/05/2026, Caroline Egan

Design-led public aged care home transforms resident wellbeing Less than a year after opening, Camperdown Hospital's \$39.6 million aged care home is drawing national attention for its standout design. The 36-bed home , 190km west of Melbourne, includes gardens, a popular cafe, an events space, and seniors exercise park.

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New study to boost aged care resident activity

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/05/2026, Caroline Egan

Government backs aged care wellbeing research Can motivation science help aged care providers encourage residents to take part in exercise and wellbeing programs? The Federal Government is spending \$480,000 to fund part of the Australian Research Council (ARC)'s Linkage Project, a \$100 million program to address problems of national importance.

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[Back to Top](#)

DISABILITY AND CARERS

Social impact investors 'can fix NDIS'

Australian Financial Review, General News, 29/05/2026, Michael Smith, Page 10

Macquarie banker-turned-social entrepreneur Michael Traill is proposing a radical overhaul of the National Disability Insurance Scheme that would result in the mass consolidation of 270,000 providers into a handful of operators run by a syndicate of social impact investors.

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

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NDIS reform requires fewer, bigger providers if it is to succeed

Australian Financial Review, General News, 29/05/2026, Michael Traill and Lin Hatfield Dodds, Page 31

The federal budget put the NDIS at the centre of its savings task.

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NDIS suicide teen a hot potato between agencies, inquest told

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 29/05/2026, Alex Treacy, Page 12

Both the state child safety department and the National Disability Insurance Agency were aware a 16-year-old NDIS participant who died by suicide on the Gold Coast was living in a high-risk environment, but neither considered they had legal standing to act. A coronial inquest at Southport Magistrates Court this week has been examining the January 28, 2023 suicide of autistic Logan boy Quinn Cook, who had been residing alone with carers at a private rental on the sixth-floor of Centrepoint Resort Apartments at Surfers Paradise.

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Family fights for their NDIS supports

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 29/05/2026, Natalie Croxon, Page 8

A Dapto mother who fought for her daughter to have access to her NDIS-funded carers while in hospital, out of fear her little girl would die, wants to ensure no other family has to go through the same battle. Amarli Broome lives with GRIK 2, an extremely rare genetic condition that has left her with multiple disabilities, fragile health and the need for round-the-clock care and supervision.

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ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 28/05/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Melissa McIntosh, Shadow Minister for the NDIS, about NDIS reform pressures. McIntosh supports a Senate inquiry to examine the scheme and argues the government fails to address fraud and misuse while focusing too heavily on reducing participant numbers. She calls for full

transparency on modelling and raises concerns about cost shifting to states and rising anxiety among NDIS participants.

Interview continues on: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

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ABC NewsRadio, Mornings, 28/05/2026, Dijana Damjanovic

Interview with Martin Lavery, Chief Executive of Aruma Disability Services, about proposed NDIS participant reductions and support reforms. Lavery says the government must not shift people out of the NDIS until alternative state and territory programs operate properly, especially for children with developmental delays or autism. He also stresses the need to protect community participation and support for people with severe disabilities while reforming unregistered providers.

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[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

'Office ladies' giving meds

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 29/05/2026, Lucy Crock, Page 1

School office staff with no medical training are being left to administer complex medications to children as qualified nurses disappear from the education system, a local insider has claimed. Former school nurse Kathryn O'Connor said school administration workers were increasingly handing out prescription drugs to students, including her own daughter, who takes Ritalin daily for attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

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Health leaders back GP pharmacists

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 28/05/2026

Government urged to invest in general practice pharmacists to improve quality use of medicines. Representatives from pharmacy, GP and nursing organisations are calling for increased funding to be provided to embed pharmacists within general practice. Speaking at the 2026 GP Pharmacist Symposium on the Gold Coast today (Thursday 28 May 2026), Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) national president, Professor Mark

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[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Tobacco chief dismisses calls to slash excise

The Australian, General News, 29/05/2026, Elizabeth Pike and Lachlan Leeming, Page 4

The commissioner tasked with leading the crackdown on illicit tobacco and e-cigarettes says the excise on cigarettes is not a "priority" in addressing the boom in the black market, despite growing calls from figures including the NSW Premier for the commonwealth to take "a commonsense" approach to its soaring excise tax. Illicit Tobacco and E-cigarette Commissioner Amber Shuhyta told a Senate committee on Thursday her views on tobacco excise "haven't changed" despite the release of the 2026 budget figures, which forecast a 25 per cent collapse in revenue in the next six months.

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

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Resilience programs fail to help students eat better or exercise more

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 29/05/2026, Christopher Harris, Page 4

A first-of-its-kind NSW Health study has revealed broad school resilience programs fail to improve the health habits of teenagers, making zero difference to fruit or vegetable consumption or how much they

exercise. Over the past decade, ensuring wellbeing has increasingly become the responsibility of schools, with students versed in psychological terminology amid worsening rates of adolescent mental health distress.

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

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

Safe sex decline: Teenage condom use hits 30-year low as lack of education is questioned

Age, General News, 29/05/2026, Bridie Smith, Page 4

Sexual health education is failing to meet the needs of young Australians, leaving them at risk of misinformation and poor outcomes, according to a national study by La Trobe University. The findings of the largest study of teenage sexual health found that condom use was at its lowest recorded level since 1992, with one in 10 sexually active teens now using the withdrawal method as a form of contraception, and only half using a condom despite more than 80 per cent having access to condoms the last time they had sex.

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

The sad reality of how violence spikes

Daily Advertiser, General News, 29/05/2026, Taylor Dodge, Page 29

I love a good football game just as much as the next person. [...] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare statistics published last month reveal an increase in domestic violence reports of about 8 per cent across Australia - the highest rate since national reporting began.

Also reported by: [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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

EzyMart stores accused of selling illegal vapes shut down across Sydney CBD by NSW Health

7News.com.au, Other, 28/05/2026

More than a dozen stores have been closed in just one council area. Seventeen convenience stores and tobacconists have been shut down amid a recent crackdown on illegal nicotine. The stores across the City of Sydney Council have been hit with 90-day closures since the start of May, accused of selling illegal vapes and tobacco products.

[Read More](#)

Four EzyMart Sydney stores among 17 retailers shut over illegal tobacco, vape sale claims

ABC Online, Other, 28/05/2026, Sean Tarek Goodwin

A major Australian retail company will part ways with an independent operator after several Sydney stores were shut down for allegedly selling illegal tobacco and vapes. NSW Health enforcement officers have issued 90-day closure orders for 17 retailers across Sydney's CBD with four EzyMart convenience shops caught up in the crackdown.

[Read More](#)

Not All Clubs calls for a stand against gender-based violence with Wear Red round

ABC Online, Other, 28/05/2026, Rachel Stowers and Jo Trilling

Ripley, not her real name, is reading messages in the inbox of the Instagram account she co-founded, Not All Clubs. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, there were 48 female victims of domestic homicide in 2024–25.

[Read More](#)

One in 10 Australian teens relying on withdrawal method, half not using condoms as STIs rise

ABC Online, Other, 28/05/2026, Conor Duffy and Rhiannon Hobbins

A long-running survey of Australian teens has identified falling condom use and unwanted sex as major concerns for young people starting relationships. The lead researcher on the survey says young people are asking for better sex education in order to improve their health and relationships.

[Read More](#)

The politics of the Australian dream, part 2: Affordability, finance, and generational fairness

The Mandarin, Other, 28/05/2026, Ian Fitzgerald

How Australian leaders framed housing affordability, from Whitlam to Albanese, as ownership shifted from reward for work to a test of fairness. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, home ownership among 30-34-year-olds fell from 64% in 1971 to 50% in 2021, and among 25-29-year-olds from 50% to 36%.

[Read More](#)

Frequent social media use triples cannabis risk for teenagers, new study finds

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 28/05/2026, Staff writers

A new study from Toowoomba's University of Southern Queensland campus has revealed teenagers who frequently use social media are about three times more likely to try cannabis than those who use it occasionally. Published in the Journal of Substance Use and Addiction Treatment, the study links high social media use with increased impulsivity and risk-taking – behaviours strongly associated with experimenting with substances.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

FIVEAA, Afternoons, 28/05/2026, Stacey Lee

Interview with Kate Miranda, CEO of Asthma Australia, about the health risks linked to wood-fire heater smoke. Miranda explains that fine particle pollution from wood smoke can trigger asthma attacks and respiratory problems, particularly in children, older people, and those with existing conditions, even from distant sources or neighbouring homes.

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[Back to Top](#)

CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

A family in the shadow of mnd

The Australian, General News, 29/05/2026, Penny Timms, Page 12

Liam O'Meara's dad had always been a strong man. Peter played rugby union from his teens until his 30s, lining up for Souths Magpies in Brisbane.

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ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 28/05/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with A/Prof Sarah Zaman, Future Leader Fellow at the Heart Foundation, about 'broken heart syndrome' or takotsubo cardiomyopathy. Zaman explains that intense emotional, physical, or surgical stress can trigger a surge of stress hormones that temporarily stuns part of the heart muscle, causing symptoms that closely resemble a heart attack, including chest pain and breathlessness.

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

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ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 28/05/2026, Thomas Oriti

Interview with Chris Tanti, CEO of the Leukaemia Foundation, about scansxiety and the mental health pressures linked to blood cancer recovery. Tanti says many patients experience ongoing anxiety before

scans and blood tests because they fear relapse or treatment failure, while also coping with the physical and emotional impacts of cancer treatment.

Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

AFL star's health battle inspires wave of young men to open up

Age, General News, 29/05/2026, Bridget McArthur, Page 14

Mitch O'Leary looks into his phone camera, his face wet with tears as the sound of a footy match plays on a television off-screen. "I have struggled with anxiety and panic attacks and things like that, depersonalisation, for a good chunk of ...

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

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

Workers' compo overhaul flagged

Burnie Advocate, General News, 29/05/2026, Matt Maloney, Page 7

The Tasmanian government has flagged an overhaul of the state's workers' compensation system, amid an unsustainable surge in workplace psychological injury claims. Treasurer Eric Abetz has said the government would look at recent changes implemented in NSW, which have significantly narrowed the criteria for compensation claims for mental health reasons.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

IMMUNISATION

'Huge gaps' in adult diphtheria vaccination

The Australian, General News, 29/05/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 6

Adult diphtheria booster vaccines must be recommended and funded in the future for Aboriginal people on the national immunisation program, according to Indigenous health bodies that are battling a re-emergence of the bacterial disease previously considered virtually eradicated. Indigenous health groups say they were hamstrung from responding as quickly and vigorously as would have been ideal to the diphtheria outbreak that has now spread to four states.

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Roll up your sleeves ahead of flu season

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 29/05/2026, Page 7

Bendigo doctors are calling on central Victorians to get vaccinated as the region enters the peak season for influenza. Dr Tariq Jan Bhat warned that the flu was often underestimated.

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It's Infectious in South East

Border Watch, General News, 29/05/2026, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 13

A registered nurse from Adelaide is making her way through to Sydney, highlighting the importance of vaccinations. Melanie Brown travelled through the Limestone Coast in recent weeks, noting a number of cemetery plots for those who died from infectious diseases.

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

Diphtheria is a disease of poverty that has no place in modern

Australia. When we talk about Closing the Gap, this is the gap

The Guardian, Other, 29/05/2026, Donna Ah Chee

The diphtheria outbreak should shock Australia. Not simply because a disease once considered virtually eradicated has returned, but because of where it is spreading and why.

[Read More](#)

A bout of the flu can mean a lot more than a few days in bed for older Australians

The New Daily, Other, 28/05/2026

A trend of falling vaccination rates across all demographics could see older Australians in grave danger this flu season. The latest Australian influenza surveillance data shows almost 75.6 per cent of sequenced flu viruses this season have been H3N2 – the influenza A subtype that includes the emerging Subclade K, or 'Super K' strain.

[Read More](#)

'As serious as the road toll': brace for tough flu season, experts say

The Senior, Other, 28/05/2026, Carla Mascarenhas

Do not underestimate the flu this year. That's the message from health experts warning the dominant strain is linked to higher rates of hospitalisation and death in older Australians.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 28/05/2026, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort

A nasal spray flu vaccine could significantly improve vaccination rates among Australian children, according to the Royal Children's Hospital. Doctors say the spray, already used in the US and UK and approved by the TGA last November, could help address needle fear, with many parents reporting difficulty vaccinating their children.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

HESTA backs \$70m VC fund for med tech stars

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 29/05/2026, Tess Bennett, Page 19

Superannuation giant hesta is the major investor in a new venture capital firm that has banked close to \$60 million for its debut fund and will target early stage Australian health and medical technology start-ups.

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

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Taxpayers given the hospital handpass

West Australian, General News, 29/05/2026, Jessica Page, Page 20

Doctors and nurses have welcomed the State Government's intervention to keep the Mount Private Hospital open but the cost is yet to be revealed. Taxpayers will underwrite the purchase of the hospital which is in receivership from Healthscope by Bethesda Health Care, and lease some of the 170 beds.

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

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Labor's capital gains tax challenge deepens as biotech sector raises alarm

ABC Online, Other, 28/05/2026, Clare Armstrong

Labor's decision to push ahead with capital gains tax changes without settling critical details around carve-outs for startups has top-tier medical scientists reconsidering bringing their talents to Australia. The uncertainty around CGT changes flagged in the federal budget has rattled the biotechnology sector, with one entrepreneur revealing experts have rescinded their interest in joining his Australian company in the past fortnight.

[Read More](#)

'Sunscreen is not a luxury'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 28/05/2026, Kate Cowling

A peak medical body says it supports clearer sunscreen protection factor (SPF) labels to reduce consumer confusion. In a submission to the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA's) sunscreen review, the Australian Medical Association (AMA) said regulations

[Read More](#)

Experimental hepatitis B drug might offer 'functional cure' for a subset of patients

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 28/05/2026

A first-of-its-kind drug for hepatitis B is letting some patients stop treatment without showing signs of the dangerous liver virus, what's called a "functional cure," researchers reported Thursday. In two international studies, about 1 in 5 patients given the experimental drug saw their virus reduced to levels low enough for the immune system to keep in check.

[Read More](#)

Agreement made to keep Perth's Mount Hospital open

Medical Forum, Other, 28/05/2026

An agreement has been made which will see Bethesda Health Care become the operator of Perth's Mount Hospital. Receivers were brought in last year when Healthscope, which owns the facility and 36 other private hospitals across the country, went into receivership.

[Read More](#)

SBS, World News Australia, 28/05/2026, Catalina Florez

Monash University researchers are trialling a new therapy for premature babies with brain injuries, with the study testing whether stem cells from donated umbilical cord blood, delivered via intravenous infusion. The Monash Women and Children's Health Summit highlights emerging breakthroughs in the field.

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[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

A year of zero funding

Northern Territory News, General News, 29/05/2026, Fia Walsh, Page 8

Not a single dollar has flowed more than a year after the federal government committed \$842.6m to benefit Indigenous Australians in the remote Northern Territory, sparking criticism government bureaucracy was leaving communities in dire need. The Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment (NTRAI) agreement, signed last February, established a partnership between the NT, Canberra and Aboriginal Peak Organisations NT (APONT) to secure funding until 2031.

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Screening Indigenous people for this heart condition at 55 can prevent strokes and save lives

Medicine Today, Other, 28/05/2026, Vita Christie, Katrina Ward and Kylie Gwynne

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.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 28/05/2026, Emma Reballato and James Glenday

The Northern Territory's iconic Barunga Festival will officially proceed as scheduled next month despite an intensifying, record-breaking domestic diphtheria outbreak. The massive three-day long-weekend event, which draws thousands of regional and international visitors to the remote community of Barunga, stands as one of the largest and most culturally significant Indigenous showcases of First Nations music, sport, and traditional dance in Australia.

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[Back to Top](#)

PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Victoria looks to AI to rein in lengthy wait for urgent care

Age, General News, 29/05/2026, Henrietta Cook, Page 4

Victorians are waiting up to four years to access specialist care in the state's public hospitals, triggering a state government overhaul that will create regional waitlists and use AI to flag urgent cases. Under the changes, which have been outlined in a new Department of Health report, more specialist appointments would be shifted to nurses to take pressure off doctors.

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Outpatient care cuts

Herald Sun, General News, 29/05/2026, Sarah Booth, Page 1

Victorian public hospitals will be encouraged to prioritise "telehealth" options, cut "unnecessary" review appointments and shift more outpatient services to nurses under major reforms to public specialist care. The changes designed to slash bloated waiting lists, costs and inconsistencies between health services were detailed in a new health department blueprint.

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

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Labor slams 'broken promises' on Burnie hospital funding

Hobart Mercury, General News, 29/05/2026, David Killick, Page 6

Labor has accused the state government of short-changing the budget for upgrades to the North West Regional Hospital in Burnie. Shadow treasurer Dean Winter said the money for the government's master plan could not be found in the 2026-27 state budget handed down last week.

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Frontline fatigue

Ballarat Courier, General News, 29/05/2026, Ben Silvester, Page 1

Staff working under significant pressure at Ballarat Base Hospital's emergency department have been praised for their efforts as the hospital records the longest wait times in Victoria. Government figures for January to March revealed many regional hospitals struggling to deliver timely emergency care, elective surgery and ambulance transfers despite billions in government hospital funding. While Ballarat's wait times were the longest in the state, Bendigo Health and Albury Wodonga Health had surgery wait times nearly double the statewide average.

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

Claims key hospital funding is missing from budget

Burnie Advocate, General News, 29/05/2026, Matt Maloney, Page 6

The government has been forced to defend its funding model for the North West Regional Hospital (NWRH) master plan after the opposition accused it of breaking a key election promise to cancer patients. In question time, Labor's treasury spokesman Dean Winter said the government made a further \$117 million commitment to fast-track stage 1 of the hospital's master plan, including more cancer, dialysis, and diagnostic services.

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

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ABC, ABC News, 28/05/2026, Jeremy Fernandez

A new paediatrics building at Westmead Hospital adds 14 beds, bringing the total to 290, as part of efforts to expand capacity for children's healthcare in Sydney's west. While Health Minister Ryan Park says the facility allows for future growth, concerns remain that it may not ease pressure in a rapidly growing region with increasing demand.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 28/05/2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

A week out from the state budget, SA Health Minister Blair Boyer highlights a more than \$10b health spend, including a \$22m 16-bed centre to ease pressure on overcrowded hospitals. The government says the investment shows commitment to fixing the struggling system, while critics argue it has delivered little visible improvement.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 28/05/2026, Brenton Ragless

SA's health spending has surpassed \$10b for the first time, with Health Minister Blair Boyer noting \$10.7b this financial year, including a \$22m mental health facility at Lyell McEwin Hospital. Critics argue it has had little impact so far, with much of the money going to wages.

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[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Gender clinic 'silent on risks'

The Australian, General News, 29/05/2026, Stephen Rice, Page 1

Australia's most powerful transgender lobby group, ACON, runs a gender clinic in Sydney that systematically hides potentially lifethreatening medical risks from patients in its advertising, complaints filed with the national health and corporate regulators allege. The Kaleido Health Centre, which provides gender-affirming hormone therapy and surgical referrals to transgender patients including children operates as a trading name of ACON Health Centre and has the same chief executive officer and chair/president as the trans advocacy group.

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Details emerge on Covid funerals

Herald Sun, General News, 29/05/2026, Shannon Deery, Page 8

Ambulance Victoria actively promoted an illegal funeral gathering to thousands of employees while millions of Victorians were subject to harsh Covid lockdowns, it can be revealed. Details have emerged surrounding two illegal funeral gatherings organised at the height of Covid in September 2021 to honour two paramedics who died by suicide.

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Get tough on those who target workers: Libs

Canberra Times, General News, 29/05/2026, Lanie Tindale, Page 8

The Canberra Liberals want the ACT government to consider following NSW and impose tougher penalties on people that assault frontline health and emergency workers. Occupational violence in Canberra's public hospitals gained public attention when a patient with a knife held eight staff hostage in the emergency department on April 22.

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

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Wings of hope and joy

Daily Liberal, General News, 29/05/2026, Elizabeth Anderson, Page 1

Delivering babies in the back of a plane and transporting a cabin full of injured footy players is all in a day's work for Karen Barlow. The senior flight nurse with the Royal Flying Doctor Service has spent nearly three decades in the sky, providing critical care to regional Australia.

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Payroll fail

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 29/05/2026, Neil Watkinson, Page 1

Social services provider Southern Cross Care WA is paying out almost \$5.4 million to nearly 2000 current and former workers who were underpaid over a period of more than eight years. The back-payments are being made as part of an enforceable undertaking with Fair Work Ombudsman Anna Booth.

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

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Inside the high-fidelity technology simulating real-world hospital care: UNE unveils clinical laboratories

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 28/05/2026, Heath Forsyth

The University of New England (UNE) has officially opened its new wing of clinical nursing laboratories on the Armidale campus. The purpose-built facility represents a tangible investment in the next generation of healthcare professionals.

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[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Use consults to lobby patients on the danger of pharmacist prescribing,

says former RACGP vice-president

Australian Doctor, Other, 28/05/2026

Pharmacist prescribing dominated audience questions at the recent RACGP Practice Owners Conference. The rise of pharmacists prescribing S4 drugs may require GPs to break a professional taboo and speak directly to patients about politics during consultations, a prominent GP says.

[Read More](#)

AI's role in medicine and how much we can rely on it

SBS, Other, 28/05/2026, Anne Parisianne

Artificial intelligence, or AI, has long been used in the medical field to read imaging results such as X-rays and CT scans. This form of AI differs from AI-based large language models (LLMs) like ChatGPT.

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[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

AUSTRALIAN CDC

Roles cut as units merge

Canberra Times, General News, 29/05/2026, Dana Daniel, Page 1

The CSIRO has unveiled plans to cut 59 roles as part of a merger of its health and biosecurity and Australian animal health laboratory research units. A spokesperson said the new Biosecurity Research Unit "better positions CSIRO to make the most of its unique combination of expertise at the intersection of animal, human and plant health, as well as shared infrastructure including ACDP."

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Uganda closes border

Canberra Times, International News, 29/05/2026, Page 26

Uganda has closed its border with neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo with immediate effect to try to limit the spread of Ebola, Uganda's government says. The border will be closed for four weeks, except for Ebola response teams, humanitarian and security operations, and food and cargo transport, senior health official Diana Atwine told a press conference.

Also reported by: [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Sunraysia Daily \(Mildura\)](#).

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Mark on leg morphed into flesh-eating ulcer

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 29/05/2026, Zoe De Koning, Page 8

Trevor Nock didn't pay attention to the wound on the back of his calf until it had grown to the size of a 50c coin. By then, a flesh-eating disease had already chewed deeply into his skin.

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Please, be vigilant

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 29/05/2026, Page 26

Torquay's Trevor Nock just didn't pay close attention to the small wound on the back of his leg. But months later, during a medical procedure, he discovered he had a flesh-eating disease.

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'Among the things he feared most was death': the doctors and nurses dying on the Ebola frontline

The Guardian, Other, 28/05/2026

When Dr Vladimir Maduali died of Ebola in the early hours of Sunday morning, he was the fourth member of staff at his hospital to be killed by the disease in as many days. Two days later, his colleague Dr Tibenderana Katho Blaise also died of the disease at the Bunia Evangelical medical centre, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

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[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

New 'game-changing' diabetes treatment

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 29/05/2026, Farid Farid, Page 8

Pricking the skin with insulin syringes could be a thing of the past for more than 145,000 Australians living with type 1 diabetes due to the approval of a breakthrough treatment. [...] It has now been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration to delay the onset of stage three type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1D) in adult and paediatric patients aged eight and older living with stage 2.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#).

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New therapy to delay onset of type 1 diabetes

Medical Forum, Other, 28/05/2026

A new medicine that slows the progression of the early stage of type 1 diabetes (T1D) can now be prescribed in Australia. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has registered Tzield (teplizumab) which can delay the onset of stage 3 type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1D).

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[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

Coles responds after 75c 'contaminated' quick buy sparks health concerns

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 28/05/2026, Preston Potts,

A 'human error' has been rectified after a man almost purchased a packet of cut-open chips at a Coles supermarket. [...] Under the Food Act 1984 (Vic) and the FSANZ Food Standards Code, selling a ready-to-eat food with compromised packaging is unlawful.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

AICIS

Rowland launches \$2bn 'forever chemicals' suit

The Australian, General News, 29/05/2026, Sarah Ison and Ben Packham, Page 5

The federal government is seeking more than \$2bn in damages from a company that manufactured PFAS firefighting foams containing "forever chemicals" responsible for contaminating dozens of locations across Australia, in the most significant legal action ever undertaken by the commonwealth and the Defence Department. Off the back of other multibillion-dollar settlements paid out by manufacturing company 3M in lawsuits around the world, Attorney-General Michelle Rowland said Australians expected their government to stand up for them in the same way.

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

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\$2b poison battle

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 29/05/2026, Carrie Fellner, Page 1

A \$2 billion lawsuit launched by the federal government against Wall Street giant 3M company over its firefighting foam containing "forever chemicals" has blindsided the communities hit with the fallout of the contamination disaster. In the largest legal claim ever brought by the Commonwealth, 3M is being sued in the Federal Court of Australia, accused of covering up the harms of its perand polyfluoroalkyl chemicals (PFAS), which were used for decades by the Department of Defence in firefighting foam.

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

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Why 3M could be the new James Hardie

Canberra Times, Editorials, 29/05/2026, Page 14

The Commonwealth is suing the manufacturer of the firefighting foam containing so-called "forever chemicals" for \$2 billion in damages, and it's about time. The federal government is alleging 3M and 3M Australia, a global manufacturing and science conglomerate, withheld its own environmental laboratory testing that showed there were significant adverse environmental effects linked to its own PFAS products.

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

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3M hit with \$2bn lawsuit

Herald Sun, General News, 29/05/2026, Ellen Ransley, Page 11

The federal government is seeking \$2bn in damages from the multinational manufacturer of a "forever chemical" that contaminated more than two dozen defence sites. In the largest claim ever lodged by the Commonwealth, the government has accused Wall Street giant 3M Company of engaging in a cover-up over the effects of its per-and polyfluoroalkyl chemicals (PFAS).

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

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Bullsbrook locals fear Feds won't pass on any PFAS money

West Australian, General News, 29/05/2026, Oliver Lane, Page 6

WA residents impacted by PFAS contamination have called for any money won in a landmark lawsuit against a manufacturer of the firefighting foam to be poured back into their semirural community. Federal Attorney-General Michelle Rowland announced yesterday the Federal Government would be seeking \$2 billion in damages from firefighting foam manufacturer 3M.

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

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Feds seek \$2bn PFAS damages from 3M

Hobart Mercury, General News, 29/05/2026, Ria Pandey, Page 16

The Albanese government is seeking \$2bn in damages from science and innovation conglomerate 3M Australia over PFAS contamination at defence bases across Australia. PFAS is a group of

manufactured chemicals dubbed 'forever chemicals' for their inability to break down in the human body or environment.

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

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Federal government sues fire foam manufacturer for \$2bn

Northern Territory News, General News, 29/05/2026, Gary Shipway, Page 8

The federal government is seeking more than \$2bn in damages from the manufacturer of the firefighting foam containing PFAS chemicals that contaminated Territory defence bases. Federal Attorney-General, Michelle Rowland said legal action had begun in the Federal Court against 3M Australia Pty Ltd and 3M Company for damages to recover costs relating to perand poly-fluoroaklyl substances (PFAS) contamination at 28 Defence bases across Australia.

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

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Australia launches \$2b PFAS bombshell

Canberra Times, General News, 29/05/2026, Callum Godde, Page 12

A multinational manufacturing heavyweight is vowing to fight a multibillion-dollar lawsuit over widespread contamination of Australian defence sites with "forever chemicals". The federal government is suing 3M for more than \$2 billion to recover costs from per and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in firefighting foam that contaminated 28 defence bases.

Also reported by: [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#).

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\$2B PFAS bombshell

Newcastle Herald, General News, 29/05/2026, Page 1

The Australian government is suing US chemical giant 3M for \$2 billion for damages caused by so-called forever chemicals used in firefighting foam at Williamstown RAAF base and other bases around Australia. The government has alleged in the Federal Court that 3M withheld environmental testing data that showed there were significant adverse environmental effects associated with its per- and polyfluoroalkyl chemicals (PFAS).

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

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\$2bn PFAS lawsuit launched

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 29/05/2026, Michael Nolan, Page 1

The Australian government is suing PFAS manufacturer 3M for \$2bn, claiming it withheld information about the toxic chemicals contained in its firefighting foams. The suit was filed in the Federal Court and named 3M Australia Pty Ltd and 3M Company, seeking damages arising from per- and poly-fluoroaklyl substances (PFAS) contamination at 28 Defence bases across Australia including Swartz Barracks at Oakey.

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

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Federal government to sue 3M Australia over firefighting foam that contained PFAS

ABC Online, Other, 28/05/2026, Bruce Mackenzie

The Commonwealth is suing the manufacturer of a firefighting foam containing PFAS chemicals that

contaminated 28 Defence bases across Australia. Attorney-General Michelle Rowland has released a statement confirming the government has launched legal action against 3M Australia in the Federal Court.

[Read More](#)

Australia launches record \$1.4B lawsuit against 3M over 'forever chemicals' at defense bases

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 28/05/2026

Australia is suing U.S. conglomerate 3M for more than 2 billion Australian dollars (\$1.4 billion) over so-called "forever chemical" contamination from firefighting foam at defense bases. The government said on Thursday. The government's largest-ever claim for compensation relates to contamination with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, known as PFAS, at 28 bases. Human-made PFAS are commonly referred to as "forever chemicals" because they don't break down naturally.

Also reported by: [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

\$2 billion federal gov't lawsuit against PFAS manufacturer a 'huge win': Thorpe

National Indigenous Times, Other, 28/05/2026

A federal government decision to seek \$2 billion in damages from a US company to recover costs linked to "forever chemicals" used in firefighting foam has been welcomed by Senator Lidia Thorpe. On Thursday, Attorney-General Michelle Rowland announced the government would launch the largest legal claim ever brought by the Commonwealth against US giant 3M, which is accused of engaging in a cover-up over the effects of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) used in firefighting foam at 28 defence bases across Australia.

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Mapped: The 'forever chemical' sites at the centre of Australia's \$2bn legal fight

SBS, Other, 28/05/2026

A total of 28 sites across Australia are in the middle of the government's largest legal claim ever. From regional Queensland to outer Melbourne, Defence sites across Australia are at the centre of a growing legal and environmental battle over PFAS 'forever chemicals' linked to the manufacturing company 3M.

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3M to 'Defend ourselves' in historic \$2 billion legal challenge over 'forever chemicals'

SBS, Other, 28/05/2026, Jack Revell

The government says a US manufacturer withheld information about its toxic products that have caused health and land damage. The attorney-general has announced a \$2 billion legal case against 3M over its use of forever chemicals.

[Read More](#)

Federal government sues 3M over PFAS contamination

SBS, Other, 28/05/2026, Sydney Lang

The Australian government is suing multinational industrial company 3M in the largest ever claim brought by the Commonwealth. The legal action will seek damages in relation to PFAS contamination across defence sites throughout Australia, alleging the company withheld information about their products.

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Australia sues 3M for record-breaking sum over Pfas 'forever chemicals' in firefighting foam

The Guardian, Other, 28/05/2026

The Australian government said on Thursday it had launched legal action against the multinational

manufacturer 3M over Pfas chemical contamination at defence bases, seeking damages of more than \$2bn (US\$1.4bn). The attorney general, Michelle Rowland, said the use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, known as "forever chemicals", in firefighting foam had caused major environmental and economic harm, resulting in the largest legal claim ever brought by the federal government.

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Major \$2bn PFAS legal battle launched

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 28/05/2026

The Albanese government is seeking \$2bn in damages from science and innovation conglomerate 3M Australia over PFAS contamination at defence bases across Australia. PFAS is a group of manufactured chemicals dubbed 'forever chemicals' for their inability to break down in the human body or environment.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC National News, 28/05/2026, Joe O'Brien

The federal government has launched its largest civil case, suing multinational company 3M for \$2b over PFAS contamination across Australia. It alleges 3M withheld information about the dangers of PFAS, also known as "forever chemicals," which have polluted multiple sites nationwide.

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ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 28/05/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Denis O'Carroll, Deputy Head of School (Research) in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UNSW Sydney, about Australia's \$2b lawsuit against 3M over contamination from PFAS chemicals. O'Carroll explains that PFAS persist in the environment, accumulate in humans and wildlife, and appear in products like firefighting foam, carpets, and food packaging, making them a widespread environmental concern.

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Channel 10, 10 News, 28/05/2026, Sharyn Ghidella

The federal government is suing multinational company 3M over PFAS contamination at 28 defence sites across Australia, including bases in Qld like Townsville, Amberley, and Oakey. The Commonwealth alleges 3M misled the public about the toxicity of PFAS in firefighting foam and is seeking more than \$2b to cover past and future cleanup costs.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 28/05/2026, Michael Thomson

Residents of Bullsbrook, including Colin Butland, say they have been impacted by PFAS contamination after being told their drinking water was affected in 2016. The community could be affected by a \$2b federal lawsuit against 3M over alleged environmental damage linked to the 'forever chemicals.'

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Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 28/05/2026, Ashleigh Gillon

Australia is suing 3M over PFAS-containing firefighting foam, alleging the company misled authorities and withheld information about the chemicals' long-term environmental risks. The Commonwealth is seeking more than \$2b in damages, saying PFAS contamination has affected dozens of communities and already costs over \$1b to investigate and clean up Defence sites.

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3AW, Drive, 28/05/2026, Jacqui Felgate

Interview with Oliver Jones, Professor of Chemistry at RMIT University, about the Australian government's lawsuit against 3M over PFAS contamination. Jones explains that PFAS and plastics are different substances, with PFAS persisting in the environment from strong carbon-fluorine bonds. He says that the allegations against 3M focus on claims that the company knew PFAS in firefighting foam could contaminate groundwater near defence sites and withheld information about the risks.

ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 28/05/2026, Thomas Oriti

Interview with Carrie Fellner, Investigative Reporter at the Sydney Morning Herald, about Australia's lawsuit against 3M over PFAS contamination linked to firefighting foam. Fellner says international research increasingly connects PFAS chemicals to cancer, immune suppression, fertility issues, and high cholesterol, while accusing the Australian government of downplaying health risks despite growing global concern.

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

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