



TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 2nd June 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 3) reports Owen Smith, CEO of Bristol Myers Squibb Australia who met with Minister for Health Mark Butler, has expressed concerns that Australia risks being bypassed for new medical treatments due to low prices and a lengthy approvals system for listings on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 3) reports families are expressing concern that proposed Federal Government reforms to the National Disability Insurance Scheme will force them to utilize large agencies with high staff turnover rather than trusted independent sole traders for the care of disabled children.
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports the NSW Biocontainment Centre at Westmead Health Precinct operates as Australia's first purpose-built level-four facility designed to isolate and treat rare, high-consequence infectious diseases like Ebola and hantavirus.
- **[The West Australian](#)** (page 1) reports ambulance ramping in WA reached a record 5383 hours for the month ahead of the peak winter season, which Premier Roger Cook attributed to an ageing population and a lack of available aged care beds preventing the discharge of over 350 hospital patients.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 5) reports the Victorian Department of Health has been granted stronger powers to inspect clinics and cancel registrations following serious industry clinical errors in the

IVF sector in the last year.

- **The Adelaide Advertiser** (page 4) reports a clinical trial, described as one of the most significant outcomes for the pancreatic cancer in decades, found that the daily pill daraxonrasib nearly doubled median overall survival times to compared to a chemotherapy control group.
- **The Canberra Times** (online) reports Health Minister Mark Butler and Aged Care Minister Sam Rae noted that while wait times for at-home aged care have decreased at every priority level due to a twenty-five per cent annual increase in packages, satisfying historic demand remains a difficult task for the Federal Government as the population ages, and a waitlist of 100,000 people remains for approval.
- **The Medical Republic** and **ABC Western Queensland** reports Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride announced the expansion of the Medicare Mental Health Check-in, a free and referral-free national digital mental health service delivered in partnership with St Vincent's Health Australia. Assistant Minister for Health Rebecca White says the service will make access to early mental health treatment easier for Australians.

MINISTER BUTLER

US pharma vents over pricing and approvals

Australian Financial Review, General News, 02/06/2026, Michael Smith, Page 3

One of the world's biggest drug companies says Australia risks being abandoned as a market for new medicines because it has one of the most prohibitive pricing and approvals systems.

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

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'Moral question': despairing mum slams NDIS community cuts

The Australian, General News, 02/06/2026, Sarah Ison, Page 7

Families are urging against NDIS changes they fear would force them to accept a revolving door of poorly trained workers for the personal care of their disabled children, warning the government's NDIS reforms will make little difference to costs by shifting the market away from independent workers to big agencies. [...] The changes are among a raft of cost-saving measures, unveiled by NDIS and Health Minister Mark Butler earlier this year, projected to save \$185bn over the decade and to be achieved by diverting 160,000 people off the scheme while tightening rules around the disability market.

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The 'terrifying' wait on NDIS changes

Canberra Times, General News, 02/06/2026, Dana Daniel, Page 5

Like many Australians, Sarah* never imagined she would end up with a life-altering disability. [...] Legislation to implement the changes, announced by Health Minister Mark Butler last month as "necessary" to prevent the scheme from ballooning to \$70 billion a year by 2030, is before a Senate inquiry.

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'They don't want to work'

Launceston Examiner, General News, 02/06/2026, Lauren Richardson, Page 1

Tasmania's seniors are unhappy with proposed changes to private health insurance, with one saying it's the government's way of protecting young people who don't want to work. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the additional rebate was not the best way to spend taxpayers' dollars on behalf of older Australians when so much heavy lifting was needed in aged care.

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

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Labor minister slams federal counterparts as aged-care feud deepens

The Australian, Other, 01/06/2026, Sarah Ison & Lachlan Leeming

Anthony Albanese is being accused of mishandling of aged care following revelations the national homecare waiting list is sitting at more than 100,000, with backlash from state governments set to exacerbate tensions over the management of social programs. [...] The country's health ministers, including federal Health Minister Mark Butler, last month reached a joint agreement that an interstate taskforce would be formed to analyse how to reduce the number of patients exceeding their estimated discharge dates from hospital.

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Tamara was grappling with a cancer diagnosis. Then came the \$35,000 in medical bills

The Age, Other, 01/06/2026, Melissa Cunningham

Tamara Macpherson was already grappling with a breast cancer diagnosis when she was dealt another devastating blow, in the form of a \$35,000 medical bill. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said making specialists more affordable was a priority for the government.

Also reported by: [WA Today \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#).

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Thousands of older Australians still waiting for care

Canberra Times, Other, 01/06/2026, Andrew Brown

More than 100,000 people are still on wait lists for in-home aged care despite the wait times falling. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler conceded it was a difficult task to reduce the waitlist as the population ages.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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International Ebola cases climbing 'fast' but Australia won't impose travel restrictions

ABC Online, Other, 01/06/2026, Stephanie Dalzell & Paige Cockburn

The federal government will not impose border restrictions on travellers from Ebola-stricken countries despite new suspected cases in Italy and Brazil, as the worsening outbreak prompts other countries to take action to try to minimise the spread of the disease. Health minister Mark Butler said while suspected case numbers and deaths were "climbing very fast," at this stage Australia had no plans to impose travel restrictions or quarantine requirements from affected countries.

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Additional \$22.9m in research grants for nation's biggest killer

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 01/06/2026

For projects to achieve life-improving treatments for people as they age, the Australian Government has announced an additional \$22.9m in research grants into dementia, the leading cause of death in Australia. [...] "Research is key," Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler said.

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Cancer Council launches new bowel cancer screening campaign

Mediaweek, Other, 01/06/2026, Natasha Lee

Cancer Council Australia and the Australian Government have launched a new campaign for the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program to increase participation in bowel cancer screening across Australia. [...] Focus on screening participation Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the campaign is designed to encourage more Australians to complete the screening test.

Also reported by: [Melbourne Insider \(Online\)](#), [Mi3 \(Online\)](#).

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CPI rises 4.2%, Medicare rises 2.6%

The Medical Republic, Other, 01/06/2026, Holly Payne

The federal government may have approved a higher-than-usual increase to private health premiums this year in recognition of the rising costs of providing healthcare, but primary care has not been so lucky. [...] "This is moderately higher than last year's increase of 3.73% and reflects the rising costs of providing medical and hospital services, which rose 5 per cent last financial year," federal health minister Mark Butler said at the time.

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How changes to health insurance could impact the public system: professor

The Senior, Other, 01/06/2026, Carla Mascarenhas

A leading health expert has downplayed the impact to the public health system if the federal government's controversial changes to the private health insurance rebate pass parliament. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler estimated older Australians will pay an extra \$226 to \$255 a year on average and about 44,000 Australians would drop private health insurance if the changes proceed.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 01/06/2026, Angela Cox

The Federal Government is adding two leukaemia medicines to the PBS from July, dramatically cutting out-of-pocket costs for eligible patients. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says it will be an enormous life-changing benefit to as many as 1200 patients every single year.

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

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2BS, 12:00 News, 01/06/2026

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says they are monitoring a growing Ebola outbreak in Central Africa. More than 200 people are believed to have died and over 1100 people are suspected to have been infected in one of the worst outbreaks of the virus.

Similar coverage reported by: [2SM \(Sydney\)](#), [Cruze FM 93.5 \(Port Macquarie\)](#), [Triple Z \(Lismore\)](#),

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Artsound FM, 08:00 AIR News ACT Edition, 01/06/2026

Three new fully bulk-billing medical clinics are on track to open across the Australian Capital Territory by the end of June, providing a massive boost to affordable primary healthcare in the region. Announcing the rollout, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler emphasised that the Commonwealth is deeply committed to funding and supporting accessible, zero-out-of-pocket medical services in the nation's capital.

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2GB, 19:00 News, 01/06/2026

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has confirmed the Federal Government is not currently considering travel restrictions for African countries at the centre of an Ebola outbreak. It comes as new suspected cases were detected in Brazil and Italy.

Also reported by: [3AW \(Melbourne\)](#),

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2GB, Mornings, 01/06/2026, Mark Levy

From today, two new medications join the Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme, cutting the price of a script to just \$25. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the change will be life-changing for leukaemia patients.

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ABC NewsRadio, Mornings, 01/06/2026, Rhiannon Elston

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says there is more work to do in the home aged care space. It

comes after new data shows more than 100,000 Australians are still on wait lists for in-home aged care, despite wait times falling.

Also reported by: [2MCE \(Orange\)](#), [ABC Newcastle \(Newcastle\)](#), [Curtin FM \(Perth\)](#).

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ABC Radio Brisbane, Drive, 01/06/2026, Ellen Fanning

Quarterly data from the Health Department reveals more than 100,000 older people are still waiting for approved packages. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says substantial work is needed to bridge the care gap.

Also reported by: [ABC Gold Coast \(Gold Coast\)](#), [ABC Sunshine Coast \(Sunshine Coast\)](#), [ABC Far North \(Cairns\)](#).

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ABC Radio Melbourne, Drive, 01/06/2026, Charlie Pickering

Interview with Council On The Ageing CEO Patricia Sparrow, on new data from the Federal Government, revealing that more than 100,000 older Australians are still waiting for a Support at Home package. An audio clip of Federal Health Minister Mark Butler was played, in which he states that demand for Support at Home packages is still high and that they do not have any higher priority than a good aged care system. Sparrow says it is good to see that the wait times are reduced, and they need to make sure the packages continue to be released and support older Australians.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 01/06/2026, Sally Sara

Pre-recorded interview with Federal Health and NDIS Minister Mark Butler. Butler explains that one of the key features of the budget is providing first-time homeowners a good crack at getting a home; however, they have recognised that there is a tight budget to come up with and quite complex. He states that they understand some are not in favour of the provided Federal budget, as some households are experiencing pressure.

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

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

No relevant coverage

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MINISTER RAE

WA turns to Canberra for aged-care assistance

West Australian, General News, 02/06/2026, Jessica Page, Page 10

Perth is one of the targets of the latest round of Commonwealth grants aiming to fast-track more aged-care beds, after recent figures warned the shortfall is getting worse. Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said providers applying for the money must be willing to build and open more beds within two years.

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

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Over 100k approved seniors waiting for SaH

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 01/06/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

New aged care data shows 100,191 people waiting for ongoing Support at Home funding, and a quarterly boost in the number of assessments completed. [...] Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam

Rae called the numbers encouraging but acknowledged there was more work to do.

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Thousands of older Australians still waiting for care

Canberra Times, Other, 01/06/2026, Andrew Brown

More than 100,000 people are still on wait lists for in-home aged care despite the wait times falling. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler conceded it was a difficult task to reduce the waitlist as the population ages.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [MSN Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Labor minister slams federal counterparts as aged-care feud deepens

The Australian, Other, 01/06/2026, Sarah Ison & Lachlan Leeming

Anthony Albanese is being accused of mishandling of aged care following revelations the national homecare waiting list is sitting at more than 100,000, with backlash from state governments set to exacerbate tensions over the management of social programs. [...] The country's health ministers, including federal Health Minister Mark Butler, last month reached a joint agreement that an interstate taskforce would be formed to analyse how to reduce the number of patients exceeding their estimated discharge dates from hospital.

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200,000 older Australians still waiting for aged care

The Weekly Source, Other, 01/06/2026, Caroline Egan

Data released late Sunday night (31 May) has confirmed nearly 100,000 older Australians are still waiting for an aged care assessment, while more than 100,000 are waiting for their correct level of home care. [...] In the statement, Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae, said "wait times have started to fall" for Support at Home.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

ABC Western Queensland, Breakfast, 01/06/2026, Danny Kennedy

Pre-recorded interview with Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride. Compere mentions that McBride has used her visit to West Qld to introduce the government's new online mental health service. McBride points out that the government has launched the Medicare Mental Health Check-in, which is a national digital mental health service where people can get online assistance from trained mental health practitioners.

Also reported by: [ABC Western Queensland \(Longreach\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Medicare Mental Health Check In rollout done with self-guided therapy launch

The Medical Republic, Other, 01/06/2026, Cate Swannell

The federal government's new Medicare Mental Health Check In service is now fully operational, with the launch today of a self-guided therapy option designed to provide early support for people experiencing mild mental health challenges. [...] Assistant minister for health Rebecca White said the

service would make it easier for Australians to access help before mental health issues became more serious.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Putting AI to the test

The Australian, Business News, 02/06/2026, Max Aitchison, Page 14

Do you remember the first question you ever asked AI? [...] We wondered which approach of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing Secretary Blair Comley was channelling when, a little before 4pm on March 30, he asked Microsoft Copilot to "please write 1000 words on the difference in the political (sic) economy of the introduction in Australia of the GST (Goods and Services Tax) compared to emissions trading".

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

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IHACPA publishes SaH pricing advice

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 01/06/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority has released its Support at Home pricing advice for 2026-27. [...] "The government has been considering IHACPA's advice alongside advice from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, and its own consultation with the sector regarding pricing across aged care.

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New WA retreats bring hope to those living with early-stage dementia

Have a Go News, Other, 01/06/2026

National aged care provider BaptistCare is giving West Australians in the early stages of dementia hope and connection through a series of unique three-day getaways. [...] Fully funded by the Australian Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

[Read More](#)

AMA Queensland calls for Medicare rebate rise over cancer costs

The Courier Mail, Other, 01/06/2026

A Brisbane mother is facing thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket costs for lifesaving radiation therapy, sparking demand from Queensland's peak medical body for a massive boost to Medicare rebates. [...] A spokesman for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said Minister Butler has also expressed his concerns about the rising cost of medical specialist services in general.

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

Negotiations fail for PBS listing of Wegovy

MedNews, Other, 01/06/2026, Megan Brodie

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has formally rejected Novo Nordisk's...

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Demand secures future of allergy assist service nationwide

Pulse+IT, Other, 01/06/2026

The allergy education and advice platform, allergy assist is being continued beyond a successful initial trial period . [...] Allergy assist is an initiative of the National Allergy Council with funding from the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and delivered in partnership with the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) via the ACRRM learning management system.

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CPI rises 4.2%, Medicare rises 2.6%

The Medical Republic, Other, 01/06/2026, Holly Payne

The federal government may have approved a higher-than-usual increase to private health premiums this year in recognition of the rising costs of providing healthcare, but primary care has not been so lucky. [...] "This is moderately higher than last year's increase of 3.73% and reflects the rising costs of providing medical and hospital services, which rose 5 per cent last financial year," federal health minister Mark Butler said at the time.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Aged-care feud grows as minister roasts party

The Australian, General News, 02/06/2026, Sarah Ison & Lachlan Leeming, Page 5

Anthony Albanese is being accused of mishandling of aged care following revelations the national homecare waiting list is sitting at more than 100,000, with backlash from state governments set to exacerbate tensions over the management of social programs. In the latest salvo fired by states criticising the commonwealth for fuelling the public health crisis, NSW Health Minister Ryan Park said elderly Australians risked languishing in hospital beds as they waited months for homecare packages for which they had already been approved.

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No increases to CHSP co-payments, says alliance

Community Care Review, Other, 01/06/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

As the debate on the future of the Commonwealth Home Support Program continues, the CHSP Alliance has published two new position papers, one in opposition to increasing co-payments and another on reducing service delivery duplication. Some older people are choosing to remain in the CHSP system rather than enter Support at Home due to the co-payments of the latter. In response, there have been proposals to increase the CHSP fees to match that of Support at Home.

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Home care workers are screened before entry. Why aren't the clients they visit?

HelloCare, Other, 01/06/2026

Every aged care worker in Australia must pass a criminal history check before they can set foot in a client's home. Under the Aged Care Act 2024 , which came into effect six months ago, that obligation has been strengthened further.

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Why a retired nurse is taking end of life care into her own hands

The Senior, Other, 01/06/2026, Carla Mascarenhas

A retired palliative care nurse burnt by a struggling hospital system, is taking the dying moments of others into her own hands to give them hope. The long-time nurse recently resigned from a Victorian hospital citing burn-out, amidst staff shortages and lack of specialist beds - a problem heard too often around the country.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

'Forever' home for needy closing soon

Age, General News, 02/06/2026, Cassandra Morgan, Page 12

After years of homelessness and housing uncertainty, a group of men in Melbourne's inner west thought they found their forever home at Foley House. Bruce Rigby was moved from a psychiatric ward to an Abbotsford rooming house before the Footscray facility, where he felt safe in the knowledge he wouldn't be asked to move on.

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

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The budget's missing test is community infrastructure

The Mandarin, Other, 01/06/2026, Turlough Guerin

The 2026-27 federal budget is not only a test of fiscal restraint. It is a test of whether governments can rebuild the community and preventive infrastructure that should surround high-cost service systems. The NDIS is the clearest pressure point, but the issue is larger than disability policy.

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PRIMARY CARE

IVF clinics face stricter standards, bans

Age, General News, 02/06/2026, Grant McArthur, Page 5

Victorian IVF clinics will face greater scrutiny under beefed-up laws aimed at better protecting fertility patients following a series of scandals in the industry, including embryos being transferred to the wrong women. The state government will introduce legislation today to overhaul Victoria's assisted reproductive technology (ART) safeguards, including greater powers to immediately cancel an IVF clinic's registration or for their premises to be inspected and documents seized.

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Clamp on IVF firms

Herald Sun, General News, 02/06/2026, Robyn Riley, Page 3

Families will have stronger protection when accessing IVF, and providers will face tough new scrutiny

making them more accountable and transparent, under legislation to be introduced on Tuesday in the Victorian parliament. The changes will also give the state's Department of Health stronger powers to oversee the regulation of assisted reproductive technology and the IVF sector.

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The props that could save your life

Canberra Times, General News, 02/06/2026, Bageshri Savyasachi, Page 10

It's highly probable that if you have breasts and go into cardiac arrest, people are less likely to give you life-saving CPR. [...] Research suggests this is because most members of the public are reluctant to touch exposed breasts or the chest area in case it's seen as inappropriate, acting general manager of education and training Mark Molloy from the ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) says.

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

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Hammat missing in action on bleeding patient's hospital emergency

West Australian, General News, 02/06/2026, Charlton Hart, Page 11

Health Minister Meredith Hammat will not call an investigation into why a man with a life-threatening artery bleed who coughed up more than a sink full of blood wasn't deemed a priority for an ambulance. Matthew had only just had surgery to remove his tonsils and was recovering at home on May 8 when he began coughing up blood, filling the sink and half a cake bowl.

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Outrage over attempt to reduce access to abortion pill in Queensland

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 01/06/2026, Nicholas Comino

A push to ban nurses and midwives from prescribing abortion medication in Queensland has sparked outrage. Katter Party MP Robbie Katter will on Tuesday move a disallowance motion to overturn regulations expanding access to the abortion drug MS-2 Step, effectively challenging Premier David Crisafulli's gag on debate.

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Women's rights on the line, amid a push to ban sex-based abortion in NSW

Newcastle Herald, Other, 01/06/2026, Damon Cronshaw

A push to ban sex-based abortion in NSW would be a ploy to regress access to pregnancy termination services, a Hunter-based reproductive rights expert says. Anna Noonan, a public health academic, is concerned at any moves to restrict women's rights to abortion in the Hunter and statewide.

[Read More](#)

One Nation's rise allows Australia's anti-abortion groups to turn up the volume

The Guardian, Other, 02/06/2026, Tory Shepherd

The headline act at a Sydney anti-abortion rally being held on Tuesday in support of Libertarian MP John Ruddick's bill to restrict abortion will not be Ruddick. [...] In South Australia, the former One Nation MP Sarah Game has proposed legislation to ban abortion after 25 weeks, even in cases of severe foetal abnormalities.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 01/06/2026, Leon Compton

The Tasmanian Government is rolling out two more bulk billing doctors clinics. A new clinic will be set up in the coastal town of Bridport in Northern Tasmania, aiming to provide 20,000 bulk bill GP appointments per year.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Cancer breakthrough

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 02/06/2026, Sarah Booth, Page 4

A daily pill has been hailed as one of the biggest pancreatic cancer breakthroughs in decades after almost doubling patient's survival time in a "ground breaking" trial. The findings, released to international fanfare, offer real hope against one of the deadliest cancers.

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

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Killer waits for no one

Herald Sun, General News, 02/06/2026, Page 15

A new hard-hitting campaign for the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program launches this week with a stark reminder: Bowel cancer waits for no one. The campaign aims to help drive more Australians to complete their free at-home bowel cancer screening test.

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Women's cancer increase

West Australian, General News, 02/06/2026, Page 9

Australia's fastest-growing women's cancer is largely preventable yet most women have never heard of it. National data confirms uterine cancer incidence has more than doubled in 25 years, with diagnoses among younger women projected to rise by up to 60 per cent by 2035, the Australia New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group says.

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Asbestos blind spot in cancer screening

West Australian, General News, 02/06/2026, Hannah Cross, Page 10

Lung cancer screening could be failing people who have been exposed to asbestos, West Australian research has found. Current national screening standards largely rely on age and smoking history, and do not include asbestos exposure, duration or intensity as factors.

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

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Cairns Hospital unveils cutting-edge robot to revolutionise complex cancer operations

Northern Territory News, Other, 01/06/2026, Sian Jeffries

A new \$4.3 million surgical robot, fully funded by the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation, is expected to be operational at the hospital by the end of 2026. The high-tech robot will initially focus on urology procedures, particularly prostate cancer surgeries, which are in high demand in the region.

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

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Calls for better Sun Safe practices in schools

ABC Online, Other, 01/06/2026, Katherine Gregory

Health professionals point to emerging research showing children at school need stronger skin cancer prevention measures, as education alone is not enough. It comes as parents and doctors petition

Governments and schools to make sunscreen application mandatory during break times.

[Read More](#)

New Cairns centre set to be global leader for deadly venom research

Cairns Post, Other, 02/06/2026, Sian Jeffries

Cairns will become a world leader in the treatment of venom under an exciting plan to upgrade Cairns Hospital's toxicology unit. [...] Beyond envenomation, the centre will also address substance toxicity, pharmaceutical overdose, and the complex intersections between mental health, chronic disease and poisoning presentations that characterise a significant proportion of the emergency caseload not only in regional and remote Queensland but in the broader Pacific region.

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

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Channel 9, Nine News, 01/06/2026, Peter Overton

There is now hope for Australians battling leukaemia after two life-changing cancer treatments were listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. It slashes the cost of one of the medications from \$7000 per script to just \$25.

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

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SBS, World News Australia, 01/06/2026, Anton Enus

According to Bowel Cancer Australia, bowel cancer is now the deadliest cancer for Australians aged 25 to 52 and Australia's second deadliest cancer overall. Today marked the beginning of Bowel Cancer Awareness Month, with medical experts urging people not to ignore symptoms and to get tested.

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2CC, Canberra Live, 01/06/2026, Leon Delaney

A new hard-hitting campaign is being launched to encourage more Canberrans to participate in the National Bowel Cancer Screening program. Cancer Council Australia Chief Executive Jacinta Reddan says lifting the participation rate to 60% could save around 84,000 lives.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

No relevant coverage

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IMMUNISATION

NSW health authorities issue urgent vaccine plea as state hospitals brace for tough winter flu season

The Australian, Other, 02/06/2026, Samina Rakhshani

Health authorities across NSW have issued an urgent vaccine plea to the public, as the state hospital system braces for a tough winter flu season. [...] It comes just a year after the state recorded its highest number of influenza cases on record.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Surgery costs cut deep

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 02/06/2026, Page 7

Australians with health insurance are being urged to ask surgeons about their fees before committing to surgery amid new data showing enormous differences in what patients are being charged for the same procedure. Health insurance data shows that for common surgeries performed on hundreds of thousands of Australians each year, some patients are paying nothing out of pocket, while others are being charged thousands of dollars by their surgeon.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Northern Territory rolls out diphtheria boosters for children amid deadly outbreak

Northern Territory News, Other, 01/06/2026, Thomas McLean

Health authorities in the Northern Territory are offering additional diphtheria booster doses to Aboriginal children, select non-Aboriginal students and Department of Education staff working in remote communities amid an ongoing outbreak. [...] Under Australia's national immunisation program, all children are vaccinated against diphtheria at six weeks, four months, six months, 18 months, four years and 12 years of age.

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

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Mayday for State's ambulance crisis

West Australian, General News, 02/06/2026, Jessica Page, Page 1

Roger Cook has insisted another broken record on ambulance ramping is a challenge that his Government is "laser focused" on but refused to say when he expects it to improve. The 5383 hours of ramping recorded by St John WA last month was a May record, higher than last year and during the COVID pandemic.

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

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WA premier concedes ambulance ramping a 'challenge' as wait times blow out before winter begins

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 01/06/2026, Cameron Myles

West Australian Premier Roger Cook admits ambulance ramping in the state is a "challenge", as new figures reveal the hours that patients spent waiting to be admitted to hospital has again hit record

high. The opposition has seized on new figures showing ramping was at a new monthly high for May, with 5383 hours spent waiting at WA hospitals in the month.

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NT WorkSafe charges health department over death of mental health patient at RDH

ABC Online, Other, 01/06/2026, Courtney Barrett-Peters

The Northern Territory's health department has been charged over the death of a mental health patient who inhaled aerosol at Royal Darwin Hospital. [...] NT WorkSafe charged NT Health with three counts of failing to comply with a health and safety duty, alleging the 22-year-old patient was able to access and inhale the contents of an aerosol can, causing their death, while under the department's care in 2022.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 01/06/2026, Tim McMillan & Angela Tsun

Latest figures revealed that patients spent 5383 hours ramped outside WA hospitals in May. WA Premier Roger Cook maintains the WA Government is laser-focused on the issue.

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Channel 7, Seven News First at 4pm, 01/06/2026, Karina Carvalho

New data shows some Australians are paying nothing out of pocket for common procedures, while others are being charged thousands by their surgeon for the exact same operation, and some doctors are concerned specialists are exploiting the system. The Federal Government is now considering new measures to improve price transparency and reduce soaring out-of-pocket costs.

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6PR, Afternoons, 01/06/2026, Tod Johnston

WA has recorded its worst ambulance ramping figures for the month of May. Patients spent more than 5300 hours waiting in ambulances outside hospitals or in hospital corridors.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Swifts Creek Bush Nursing Centre after-hours nursing cuts worry residents

ABC Online, Other, 01/06/2026, Zaida Glibanovic

When Deborah Martinez began haemorrhaging late at night in the small town of Swifts Creek, in Victoria's High Country, the only person she could call was the bush nurse. [...] A pay rise to public sector nurses and midwives in their latest enterprise bargaining agreement (EBA) means the centre's funding no longer covers overtime and penalty rates.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Trading boxing gloves for running shoes

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 02/06/2026, Denika Anderson, Page 3

Members and coaches of the Boxing Cartel will be hosting a 24-hour run this month to raise money for a young boy facing a rare and aggressive tumour. [...] Cabozantinib is not available to treat the tumour under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, meaning Michele's family are facing monthly bills of \$7500 in a last-ditch attempt to save his foot, which he could be on for anywhere between two-to-three years.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

'I'll kill them': nurses fight to axe threat video

The Australian, General News, 02/06/2026, Bimini Plessner, Page 3

An Israeli influencer says he was targeted by two former Sydney nurses in an online chatroom before he recorded them allegedly threatening to "kill" Israeli patients in a video their lawyers are now seeking to have thrown out of court. [...] The pair have been stood down from their jobs by NSW Health and issued a two-year ban from working with NDIS participants.

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

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Health ombudsman dismisses bias complaint over regulator's links to ACON

The Australian, Other, 01/06/2026, Bernard Lane

A complaint about the gender-ideology capture of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has been dismissed without investigation – and without disclosing potential bias over links to the transgender lobby group ACON.

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Sunshine Coast nurse reprimanded for buying opioids from the dark web

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 01/06/2026, Chloe Grimshaw

A registered nurse who admitted to her dark web opioid use has been found guilty of professional misconduct after failing drug tests and lying to health authorities. A Sunshine Coast nurse, formerly employed by a major public hospital, has come before a tribunal after she purchased opioids off the dark web.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Biocontainment battleground

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 02/06/2026, Rachel Rasker, Page 1

Not even air can escape the NSW Biocontainment Centre. [...] The purpose-built facility is the first and most sophisticated of its kind in Australia, designed to treat and safely isolate patients with "high

consequence infectious diseases" such as Ebola or hantavirus.

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

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SBS, World News Australia, 01/06/2026, Anton Enus

Italy is the latest country to investigate a possible case of Ebola, while DRC and Uganda have collectively confirmed 263 infections and at least 43 deaths. The Australian Government has announced it will not impose border restrictions or quarantine travellers from Ebola-affected countries.

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2SM, 18:00 News, 01/06/2026

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says Australia is not considering any travel restrictions for visitors from the African nations at the centre of the Ebola outbreak. The new Australian Centre for Disease Control is giving advice on the response.

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

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ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 01/06/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Health authorities and the Democratic Republic of Congo have celebrated the recovery of four Ebola patients, who are among the first to be discharged from hospital in the current outbreak. The World Health Organization says the survivors prove that the outbreak can be stopped, stressing that early detection is crucial.

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