



TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 6th 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

- **ABC Online** (online) reports that the Federal Government will allocate \$25.6 million in funding to establish eight bulk-billed long-acting reversible contraceptive centres nationwide, with Assistant Minister for Health and Women Rebecca White stating the facilities will provide women with improved health options and outcomes. *Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury](#)*
- **ABC Online** (online) reports that NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister has informed a Senate Estimates hearings that policy measures pursued by the Federal Government to reform the NDIS will ensure the long-term sustainability of the scheme. *Also reported by: [West Australian](#)*
- The **Weekend Australian** (page 5) reports that the NDIA has incurred legal fees exceeding \$170 million over the past three years in fighting action taken by NDIS participants who were contesting care package decisions. *Also reported by: [The Australian](#)*
- **The Saturday Paper** (page 1) reports that legislation produced by the Federal Government to reform eligibility and participation guidelines for the NDIS includes a measure which would potentially permit the automation of discretionary decisions.
- The **Daily Telegraph** (online) reports that a Headspace facility in Geelong will be the first of 30 mental health service centres nationwide to be upgrade to a Headspace Plus centre, with the transformation part of a \$1.1 billion pledge by the Federal Government to improve mental health services.

- [ABC Online](#) (online) reports that the Australian Centre for Disease Control has contended that a 65 per cent nationwide decline in the number of influenza cases, compared to the same period last year, may be the result of increased infections last year improving viral immunity.
- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 1) reports that a Therapeutic Goods Administration spokesperson has stated that the Federal Health Department is engaged in ongoing work to address the health dangers of nitrous oxide use.
- The [Hobart Mercury](#) (page 3) reports that the Tasmanian Government will provide \$20 million over the next four years to establish a long-term preventative health program aimed at improving health agency co-ordination and improving preventative health systems.
- [ABC Online](#) (online) reports that the Therapeutic Goods Administration is continuing to investigate the validity of SPF claims made by 15 sunscreen products following an investigation by consumer advocacy group Choice.
- [ABC Online](#) (online) reports that recently appointed Western Australian Chief Health Officer, Clare Huppatz, has detailed work being conducted to improve vaccination rates and public health responses to an ongoing diphtheria outbreak.

MINISTER BUTLER

Mum's fury at NDIS refusal

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 06/06/2026, Aden Hill, Page 25

For Jacob Williams, his new wheelchair should have been the beginning of a new chapter in his life. [...] Ms Mercorella said she had sent an email to several key players, including NDIS Minister Mark Butler, for assistance.

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

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From the office of Roland Rocchiccioli

Ballarat Times, General News, 05/06/2026, Roland Rocchiccioli, Page 26

Mercifully, I am hewn from long-living peasant stock with a certain reticence for shuffling-off the mortal coil. [...] Irrationally, the Health Minister Mark Butler argued the more generous subsidy - solely based on age - is unfair between the generations; funds need to be distributed more equitably.

Also reported by: [Golden Plains Times \(Ballarat\)](#), [The Mclvor Times \(Heathcote\)](#), [Bendigo Times \(None\)](#).

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New push to lift bowel cancer screening

Surf Coast Times, General News, 05/06/2026, Page 56

Despite the availability of a free at-home screening test, fewer than half of eligible Australians currently participate in the national program. [...] Federal health minister Mark Butler said the free test offered a simple opportunity to detect the disease early.

Also reported by: [Bellarine Times \(Bellarine\)](#), [Geelong Times \(Geelong\)](#), [Armstrong Creek Times \(Victoria\)](#).

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

Greens senator Jordon Steele-John slams 'disconnect' in language over NDIS, disabled people 'not silly'

The Australian, Other, 05/06/2026, Tia Clarkson-Pascoe & Nathan Schmidt

[...] The estimates hearing is set to address Health Minister Mark Butler's revelation in May that about 160,000 people would be cut from the NDIS by the end of the decade. [...] Disability Minister Jenny McAllister and officials were grilled on Friday over reforms to the disability scheme, less than 24 hours after the lower house passed the first tranche of Labor's budget reforms.

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

NDIS cuts could restrict some people from work access

West Australian, Other, 05/06/2026, Lucinda Garbutt-Young

Disabled Australians could be left without the ability to regularly work or access medical appointments as a result of sweeping funding cuts, a senate committee has heard. [...] If the bill passes, the health minister will be able to decide ratios of social and wellbeing support for people of different disability categories, rather than it being decided through assessment.

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

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Shelly did not attend an NDIS cuts protest. Despite her fear of isolation, she couldn't leave the house

7News.com.au, Other, 06/06/2026, Hayley Taylor

Shelly Lapel wanted to join a recent rally protesting looming cuts to the NDIS but was unable to attend. [...] As federal Health Minister Mark Butler announces a shift away from diagnosis-dependent scheme entry, and toward a functional-capacity model, the reality of Lapel's conditions may be greater recognised — but Lapel told 7NEWS.com.au: "I'm worried. I don't want to get too hopeful."

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'Cruel' wait over: Government backflips on MND stance after pressure

The Senior, Other, 05/06/2026, Phoebe Loomes

People living with rapidly progressing Motor Neurone Disease (MND) will soon get faster access to care, after the government backflipped on its controversial stance following mounting pressure. [...] In a statement, Health Minister Mark Butler acknowledged MND was a "cruel and fast-moving condition" and the aged care system "needs to respond with the urgency it demands".

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Proposed NDIS changes risk leaving Australians with life-limiting illnesses without essential support, peak body warns

The Point Australia, Other, 05/06/2026, Tegan George

Australians living with life-limiting illnesses could be left without access to essential disability supports under proposed changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), according to Palliative Care Australia (PCA). [...] The legislation would also give NDIS Minister Mark Butler new powers to reduce funding in certain circumstances, a move criticised by the Australian Human Rights Commission in its submission to the inquiry.

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Australians with MND will be able to remain at home

HealthTimes, Other, 05/06/2026

People living with a progressive disease will be able to remain at home as their health deteriorates due to changes in government rules. Health minister Mark Butler announced the Aged Care Rules would be changed to recognise motor neurone disease (MND) as a discrete condition that needed urgent priority for Support at Home packages.

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Why NDIS reform requires an infrastructure reset

Pulse+IT, Other, 05/06/2026, Richard Watson,

Long before I moved into fintech infrastructure, I was a physiotherapist. [...] In his National Press Club address in April, Minister Mark Butler described the NDIS as having become an "ATM for shonks, grifters, fraudsters and crooks," pointing to a lack of "visibility at the point of disbursement."

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Who's heading into the Minister's office?

MedNews, Other, 05/06/2026, Megan Brodie

With Health, Disability and Ageing Minister Mark Butler's senior advisor set to... [Paywall]

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Sky News Live, Steve Price, 05/06/2026, Steve Price

Panel Discussion with aged care advocate Lynne Meehan and Deputy Nationals Leader Darren Chester. Chester says Aged Care Minister Sam Rae and the Federal Government need to understand that there is a crisis in the communities, and they should listen to the sentiments of Australian families and older Australians who are dying in their own homes waiting for support to arrive. He states that Rae is out of his depth, and he [Chester] does not know if Mark Butler, the Cabinet Minister with overall responsibility for health, is reading his letters.

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ABC NewsRadio, Drive, 05/06/2026, Sarah Dingle

Interview with Independent Senator David Pocock, on AstraZeneca's decision not to pull the Zoladex shot, which is used by men who have prostate cancer. Pocock says it is a poor decision from AstraZeneca, because there are still questions to be answered, and there is no evidence that Zoladex is not safe. Dingle says they have asked Federal Health Minister Mark Butler to provide a comment, while Pocock states that they need all politicians to be standing up for the PBS, which has been under attack for a long time.

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ABC North Queensland, Mornings (Early), 05/06/2026, Susan Graham-Ryan

Interview with National Seniors Australia CEO Chris Grice, on aged care advocates calling for a review of an algorithmic assistant tool currently used to determine the level of funding a person should receive for at-home support. Grice says the use of AI is overtaking human decision-making in the aged care assessment process. He also states that Federal Health Minister Mark Butler will attend the upcoming Everald Compton Community Champion Medal, and they are looking forward to having a conversation with him.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

NDIA in the dark on claims by crooks

Weekend Australian, General News, 06/06/2026, Lachlan Leeming, Page 5

Figures detailing how many serious criminals are accessing the NDIS have not been updated since 2024, with the opposition blasting the scheme's management by claiming Labor is allowing an unknown number of serious offenders to access taxpayer-funded disability support. [...] Senator McAllister pushed back, saying reforms would introduce a "whole range of new powers for the NDIA, explicitly ... enabling them to target fraud".

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

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Greens senator Jordon Steele-John slams 'disconnect' in language over NDIS, disabled people 'not silly'

The Australian, Other, 05/06/2026, Tia Clarkson-Pascoe & Nathan Schmidt

[...] The estimates hearing is set to address Health Minister Mark Butler's revelation in May that about 160,000 people would be cut from the NDIS by the end of the decade. [...] Disability Minister Jenny McAllister and officials were grilled on Friday over reforms to the disability scheme, less than 24 hours after the lower house passed the first tranche of Labor's budget reforms.

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Government accused of misleading public on NDIS cuts in heated Senate hearing

ABC Online, Other, 05/06/2026, Evan Young, Mary Lloyd & Nas Campanella

The federal government has been accused of selling its cuts to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) as a crackdown on fraud, while instead pursuing billions of dollars of dramatic savings by slashing participant packages. Greens Senator Jordon Steele-John and NDIS minister Jenny McAllister clashed repeatedly in Senate estimates sitting this morning, just days before public hearings into legislation that paves the way for the biggest ever cuts to the scheme.

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

[Read More](#)

Anti-fraud rhetoric masks NDIS participant cuts, senator claims

Health Services Daily, Other, 05/06/2026, Cate Swannell

In a spicy estimates exchange, Senator Jordon Steele-John said anti-fraud measures accounted for less than \$5bn of the \$37.8bn in savings. NDIS minister McAllister pushed back hard.

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Ruston trying to 'outflank One Nation' in NDIS stoush: McAllister

Health Services Daily, Other, 05/06/2026, Cate Swannell

Senate estimates provided more than the average amount of tea when the topic of paedophilia raised its ugly, and unexpected head. [Paywall]

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ABC News, ABC News Afternoons, 05/06/2026, Ros Childs

Greens Senator Jordon Steele-John accused the Federal Government of framing sweeping changes to the NDIS scheme as measures to tackle fraud instead of achieving savings by cutting participant support packages. During Senate Estimates hearings, NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister repeatedly rejected the assertion.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 05/06/2026, Thomas Oriti

Interview with Greens Senator Jordon Steele-John, on his clash with NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister over the Federal Government's upcoming cuts. Steele-John says \$40b will be ripped out from the NDIS over four years, totalling to \$185b over the decade, while roughly 240,000 participants will be kicked out of the scheme. He notes that the Federal Government maintained that the cuts are necessary to tackle fraud, but what they have seen today is just a distraction from the fact that the Federal Government is cutting people's vital supports and putting them at risk of harm.

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

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ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 05/06/2026, Samantha Donovan

Greens Senator Jordon Steele-John has accused Federal Government of misleading the public over billions of dollars worth of cuts to the NDIS during a tense session of Senate estimates. NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister hit back, saying Steele-John was conflating issues and that tackling fraud returns money to participants.

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

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Triple M Hobart, 11:00 News, 05/06/2026

It is the big day for the NDIS, with senators putting the scheme's future under the microscope. The Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee is hearing from NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister, who says Labor is focused on keeping the NDIS sustainable.

Also reported by: [Triple M Newcastle \(Newcastle\)](#), [Triple M Central Coast \(Gosford\)](#), [Triple M Gold Coast \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Triple M Townsville \(Townsville\)](#), [Triple M Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Triple M Goldfields \(Kalgoorlie\)](#), [Triple M Geraldton \(Geraldton\)](#), [Triple M Karratha \(Karratha\)](#).

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MINISTER RAE

Unprecedented automation in NDIS decisions

The Saturday Paper, General News, 06/06/2026, Karen Barlow, Page 1

Legislation before parliament to reform the National Disability Insurance Scheme sets out an unprecedented expansion of automated government decision-making in reviewing support offered by the scheme. [...] "The rules have to apply to everybody equally," Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae told the ABC on Thursday.

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Push to reverse aged care algorithm

Weekend Post, General News, 06/06/2026, Julie Cross, Page 32

The Albanese government could be forced into an embarrassing aged care U-turn over its decision to allow a computer - not a human - to have the final say on how much funding older Australians should get. [...] In March, more than 100 federal politicians signed a letter to Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae calling for humans to be allowed to correct the algorithm.

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

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My poor Dad died waiting

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 06/06/2026, Julie Cross, Page 31

The grieving daughter of a 91year-old man who died while waiting for his aged care funding to come through, has described what happened to her father as a "national disgrace". [...] Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae boasted on Monday about waitlist numbers dropping by nearly 5000 in the latest quarterly figures - the number of people waiting for an assessment fell from 103,488 to 98,606.

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Naiyu leaders race to bring services back online as first residents return to flood-ravaged community

ABC Online, Other, 05/06/2026, Joseph Hathaway-Wilson & Jane Bardon

Service providers in the flood-affected community of Naiyu / Daly River are pleading for governments to better support the remediation of the town as evacuees return to the area following devastating flooding. [...] Federal Aged Care and Seniors Minister Sam Rae said the Commonwealth was actively working with the VDRC to find a practical solution for the community.

[Read More](#)

Aged care minister squirms on radio when pressed on assessment tool algorithm

HelloCare, Other, 05/06/2026

There is a particular kind of political evasion that is almost impressive in its audacity. [...] That is what happened on ABC Radio National Breakfast yesterday, when Aged Care Minister Sam Rae sat across from host Sally Sara and was asked, in several different ways and on several different occasions,

whether a human being can override the algorithm that determines how much aged care support an older Australian receives.

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

Mamamia, Other, 05/06/2026, Raffaella Ciccarelli

The news moves fast and so do we. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae does not agree there is no ability for humans to intervene in the tool's outcomes.

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Sky News Live, News Night, 05/06/2026, Rhiannon Elston

The daughter of a 91-year-old man, who died while waiting for aged-care support assessment approval, has criticised the alleged lack of response from Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae. She contends that the assessment of her father was conducted by an algorithm, with limited capacity to challenge the results.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 05/06/2026, Sally Sara

Interview with Australian and New Zealand Society for Geriatric Medicine President Dr Sue Kurrle. Sara says the Federal Government's new algorithm-assisted tool has faced scrutiny this week, with Senate estimates revealing that about 1000 people are asking for a review of their outcome, while Aged Care Minister Sam Rae strongly defended the tool, arguing it is both faster and fairer. Kurrle states that the tool might be faster, but they do not know if it's fairer or consistent, and they are concerned that the tool might not provide an accurate assessment due to the absence of human decision-making.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Headspace Geelong to double staff amid growing youth mental health demand

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 05/06/2026, Olivia Conder

A Geelong mental health service is expected to see staffing double as demand for support continues to grow across the region. [...] During a visit to Geelong on Friday, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride said the service was in much demand.

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

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Birth of a new plan for free contraception

Hobart Mercury, General News, 06/06/2026, Genevieve Holding, Page 6

Lauren Yates-Jones said an IUD completely changed her life. [...] Assistant minister for health and women Rebecca White MP said the \$25.6m for the Centres of Excellence will include training for health professionals as well as "a place for women to present".

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

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Priority on health, housing, living costs

New Norfolk and Derwent Valley News, General News, 05/06/2026, Rebecca White, Page 18

This year's federal Budget delivers on Labor's three key priorities: better healthcare, more affordable housing and helping Australians with the cost of living. In health, we're delivering record federal funding for hospitals.

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Federal government hopes bulk-billing contraceptive centres will empower more women

ABC Online, Other, 05/06/2026, Lucy MacDonald

Alice Gibney is not sure what could convince her to try a long-acting reversible contraceptive (LARC) such as an IUD or Implanon. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Women Rebecca White said it was about giving more choice to women so they could "decide for themselves what's in their best interest when it comes to managing their sexual and reproductive health".

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ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 05/06/2026, Manny Tsigas

Misinformation, cost, and a lack of trained providers have stopped many Australian women from accessing what doctors consider the most effective form of reversible contraception, but the Federal Government is now hoping to increase the uptake of long-acting contraceptives with plans to open bulk-billing specialist centres in each state and territory within the next six months. Federal Assistant Minister for Health and Women Rebecca White says the centres will not only be places where women can go to actually receive this service directly, but also a place where other health professionals can learn.

Similar coverage reported by: [ABC \(Hobart\)](#), [ABC \(Adelaide\)](#), [WIN Orange \(Orange\)](#), [WIN Bendigo \(Bendigo\)](#), [WIN Ballarat \(Ballarat\)](#), [WIN Gippsland \(Sale\)](#), [WIN Hobart \(Hobart\)](#), [Seven Tasmania \(Hobart\)](#), [ABC \(Perth\)](#).

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ABC Radio Hobart, 13:00 News, 05/06/2026

Federal Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White says she hopes that new billing contraceptive centres will boost Australia's uptake of long-acting reversible contraceptives. A centre will be set up in every jurisdiction and will provide access to contraceptive counselling as well as services to insert and remove the devices free of charge.

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

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

ABC Newcastle, Mornings , 05/06/2026, Scott Bevan

Interview with Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi. Repacholi says he is on his way to Get A Grip, an amateur arm wrestling event in Orange, to raise awareness for men's physical and mental health. He also notes that they want to let young and older men know that it is okay to have a conversation.

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

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DEPARTMENT

Nang warfare

The mum of a talented young actor who died when he suffocated on a free bottle of nitrous oxide given to him by a predatory delivery website has urged Premier Jacinta Allan to "have the guts" to tackle the growing deadly scourge of "nangs". [...] A TGA spokesman this week admitted the "nang" trade had become worse since 2021, and said the federal health department was "working on" the issue.

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

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Government accused of misleading public on NDIS cuts in heated Senate hearing

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

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Diphtheria outbreak highlights imperative for action on multiple fronts

Croakey, Other, 05/06/2026, Melissa Sweet

Australia's worst diphtheria outbreak since records began has raised concerns about falling vaccination rates and the role of misinformation in undermining public confidence in vaccination. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is working with states and territories to implement the strategy, which was one of the first major deliverables of the interim Australian Centre for Disease Control.

[Read More](#)

RACGP 'working to find a way forward' amid assignment of benefit concerns

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 05/06/2026, Karen Burge

Incoming changes to the way Medicare benefits are assigned to patients are continuing to cause concern for many GPs, particularly compliance in residential aged care settings. [...] RACGP President Dr Michael Wright said the college is in 'constant communication' with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DoHDA) 'trying to fix this problem and to find a way forward that's fit for purpose'.

[Read More](#)

KPMG scandal goes global, whistleblower rebuffed at the top

Capital Brief, Other, 05/06/2026, Paulina Durán & Laurel Henning

Here's what happened overnight and what you need to know today. [...] Budget estimates hearings will continue in the Community Affairs Legislation Committee, with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing first on the program.

[Read More](#)

Bourke takes a major step forward in community health

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), Other, 05/06/2026, Peter Rowe

Bourke Aboriginal Corporation Health Service has appointed Barpa Construction Services as the builder for the new Bourke Integrated Primary Health Care Centre. [...] The project is funded through the Australian Government's Closing the Gap — Major Capital Works Program, administered by the Department of Health and Aged Care in partnership with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO).

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Troy gets ready for flu season

National Seniors Australia, Other, 05/06/2026

Country music star Troy Cassar-Daley has joined the campaign to urge Australians, especially First Nations people aged 50 and over, to be vaccinated. [...] As part of a new Australian Government Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing campaign, Cassar-Daley, a proud Gumbaynggirr and Bundjalung man, is encouraging First Nations Australians aged 50 years and over, to “have a yarn” with their doctor or health worker about which winter vaccines are right for them.

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Dodgy comms now normal governance, apparently

Health Services Daily, Other, 06/06/2026, Cate Swannell

It has been quite the week, has it not? Cohealth Senate estimates , more on the Epic rollout in NSW , the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing doing the best not-a-backflip ever regarding the integrated assessment tool – there has been no shortage of news.

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

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Department of Health, Disability and Ageing selects Think HQ for nationwide campaign for National Bowel Cancer Screening Program

Mi3, Other, 05/06/2026

Think HQ has been appointed by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to lead a nationwide community engagement roadshow for the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP). This appointment comes after a competitive tender process.

[Read More](#)

The Australian Government appoints Think HQ to drive life-saving bowel cancer screening uptake

Campaign Brief, Other, 05/06/2026, Ricki Green

Positive change agency Think HQ has been appointed by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to deliver a nationwide community engagement roadshow aimed at increasing participation in Australia's National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP). The account was awarded following a competitive tender process, with the agency tasked with developing and executing national engagement activities designed to encourage eligible Australians aged 45-74 to complete and return their free bowel cancer screening kits.

Think HQ appointed to lead bowel cancer screening roadshow

Mumbrella, Other, 05/06/2026

Think HQ has been appointed by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to lead a nationwide campaign to boost participation in the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program. The initiative aims to reach under-screened communities and promote screening through various engagement activities.

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The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing appoints Think HQ creative agency

AdNews, Other, 05/06/2026

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Department Of Health, Disability & Ageing appoints Think HQ for bowel cancer campaign

B & T Online, Other, 05/06/2026

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Chasm opens between government and industry

MedNews, Other, 05/06/2026, Megan Brodie

Officials from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing provided shaky evidence...[Paywall]

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Modern family

Canberra Times, General News, 06/06/2026, Steve Evans, Page 1

Australia is facing a double whammy: sons and daughters continue living in the parental home for much longer than they used to. At the other end, Australians are living longer - and that means a ballooning group of carers in the middle: "the sandwich generation" squeezed between caring for young and old.

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#).

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

How aged-care provider shortages are leaving the elderly stranded

Canberra Times, Other, 05/06/2026

Years after a ground-breaking television report that prompted a heartbreaking royal commission, and following nursing home horror stories during the pandemic, the aged-care system is still not fit for purpose. This is despite fulsome promises by both Coalition and Labor governments.

Don't 'get distracted by other shiny tools'

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 05/06/2026, Natasha Egan

Like many in the sector, Victorian aged care provider Benetas has been experiencing a boost in call centre enquiries and website traffic due to a strong consumer appetite for information on the aged care reforms. It is not surprising given the system changes and the uncertainty in the community, says Elyssia Clark, Benetas' general manager of customer, insights and marketing.

[Read More](#)

'We can fly the plane and build it at the same time'

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 05/06/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

The aged care sector is not problem-free, but Scalabrini Communities chief executive officer Richard de Haast rejects any framing that it is plagued with challenges. This thinking only contributes to a "siege mentality in the sector" where everything is considered hard, laborious, difficult and complex. When "it's no more complex than it was two years ago," Mr de Haast told Australian Ageing Agenda.

[Read More](#)

Opal HealthCare closes in on 150 aged care homes

The Weekly Source, Other, 05/06/2026, Lauren Broomham

Opal HealthCare has acquired Melbourne-based private operator Bethel Aged Care and its two Victorian homes, adding a further 242 residential aged care places to its portfolio. The transaction includes the 121-bed Bethel Aged Care home in Mill Park, 18km northeast of the Melbourne CBD, and the 121-bed Anzac Lodge facility in Coburg North, 6km north of the city, and is expected to settle on 1 July, subject to regulatory approvals.

[Read More](#)

SBS, World News Australia, 05/06/2026, Anton Enus

The Federal Government is facing pressure to scrap an algorithm tool used to assess aged care support for older Australians. Shadow Health Minister Anne Ruston will introduce a bill in the next fortnight, proposing to revise the system to ensure assessments are overseen by humans and are more transparent.

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

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 05/06/2026, Leon Compton

Interview with Shadow Minister for Health Anne Ruston, on her plans to put in an amendment for the Aged Care Act of 2004 after the Federal Government was revealed to have been using AI to make decisions about what older Australians are eligible for. Ruston says they have heard hundreds of stories from older Australians who have received assessments that are not providing them with the care that they need. She also says assessors have been quitting because they are distressed about the older Australians not getting proper care.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Labor's cover-up just as bad as its tax changes

AFR Weekend, General News, 06/06/2026, Page 1

Since May 12, barely a day has passed without a fresh flaw being exposed in Labor's budget.

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

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

Into the ring

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 06/06/2026, James Massola, Page 23

In 11 days, Pauline Hanson will enter hostile territory that she has avoided for 30 years. [...] Anyone rorting the National Disability Insurance Scheme is in One Nation's sights, too.

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

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

Education could be the policy area that saves the Allan Government

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 05/06/2026, Theo Theophanous

Education may be the policy area that saves the Allan Government. [...] Today children under the age of 15 make up nearly half of all NDIS participants with neurodevelopmental conditions.

[Read More](#)

Bunnings car park highlights problematic issue for millions: 'It's a breach'

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 05/06/2026, Nikitha Martins

A frustrated Bunnings customer has called out the hardware giant after noticing a problematic issue in its car park. [...] Suzanne Gearing, CEO of Physical Disability Australia, told Yahoo News she "wasn't surprised" to see such a glaring issue, as she often notices terrible accessible parking layouts when she drives around.

[Read More](#)

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PRIMARY CARE

Quicker hospital turnaround times saving lives

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 06/06/2026, David Chapman, Page 14

Loddon Mallee paramedics and first responders are getting to patients needing lifesaving care faster, according to the latest quarterly data. Regional director Matt McCrohan said in the Loddon Mallee Region, paramedics and first responders responded to 5874 Code 1 cases between January and March.

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

The paramedics that are keeping people out of hospital, rather than taking them there

Canberra Times, Other, 05/06/2026, Natalie Croxon

As an extended care paramedic, Elicia Tjong feels like she's "making a meaningful difference for patients". Ms Tjong has been an ECP for three years but in total has worked as paramedic for 13 years, mostly as an intensive care paramedic.

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

[Read More](#)

'Hands tied': south-west GP shortage forces urgent care clinic closures

Warrnambool Standard, Other, 05/06/2026, Ben Silvester

The Warrnambool Urgent Care Clinic is regularly having to close its doors because it cannot find qualified staff. The clinic will be closed on four separate days during the first week of June 2026, often for half a day at a time.

[Read More](#)

Rural town's loss of only GP within 100km is a symptom of broader funding issues: RACGP

The impending closure of Kalbarri's only general practice will leave 1500 residents without a local GP, exposing the ongoing gap between Medicare funding and the cost of delivering care, the Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) has said. Kalbarri Doctors Surgery announced yesterday it would close in June, with the owner saying the practice was no longer financially viable after switching to a fully bulk-billed model. Kalbarri qualifies for the second-highest level of increased Medicare funding due to remoteness.

[Read More](#)

GPs called to action on World Environment Day

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 05/06/2026, Michelle Wisbey

The RACGP is advocating for urgent action on climate change, with one expert saying GPs are 'healers beyond our consult rooms'. [...] 'The RACGP is committed to actively working towards a "net zero" healthcare system and to supporting GPs to be climate health leaders.'

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POPULATION HEALTH

Aussies under pressure

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 06/06/2026, Page 21

Experts leading the fight against one of Australia's biggest killers have called for renewed focus on those hit hardest, as the nation's blood pressure continues to rise. [...] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data reveals more than seven million Australian adults are now living with high blood pressure.

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My sober shift

Daily Telegraph, Weekend, 06/06/2026, Susannah Myerson, Page 10

She had it together on paper but lost herself in plain sight. [...] A 2023 report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found that women are now the fastest growing demographic of risky drinkers.

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

Excise fuelling our illegal smokes crisis

Daily Telegraph, General News, 06/06/2026, Rory Williams, Page 18

State ministers have renewed their attack on the federal government over the booming tobacco black market, as startling new data lays bare the scale of Australia's illicit tobacco crisis. Figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics this week show illicit products now account for 80 per cent of total tobacco consumption nationally, up from just 12 per cent in 2017.

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The many benefits of free public transport

Hobart Mercury, General News, 06/06/2026, Verity Cleland, Page 41

Free public transport offers not just cost-of-living relief, it could also be our ticket to better health and wellbeing. Amid surging fuel costs, the Tasmanian government introduced free public transport from March 30 to June 30 to ease cost-of-living pressures a measure extended for a further 12 months in the 2026-27 state budget.

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Race on to build housing

Weekend Post, General News, 06/06/2026, Page 1

Social and community housing in Cairns that is "not safe" could be repurposed for more intensive supported housing models that have been saving lives and money in capital cities, according to a speaker at a homelessness conference held in Cairns recently. [...] Data from the Australian Institute of

Health and Welfare shows Cairns has around 179 people per 10,000 of population seeking support for homelessness, which is high when compared with the state average of about 98 people per 10,000.

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Nicotine use soars across Australia

Weekend Post, General News, 06/06/2026, Page 12

Nicotine use in Australia has increased by almost 40 per cent since 2017. Most of the increase has occurred 2021, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, underpinned by a large rise in illicit cigarettes as well as increases in e-cigarettes and other nicotine products.

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

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I vape, but my doctor doesn't think I smoke: the absurd reality of nicotine in Australia

The Australian, Other, 05/06/2026, Sarah Ison

The way Australia is gauging our nicotine use is woefully out of date, exacerbating a lacklustre response to an issue that has well and truly run away from government. If you were to go to a doctor for a check up, you'd be asked the usual slew of questions.

[Read More](#)

Bruce Willis' wife launches new dementia support website for Australian families

The Australian, Other, 05/06/2026, Lillian Saleh

The wife of Hollywood actor Bruce Willis has helped launch a new website for Australian families with loved ones living with the same condition as her famous husband. [...] Dementia is now the biggest cause of death among Australians, with figures compiled by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and released by Dementia Australia showing 446,500 Aussies are impacted by the brain health condition – up 13,500 cases on the previous year.

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

[Read More](#)

22yo addict left incontinent, weighing just 35kg before dying in agony

NEWS.com.au, Other, 05/06/2026, Holly Christodoulou

A British estate agent with a ketamine addiction cried, "I can't do it anymore," before dying in agony, an inquest heard. [...] In Australia, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reported that past-year ketamine use rose from 0.9 per cent in 2019 to 1.4 per cent in 2022–2023, representing roughly 300,000 users.

[Read More](#)

There's only one way to fix Australia's illegal tobacco crisis

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 05/06/2026, Peter Van Onselen

The policy meant to stop smoking is making it worse There are policy failures, and then there is a policy failure so comprehensive it deserves its own category. [...] New Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows that total nicotine consumption rose by almost 40 per cent between 2017 and 2025, vastly outpacing population growth over that same period.

[Read More](#)

Tackling myths 5 and taboos head-on ead-or with health initiative

Big Rigs, General News, 05/06/2026, Page 20

Truck Week 2026 was filled with BBQs, depot open days, school visits, industry showcases and community celebrations right around Australia. [...] The initiative was delivered collaboratively by Heavy Vehicle Industry Australia, Healthy Heads in Trucks & Sheds, Australian Skin Cancer Foundation, Get Yourself Checked and SiSU Health Group.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Why dementia is harder for LGBTQ people

The Saturday Age, General News, 06/06/2026, Lauren Ironmonger, Page 20

When Mithrani/Mithra De Abrew Mahadeva was a teenager in Colombo, Sri Lanka, they had a crush. "It all started with a school concert.

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

\$20m plan to stay healthy

Hobart Mercury, General News, 06/06/2026, Nick Clark, Page 3

A \$20m preventive health strategy based on the views of 6000 Tasmanians has been released by Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing Minister Bridget Archer. Dubbed The Health Revolution, the 20-year strategy aimed to place prevention at the heart of the health system, Ms Archer said.

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'What happened to me was proper evil'

Northern Territory News, General News, 06/06/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 6

"Don't worry about him, he's a vegetable, he'll never walk or talk again." David Georgandis remembers overhearing these words from a doctor at Royal Darwin Hospital while he lay paralysed, in agonising nerve pain and with no one knowing he was fully conscious.

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

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

Hidden costs of regional cancer

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 06/06/2026, Abby Walter, Page 22

Regional Victorians with family members battling cancer have revealed the financial and emotional toll of often needing to travel long distances for treatment and care. Kelsey McCoy's 22-month old son Ollie Stap has a rare and aggressive cancer which has often forced the family on the road to Melbourne.

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

Test lets breast cancer patients skip chemo

Newcastle Herald, General News, 06/06/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 14

When Rebecca Wolfgang had breast cancer, she had a mastectomy but not chemotherapy. Mrs Wolfgang, of Hamilton South, was diagnosed with breast cancer in March last year.

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Life-saver's ready to roll

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 06/06/2026, Lochlainn Heley, Page 7

Mildura's cancer screening truck is ready to support regional areas far and wide with easy check-ups, following its official launch in April. The Mildura Base Public Hospital's \$3 million Screening Vehicle has been more than three years in the making, primarily funded by the local community to provide screening access to remote areas.

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

Awareness month for bowel cancer

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 06/06/2026, Denika Anderson, Page 17

Bowel Cancer Awareness Month couldn't have come around at a more poignant time, with Australia now having the highest rates of early-onset bowel cancer in the world. According to Bowel Cancer

Australia, the risk of diagnosis before 40 has more than doubled since 2000, and is not only the second-deadliest cancer in the nation but the deadliest for people aged 25-54.

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Our bowel cancer rates are a real punch in the gut

The Nightly, General News, 05/06/2026, Sarah Di Lorenzo, Page 31

June is Bowel Cancer Awareness Month, and it is the perfect time to talk about the connection between what we eat and the health of our bowel. Australia has one of the highest rates of bowel cancer in the world and bowel cancer is the second most common cause of cancer death in this country.

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

Sisters' plea to save new mum

Courier Mail, General News, 06/06/2026, Ashleigh Jansen, Page 35

A period usually full of hope and joy turned into a fight for life for Gold Coast woman Renee D'Onofrio. [...] In Australia a person can only register to donate stem cells between the ages of 17 and 35 ruling out a vast majority of people.

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

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Cardiologists reveal the biggest mistakes Aussies are making with heart health

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 05/06/2026, Taylor Penny

Cardiologists say they are seeing an increasing number of younger and midlife adults suffering heart issues they believe are linked to sedentary lifestyles exacerbated by working from home. It comes amid a spike in heart-related issues being seen in hospitals.

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

[Read More](#)

The future of assisted dying: Should we be guided by compassion or patient autonomy?

ABC Online, Other, 05/06/2026, Liezl Van Zyl

Voluntary assisted dying (VAD) is still relatively new in Australia and New Zealand. Legislators adopted a deliberately cautious approach. Eligibility is limited to a relatively narrow group of patients who are approaching the end of life, experiencing suffering they regard as intolerable and capable of making an informed and voluntary request.

[Read More](#)

Cancer Council WA encourage people affected by cancer to access Life Now programs to help relax mind and body

West Australian, Other, 05/06/2026, Amy Towers

Cancer Council WA is encouraging people in the Great Southern affected by cancer to access its free Life Now programs which aim to provide connection, calm and practical support during and after treatment. The initiative is helping patients, carers and family members across WA to develop coping strategies through mindfulness, meditation and shared experience, offering a space to pause amid the physical and emotional impacts of cancer.

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

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Channel 9, A Current Affair, 05/06/2026, Allison Langdon

Rare Cancers Australia CEO Christine Cockburn wants to see more federal funding to help families get life-saving treatment abroad. Meanwhile, cancer survivor Angus Cunningham has now written a book to help advocate for other patients like him to ease the burden on any other family facing a rare cancer.

ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 05/06/2026, Saskia Mabin

Interview with Pankind CEO Michelle Stewart. Stewart says Daraxonrasib has successfully passed the Phase 3 clinical trial, and they are hoping that Australia will access the drug to combat pancreatic cancer. Mabin states that Pankind's mission is to triple the pancreatic cancer survival rate by 2030, while Stewart notes that they are focused on both earlier detection and new treatments.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

ESafety chief questions 'blunt' social media ban

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 06/06/2026, Jacqueline Maley & David Swan, Page 3

eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant has put herself at odds with the federal government over its under-16s social media ban, saying she was "not really keen on" it, and it was based on legislation drafted "very quickly". "It was very thin scaffolding," she said.

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

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A most liveable city? But it's a long road from nature's ways

The Saturday Age, General News, 06/06/2026, Bianca Hall, Page 2

Melburnians have the poorest access to national parks and protected landscapes in Australia, a deficit that has accelerated as the population booms and threatens the famed world-class liveability of Victoria. [...] "The increasing intensification of urban development is denying more and more Melburnians access to the places that they need for their mental health and their physical health, and so this is one of the reasons why Melbourne in no way can be considered to be Australia's most livable city," he said.

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Strain shows

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 06/06/2026, Page 40

Mental health centre upgrade welcomed but more needs to be done to make CBD safe. Geelong is a city with a great deal to offer, but it is also a city under strain.

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Anti-depressant worry

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 06/06/2026, Page 12

Fresh concerns have been raised over the long-term use of antidepressants. Adelaide University and University of Queensland researchers found there was little evidence to suggest that antidepressants prevent relapse beyond 12 months and believe the widely cited benefits supporting longterm use may be overstated due to a fundamental flaw in research design.

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

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

Exploring the link between gardening and better mental health

ABC Online, Other, 05/06/2026, Tegan Osborne

After the birth of her youngest child, Manu Prigioni found herself in a tough place. Bushfires had torn through the Blue Mountains during her pregnancy, destroying about 200 homes and damaging even more.

[Read More](#)

Mafs Australia stars say the show is not safe for contestants: 'They just

sat back and let the cameras roll'

The Guardian, Other, 06/06/2026, Caitlin Cassidy

Less than two minutes into Australia's latest season of Married at First Sight (Mafs), groom Tyson Gordon remarks: "If she's a woke person, I don't really stand for any of that." Later in season 13, he worries that his wife is not the "submissive type", in comments described at the time by the social services minister, Tanya Plibersek, as mainstreaming "coercive control".

[Read More](#)

A video, two Australian policemen jailed, and the disturbing case of Jodi Knott.

Mamamia, Other, 05/06/2026

Police culture, including how officers treat people suffering mental health episodes, is under scrutiny again. Footage from 2023 showing two NSW Police officers bashing Jodi Knott, a schizophrenic woman, who was having a psychotic episode, has sparked condemnation after it was released to the ABC's Four Corners program.

[Read More](#)

Politicians put Truck Week on national stage in Canberra

Big Rigs, General News, 05/06/2026, Page 22

Federal MPs and Senators helped put Truck Week 2026 on the national stage, with strong statements of support in Parliament and a landmark mental health funding announcement during Healthy Heads in Trucks & Sheds' activation outside Parliament House. Truck Week 2026 reached well beyond depots, workshops, truck stops and events across the country with strong engagement from Federal Parliament helping put Australia's heavy vehicle industry on the national stage.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 05/06/2026, Saskia Mabin

Interview with Independent Member Thomas Emerson. Mabin says Lifeline has revealed that women are more likely to attempt suicide, while men are more likely to die by suicide, and she adds that the ACT Government has now set up an inquiry into men's suicide rates. Emerson says they have heard through hearings that there is a stigma around asking for help, but there is also a challenge with offering help, and they also learned that suicidality is not necessarily related to long-term mental illness issues, but also life issues, such as job loss, relationship breakdown, custody battles, debt, and gambling addiction.

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

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IMMUNISATION

ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 05/06/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with WA Chief Health Officer Dr Clare Huppatz. Huppatz says vaccination is the best way people can combat viruses, particularly those that are preventable, and people are urged to be mindful to keep their vaccinations up to date. She also notes that there is a vaccine effective against getting severe disease from diphtheria, and it is recommended for people living in the Kimberley, Pilbara and the Goldfields to get vaccinated.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Gender bias in kidney disease

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 06/06/2026, Page 25

Women with chronic kidney disease are less likely than men to be diagnosed, represented in research or given treatments that have been properly tested for them. That is the central finding of George Institute for Global Health research warning that decades of male-dominated clinical research have left women systematically disadvantaged at every stage.

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Blood proteins could predict cancer

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 06/06/2026, Claire Sadler, Page 37

Researchers have identified proteins in blood that could predict lung cancer risk more than five years before diagnosis. The English study applied machine learning to blood plasma protein data from more than 48,000 people in the UK that later developed lung cancer.

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

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Blood signature test for lung cancer risk

Weekend Post, General News, 06/06/2026, Page 12

Researchers have identified a blood signature that can predict lung cancer risk years before diagnosis significant findings that could enhance prevention strategies for Australia's biggest cancer killer. The landmark study could help identify people who would benefit from preventive drugs, even before they receive a lung cancer diagnosis.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Broad opposition to new child safety laws

Weekend Australian, General News, 06/06/2026, Christine Middap, Page 5

The Northern Territory government's plan to make safety the top priority in child protection cases and increase parental accountability has been slammed by key medical, legal, Aboriginal and youth advocacy groups who fear the amendments would make it easier for Aboriginal children to be removed from family and disconnected from culture. Submissions to a legislative scrutiny committee were overwhelmingly opposed to proposed changes to the Care and Protection of Children Act, with claims they had been rushed through without proper consultation and would do nothing to improve child safety.

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

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Forgotten kids: ghosts in the justice machine

Weekend Australian, General News, 06/06/2026, Christine Middap, Page 5

Throughout two days of hearings and 150 submissions into proposed changes to Northern Territory child protection laws, there were many earnest lectures on the harms associated with removing children from their families. But there was a glaring omission in much of the evidence from the long list of lawyers, child and Aboriginal advocacy and justice groups.

Closing the Gap in danger of boycott

Weekend Australian, General News, 06/06/2026, James Dowling & Paige Taylor, Page 6

Collaboration between governments and Aboriginal groups faces the prospect of mass boycotts in NSW, as a state coalition of Indigenous organisations working on Closing the Gap openly discusses quitting. A plan by the Minns government to restrict when and how land councils in NSW can claim crown property triggered a months-long brawl with the NSW Aboriginal Land Council - and now Aboriginal organisations working in education, health, justice and the disability sector are offside.

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

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Keeping 'at risk' Central Australian Indigenous languages alive through research – and emojis

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 05/06/2026, Gera Kazakov

Smartphones almost "tipped the scales out of whack" when it came to keeping local Central Australian languages alive, one researcher says. [...] "I'd like to see Indigenous languages become a permanent fixture in remote engagement, throughout government and service provision — so we can make the delivery of health literacy, government programs and policies much more efficient, and contribute to Closing the Gap in a more timely way."

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

[Read More](#)

Inquiry submissions overwhelmingly oppose NT child protection reforms

National Indigenous Times, Other, 05/06/2026

The overwhelming majority of submissions to a Northern Territory parliamentary inquiry into proposed child protection reforms have urged the government to reconsider changes critics say will "ultimately place more children at risk". Following the tragic death of five-year-old Kumanjayi Little Baby in April, the NT Government has focused its response on child protection, introducing new legislation and commissioning a review into the department's handling of her case in the lead up to her death.

[Read More](#)

New training module to strengthen cultural safety in pharmacy

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 05/06/2026

PSA announces expansion of its Deadly Pharmacists training program. A new module is being added to the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA's) Deadly Pharmacists program aimed at supporting pharmacists to deliver culturally safe and responsive care to First Nations people.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 05/06/2026, Lara Stimpson

Barunga Festival organisers have confirmed diphtheria vaccines will be on offer at the event. The festival brings thousands of people to a small Aboriginal community near Katherine, with organisers expecting this year's attendance to be record-breaking.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Culture of fear claims in hospital

Courier Mail, General News, 06/06/2026, Daniel Shirkie, Page 6

Leaked responses from an independent review into culture at Townsville University Hospital have uncovered entrenched fear and concerns about patient care, intensifying the fallout from an explosive

clash between board members and senior doctors at the Townsville Hospital and Health Service. In May, THHS board chairman Tony Mooney faced criticism and calls to step down after a tense exchange with senior doctors over a perceived lack of action despite multiple cultural reviews.

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

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'Absolutely abhorrent'

Northern Territory News, General News, 06/06/2026, Harry Brill, Page 3

A female doctor working on the Tiwi Islands was allegedly assaulted by one of her patients before a bystander bravely intervened. It is understood the doctor was attending to the patient at Julanimawu Health Centre on Friday, May 29, when she was set upon in front of other staff members.

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Why the Tasmanian health system is failing and it's not cheese toasties at 1.30am or staffroom biscuits

Hobart Mercury, General News, 06/06/2026, Michael Lumsden-Steel, Page 40

Recently, at the North West Regional Hospital, theatre staff finished operating at 1.30am. Tired and hungry, they went to make a cheese toastie only to find a sign on the fridge: "Cheese is no longer being supplied by the kitchen".

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

No surprises but risks aplenty in Tom Koutsantonis' comeback budget

ABC Online, Other, 05/06/2026, Thomas Kelsall

If a week's a long time in politics, nine years is an eternity. [...] That budget also contained \$528 million for a new Adelaide Women's Hospital to be co-located with the Royal Adelaide Hospital and "completed in 2024".

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Road blocks and pampered docs mock Mali waste blitz

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 06/06/2026, Paul Starick, Page 30

Here's a few ideas for the Premier's admirable drive to improve productivity and slash red tape across state and local government. Crack down on public hospital doctors jet-setting business class, racking up taxpayer-funded bills of up to \$28,000 per person, per trip, or being reimbursed for multiple watches and iPads.

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Docs sock it to the blues for health day

Courier Mail, General News, 06/06/2026, Kyle Rode, Page 32

Doctors at some of Queensland's biggest hospitals have donned their craziest socks to spread awareness about health workers' mental health. The Crazy Socks 4 Docs Day is aimed to be a global reminder of the mentally taxing and occasionally traumatic experiences the medical workforce have to work through to help those who need it most.

Also reported by: [Royal Australian College of General Practitioners \(Online\)](#)

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Treasurer criticises Coalition job freeze

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 06/06/2026, Lochlainn Heley, Page 9

Member for North Victoria Jaclyn Symes has criticised the Coalition's \$22 billion plan to freeze hiring for public servant roles, saying it will put regional communities at risk. Opposition Leader Jess Wilson announced the plan last month, proposing to freeze hiring of public sector roles for 46 Victorian Government departments and agencies.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Coroner slams drug doctor

Hobart Mercury, General News, 06/06/2026, Duncan Abey, Page 9

A former Tasmanian doctor repeatedly provided drug-dependent patients with dangerous medication combinations, failed to change his behaviour after a patient died, and "invented" evidence at a subsequent inquest, a coroner found. Coroner Olivia McTaggart found Dr David Jackson's unsafe prescription of methadone and benzodiazepines played a direct role in the deaths of two men in 2016 and 2017.

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

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'Excess supply' of opioids contributed to deaths: coroner

Burnie Advocate, General News, 06/06/2026, Annika Rhoades, Page 10

The deaths of four drug-dependent patients, who died within 11 months of each other, were due to a doctor's excessive prescribing methods, a coroner has found. A number of similarities between the deaths of Nicholas Shane Brown, 35, Toni Lee Wiki, 38, Matthew Wayne Winwood, 47, and Belinda Emma Kemp, 37, prompted coroner Olivia McTaggart to order a joint inquest.

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

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Former dentist 'drilled'

Ballarat Courier, General News, 06/06/2026, Bryan Hoadley, Page 1

Former Ballarat dentist Ian Lomax has been found guilty of behaving in an offensive manner after he and three others booed during a 2025 Anzac Day dawn service. [...] When discussing Lomax's employment status, Mr Norton said he was working as a farmhand after having his licence suspended by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

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Chia Liang Saw: Perth paediatrician suspended from practising in

Australia

West Australian, Other, 05/06/2026, Rhianna Mitchell

A Perth developmental paediatrician who is facing child sex assault charges has had his medical registration suspended. [...] On Friday the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency suspended Dr Saw's registration, meaning he cannot practise in Australia.

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

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Tasmanian coroner finds doctor's prescribing played a direct role in two deaths

ABC Online, Other, 05/06/2026, Clancy Balen

A former medical practitioner's "grossly irresponsible" prescribing played a direct role in the deaths of two drug-dependent people in Tasmania, a coroner has found. A report by coroner Olivia McTaggart into the deaths of four people found Dr David Jackson had prescribed methadone as part of opioid replacement therapy (ORT), and benzodiazepines, to each of the deceased at their time of death.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Is Australia prepared for Ebola?

The Saturday Paper, General News, 06/06/2026, Raina MacIntyre, Page 10

An outbreak of the rare Bundibugyo strain of Ebola is proving difficult to control in the Ituri province of the Democratic Republic of Congo, a region beset by conflict and insecurity. The virus has reached epidemic proportions, with 321 confirmed cases, and has spread to Uganda and possibly other countries further afield.

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Recorded flu numbers drop drastically but expert warns caution

ABC Online, Other, 05/06/2026, Charlie Mclean & Emma Pollard

The number of influenza infections recorded in Australia so far this flu season is below average, but one expert has cautioned against complacency. According to the latest respiratory surveillance report, released today by the Australian Centre for Disease Control (ACDC), there's been a 65 per cent drop in notified flu cases compared to the same period the last year.

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WA's new Chief Health Officer Clare Huppertz confident state's Ebola risk is low

ABC Online, Other, 05/06/2026, Courtney Withers

Western Australia's new chief health officer is confident the risk of Ebola entering the state is low as authorities continue to monitor travel from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) amid an outbreak of the deadly disease. With several WA-based mining companies and contractors travelling to and from the stricken country, discussions are underway about what to do if a suspected case does reach Australian shores.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Breakfast, 05/06/2026, Jess Ong

Interview with NT Chief Health Officer Dr Paul Burgess. Burgess says there have been 196 cases of diphtheria since 1 January, but the numbers have now decreased due to treatments and vaccinations, and it is a pleasing reward for the hard work that has been done. Ong adds that Barunga Festival organisers have confirmed that diphtheria vaccines will be offered at the event, while Burgess says NT Health staff will work with Sunrise Health Service at the Barunga Clinic.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Victorians are slugged \$700 a month for weight loss drugs. Prisoners get them for free

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 05/06/2026, Carly Douglas

Taxpayers are footing the bill for prisoners to access weight-loss drugs Ozempic and Mounjaro behind bars while regular Victorians pay up to almost \$700 a month. [...] She said the Therapeutic Goods Administration had lifted the decision to prioritise Ozempic for people with diabetes in 2025.

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

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TGA still investigating sunscreens that Choice testing found failed to meet SPF claims

ABC Online, Other, 05/06/2026, Rachel Carbonell & Stephanie Dalzell

Almost all the sunscreens that failed to meet their SPF label claims are still being investigated by health authorities nearly a year later, with the nation's medicines regulator conceding the process has "taken a long time". The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) told a Senate estimates hearing this week it was still investigating 15 of the 16 sunscreens a Choice analysis found fell short of their SPF claims.

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Quit Victoria aims new campaign at vapers while warning laws fall short

ABC Online, Other, 05/06/2026, Tim Callanan & Costa Haritos

Anti-vaping advocates and public health experts argue Victoria's laws and enforcement are inadequate to crack down on a flood of imported illegal products being sold to fuel potentially dangerous addictions. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) also removed 2.2 million unlawful vaping products from the community, worth \$110.5 million, during that time.

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ABC News, ABC National News, 05/06/2026, Joe O'Brien

Young people and bodybuilders are injecting unregulated peptides that promise to stimulate tanning, but Australian skin specialists are sounding the alarm over potential skin cancer risks and other worrying side effects. The Therapeutic Goods Administration also says it is concerned about an increase in the importation and supply of unapproved peptides and warns that the risks include contamination.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 05/06/2026, Thomas Oriti

The Therapeutic Goods Administration is warning that unregulated peptides pose a significant public health risk. Melanotan 2 is a synthetic peptide not approved for human use or sale in Australia, but it's among the most popular peptides being pushed online for tanning and instructions on how to buy and use unregulated peptides are rife on social media.

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

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Dumbbells preying on our teens

Daily Telegraph, General News, 06/06/2026, Darcy Fitzgerald, Lauren Novak & Susie O'Brien, Page 22

"Don't take steroids at 15, wait until you're 16." This is the harrowing health message Australian teenage boys are hearing online from viral "looksmaxxing" influencers who experts warn are "normalising" dangerous steroid and peptide use.

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

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Law change for medicinal cannabis users

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 06/06/2026, Natalie Croxon, Page 28

Motorists who are prescribed cannabis for medicinal purposes will no longer face automatic penalties if they test positive to the presence of the substance in their system, under proposed reforms announced on Thursday. There are an estimated 300,000 medicinal cannabis users in NSW, and the number of cannabis medications dispensed monthly in the state has doubled in a year.

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Chris Minns' slow march to soften NSW drug laws

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 05/06/2026, James O'Doherty

With eight months until voters cast their verdict on Chris Minns' first term, which version of the Premier are we to believe? Are we to believe the Minns who, three years ago, vowed he would not decriminalise illegal drugs?

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

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'He drives at his own risk': why cannabis law changes offer hope to this family

The Border Mail, Other, 05/06/2026, Chelsea Wilson

Pharmacist Aimee Pearson said changes to NSW driving laws are a "good start" for medicinal cannabis users being treated as "normal prescription users". The Legalise Cannabis Australia Farrer byelection candidate helps care for her husband Matt Pearson who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) three years ago and manages the condition with prescribed cannabis.

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2GB, Drive, 05/06/2026, Clinton Maynard

Interview with trauma surgeon John Crozier. Maynard says drivers who are prescribed medicinal cannabis and test positive for THC below the maximum threshold will not face charges. Crozier notes that it's a horror announcement from the NSW Government, and that cannabis has been a significant component in the bodies of those killed on NSW roads in the last five years.

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