



TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 9th June 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
| [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Disability and Carers](#) | [Primary Care](#)
| [Population Health](#) | [Chronic Conditions and Screening](#) |
[Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Immunisation](#) | [Health Systems Strategies](#)
| [Health Economics & Research](#) | [First Nations Health](#)
| [Public Hospital and Health Reform](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#) | [Australian CDC](#) |
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports the Federal Government has announced priority aged care support to reduce wait times for people living with motor neurone disease, but these changes do not account for young people like fourteen-year-old Bronte Cousins who is living with rare juvenile amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Health Minister Mark Butler's office has been contacted for comment regarding the progressive disorder, which accounts for 0.1 per cent of cases worldwide and currently has no cure or eligible clinical trials for patients of her age.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports the ACTU and the RANZCP have raised concerns regarding the Federal Government's proposed legislation to restrict NDIS access for individuals eligible for workers' compensation and to implement a functionality-based assessment framework.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 4) reports the Australian Association of Psychologists has criticized a decision by the Therapeutic Goods Administration to exclude two-thirds of the psychology workforce from an expanded roster of practitioners permitted to lead psychedelic-assisted therapy sessions.
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports the NDIA spent 60 million dollars in external lawyers in the last financial year to defend funding decisions at the Administrative Review Tribunal, despite data from 2024–25 showing that between 65 per cent and 73 per cent of these cases resulted in the agency's decision being overturned.

- [Dynamic Business](#) (online) reports the biotechnology sector has expressed concern that a Federal Government proposal to limit the Research and Development Tax Incentive refundable offset to companies less than ten years old will jeopardise Australia's largest value-add export industry outside primary industries. Nine industry organisations representing the sector have requested an urgent review before the changes are legislated, warning that the current wait times for new products is seventeen years according to the Federal Department of Health's 2025 National Health and Medical Research Strategy Issues Paper.

MINISTER BUTLER

Smiling in the face of pain

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 09/06/2026, Emily Kaine, Page 1

In the year after her daughter Bronte was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Bronwyn Cousins did not sleep. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler's office has been contacted for comment.

Also reported by: [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [WEB Melbourne Age \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#).

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Disability community says the NDIS is 'fighting the wrong battles' over funding plans at review tribunal

ABC Online, Other, 08/06/2026, Sarah Richards

Chantel Moody spends her day carefully planning her movements, down to when and how much water she consumes. [...] Mr Butler and NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister were contacted for comment.

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Independent MP Dai Le pushes Labor to overhaul lobbying laws after Health Minister's chief of staff gains inside access while in govt relations role

Sky News Australia, Other, 08/06/2026, Oscar Godsell

The Albanese government has faced growing calls for tougher lobbying laws and cooling-off periods for ministerial staff following revelations exposed in a SkyNews.com.au investigation. [...] According to information published by the Department of Health, and updated in April 2026, the forum remains actively involved in progressing private hospital reform.

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The Zap: all the latest health and aged care news, and key consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 08/06/2026, Melissa Sweet

Public and private hospitals have been urged to implement a new National Model for Clinical Governance to strengthen the safety and accountability of healthcare while, in other news, efforts are underway to build the health workforce's capability to recognise and respond to family, domestic and sexual violence. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler announced the Government would give people with Motor Neurone Disease (MND) priority access to care under the Support at Home aged care program.

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER MCALLISTER

Disability community says the NDIS is 'fighting the wrong battles' over funding plans at review tribunal

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER RAE

The Zap: all the latest health and aged care news, and key consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 08/06/2026, Melissa Sweet

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

The Zap: all the latest health and aged care news, and key consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 08/06/2026, Melissa Sweet

Public and private hospitals have been urged to implement a new National Model for Clinical Governance to strengthen the safety and accountability of healthcare while, in other news, efforts are underway to build the health workforce's capability to recognise and respond to family, domestic and sexual violence. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler announced the Government would give people with Motor Neurone Disease (MND) priority access to care under the Support at Home aged care program.

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

The Zap: all the latest health and aged care news, and key consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 08/06/2026, Melissa Sweet

Public and private hospitals have been urged to implement a new National Model for Clinical Governance to strengthen the safety and accountability of healthcare while, in other news, efforts are underway to build the health workforce's capability to recognise and respond to family, domestic and sexual violence. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler announced the Government would give people with Motor Neurone Disease (MND) priority access to care under the Support at Home aged care program.

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[Back to Top](#)

SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

Seven Orange, Seven Local News, 08/06/2026, Madeleine Collignon

Men from across Australia have battled it out in an arm wrestling event in Orange, with local state member Phil Donato bringing local legends and health professionals together to spark some vital

conversations. Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi states that if an event like this can help get blokes talking, it will help save lives.

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[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

The Zap: all the latest health and aged care news, and key consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 08/06/2026, Melissa Sweet

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Biotech and medtech pushes back hard on Budget R&D tax changes, warning companies may leave

Dynamic Business, Other, 08/06/2026, Yajush Gupta

Biotechnology has been Australia's largest value-add export industry outside primary industries since 2016. [...] The 2025 National Health and Medical Research Strategy Issues Paper from the Department of Health and Aged Care put the average timeframe at 17 years.

[Read More](#)

Members Health says government is flying blind on pensioner rebates

Insurance Business Australia, Other, 08/06/2026, Roxanne Libatique

Members Health Fund Alliance, the peak body for Australia's member-owned and not-for-profit health funds, has raised questions about the adequacy of the government's groundwork after Senate Estimates hearings revealed officials were unable to answer basic questions about a planned reduction to private health insurance rebates for Australians over 65. Officials unable to supply basic demographic data Senators heard that the Department of Health and Aged Care could not identify how many pensioners fall within the 2.8 million Australians on the base rebate tier, nor how many of those earn below \$55,000 per year or receive a full versus part pension.

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Independent MP Dai Le pushes Labor to overhaul lobbying laws after Health Minister's chief of staff gains inside access while in govt relations role

Sky News Australia, Other, 08/06/2026, Oscar Godsell

The Albanese government has faced growing calls for tougher lobbying laws and cooling-off periods for ministerial staff following revelations exposed in a SkyNews.com.au investigation. [...] According to information published by the Department of Health, and updated in April 2026, the forum remains actively involved in progressing private hospital reform.

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ABC Radio Perth, 08:00 News , 08/06/2026

According to an internal memo obtained by the ABC, Integral Diagnostics, a private health provider that operates more than 150 radiology clinics across Australia and New Zealand, has been billing Medicare for services that are not eligible for bulk billing. WA Health Minister Meredith Hammat says she is now seeking advice, and that she has informed the Federal Health Department of concerns over the Medicare billing.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

The aged-care mistakes to avoid

Canberra Times, General News, 09/06/2026, Rachel Lane, Page 8

Decisions about aged care are often made during periods of stress, illness or crisis. Families are trying to balance emotional considerations with complex financial rules, often while working against the clock. The wrong decision can cost tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

DISABILITY AND CARERS

Women to be hardest-hit by sweeping NDIS changes

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 09/06/2026

Women and families of disabled Australians will be unfairly affected by a sweeping rewrite of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, advocacy groups have warned. A government inquiry into proposed NDIS changes is this week expected to hear evidence that access changes - designed in part to halt ballooning costs - will negatively impact mothers of disabled children, even if they are adults.

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

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NDIS power couple who complained they were unfairly sacked are given brutal reality check after allegedly misusing hundreds of thousands of dollars

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 08/06/2026, Sarah Brookes

Two senior NDIS managers have lost their unfair dismissal case after they allegedly misused hundreds of thousands of dollars in company funds. Assure Ability HR/IT manager Tamanna Rahman and operations manager Talat Mahmud, a married couple, were abruptly shown the door last May after being fired for misconduct at a board meeting called by CEO Mohammad Sharier.

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[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Measuring appropriate care

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 08/06/2026, Annette Katelaris

A significant study designed to measure how well we deliver "appropriate care" to patients in Australia is reported in the latest issue of the MJA. [...] While the methods used by the American and Australian studies were slightly different, the findings are essentially the same — that almost half of patients are not receiving appropriate care.

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[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Elon Musk's grim warning Australia is 'disappearing' as new data shows birth rate dropping in concerning trend

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 08/06/2026, Ashley Nickel

The world's richest man Elon Musk has warned Australians are 'disappearing' due to a steeply declining birth rate. [...] Australia's birth rate first fell below the replacement rate of 2.1 children per woman almost 50 years ago.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Skin in the WA game for cancer fighters

West Australian, Business News, 09/06/2026, Rebecca Le May, Page 38

Australia's biggest skin cancer screening network is expanding into WA workplaces and finalising an at-home application as it seeks to slash alarming levels of the deadly disease across the nation. In a confidential deal, Auckland-founded MoleMap recently bought Perth-based family-run business Spotscreen, which has operated mobile clinics for corporate and government clients and also direct to consumers in regional communities since 2011.

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

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'Terrifying': SA teen's sight at risk after rare eye condition misdiagnosed

7News.com.au, Other, 08/06/2026, Madison Stanley

An Aussie mother is urging parents to seek a second opinion after a rare autoimmune eye condition was misdiagnosed, leaving her daughter blind in one eye and now threatening the sight in the other. Thirteen-year-old Sophie Carruthers of Mount Gambier in South Australia has spent most of her childhood navigating a disease few people have heard of.

[Read More](#)

Victorian families reveal the hidden costs of regional cancer treatment

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/06/2026, Abby Walter

Regional Victorian families battling cancer have revealed the financial and emotional toll of needing to travel long distances, and constantly, for treatment and care. [...] Cancer Council Victoria head of strategy and support Danielle Spence said regional Victorians experienced unique challenges in accessing health care, including a lack of specialised health services locally and higher out-of-pocket costs, mostly travel related.

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ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 08/06/2026, Manny Tsigas

World-renowned cancer researcher and former Australian of the Year Professor Richard Scolyer, 59, is being remembered as an extraordinary medical pioneer after dying from an aggressive form of brain cancer. Scolyer and long-time oncologist Professor Georgina Long revolutionised cancer treatment, treating melanoma using immunotherapy.

Similar coverage reported by: [Channel 10 \(Perth\)](#), [SBS \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).

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ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 08/06/2026, Samantha Donovan

Tributes are flowing for world-renowned cancer researcher and former Australian of the Year Professor

Richard Scolyer. The medical pioneer has died at the age of 59 from an aggressive brain tumour, and he is being remembered for using his own groundbreaking immunotherapy research to help treat his own cancer.

Similar coverage reported by: [ABC Radio Canberra \(Canberra\)](#), [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Darwin \(Darwin\)](#), [2GB \(Sydney\)](#), [4BC \(Brisbane\)](#), [2CC \(Canberra\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

IMMUNISATION

Elderly act on RSV alert

Herald Sun, General News, 09/06/2026, Page 18

Older Australians are embracing the opportunity to protect themselves against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Just three weeks into a federally funded RSV vaccination program, 60 per cent of Australians eligible for the free vaccination (those aged 75 years or over and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 60 years or over) have either already received the vaccine or intend to do so soon, according to an Immunisation Foundation of Australia survey released to mark RSV Awareness Week.

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

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ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 08/06/2026, Lara Stimpson

Interview with Michelle Fielding, National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre, on delivering diphtheria vaccines at the Barunga Festival. Fielding says people from the Sunrise Health Clinic did a great job all week in making sure that the Barunga community is vaccinated. She also notes that the best way for people to protect themselves is to get vaccinated and stay healthy.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Private health insurance dethrones working from home as most-wanted job perk

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 08/06/2026, Rebecca Borg

Working from home is no longer the preferred staff incentive, with landmark research revealing one in two Aussies would rather their bosses foot the bill for private health insurance over flexible work arrangements. [...] Instead, employer-funded private healthcare is now taking precedence for 56 per cent of Australians who have deferred crucial dental, optical and medical treatment as they can't afford it.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Something fishy about potential heart muscle help

The Australian, General News, 09/06/2026, Stephen Lunn, Page 4

Could the humble zebrafish hold the key to the holy grail of heart attack care regrowing damaged heart muscles? [...] The answers are vital for the around 57,000 people who suffer a heart attack each year in Australia, or at least the 60 per cent of them who survive.

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

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Egg-cellent result as early exposure reduces allergy

Daily Telegraph, General News, 09/06/2026, Jackie Sinnerton & Kate Kyriacou, Page 11

The number of children with egg allergies has plummeted following controversial changes to Australian guidelines recommending parents feed their babies foods known to cause reactions. A new study out of the University of Queensland found a 17 per cent drop in the number of babies with egg allergies following the change in advice a decade ago.

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

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Heat, smoke risk to kids

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 09/06/2026, Page 8

The combined impacts of extreme heat and bushfire smoke exposure increase the risk of children being hospitalised. The Monash University-led study, which looked at hospitalisations in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile and Thailand from 2000 to 2019, found high risks from the combination, with strong effects on respiratory illness, renal illness and diabetes.

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Does being in a 'safe seat' influence whether your hospital gets an upgrade?

ABC Online, Other, 08/06/2026, Jean Bell

Does the political landscape in regional Victoria determine whether your local hospital gets money for an upgrade? [...] A Victorian government spokesperson dismissed the claims regarding the Hamilton, Mildura and Daylesford hospitals.

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AHCWA chair Vicki O'Donnell: poverty to blame for Diphtheria outbreak

West Australian, Other, 08/06/2026, Cain Andrews

Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia chair Vicki O'Donnell has blamed the ongoing diphtheria outbreak across the Kimberley and Pilbara on the State Government's lack of long-term environmental health investment. The potentially fatal disease which had not been seen in regional WA for more than half a century until earlier this year first started in the Northern Territory in late 2025 before moving west to the Kimberley and Pilbara.

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[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 08/06/2026, Manny Tsigas

Residents from remote Indigenous communities are aware their lives are much worse than those of non-Indigenous populations, but members of the Borroloola community in the NT's Gulf of Carpentaria are now calling for an investigation into the 15 deaths that could have been prevented. Families feel Borroloola's NT Government-run clinic does not provide enough health checks and prevention programs, but the NT Health Department insisted the Borroloola clinic is appropriately staffed and has prevention programs, including a health check week.

ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 08/06/2026, Lara Stimpson

Stimpson is joined by ABC reporter Jane Bardon. Stimpson says families in Borroloola want the healthcare crisis investigated after 15 preventable deaths have been recorded in the past six months. Bardon states that the community felt their clinic is too busy, and that they have mostly a fly-in, fly-out doctor model, but the NT Government maintained that there are two permanent doctors allocated to the clinic.

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

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ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 08/06/2026, Leon Compton

Residents in a remote Northern Territory community say they are alarmed by the number of deaths among family and friends and want authorities to investigate what's driving the trend. People in Borroloola say 15 community members have died in recent months, fueling concerns about health outcomes in remote Indigenous Australia, where life expectancy continues to lag behind the broader population.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

A fine mess

Newcastle Herald, General News, 09/06/2026, Damon Cronshaw & Jamieson Murphy, Page 1

The Sydney-based Novacare Health dodged more than \$170 million in financial penalties over alleged failures at the Calvary Mater Newcastle hospital. [...] The abatements issue has come under scrutiny at the NSW parliamentary inquiry into the Mater mould and maintenance scandal.

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Response times eclipse worst-case scenario

Launceston Examiner, General News, 09/06/2026, Bailey Forbes, Page 7

Ambulance wait times have surpassed an independent review's worst-case scenario, as the government says demand for the service is higher than ever. In 2022, the Tasmanian government commissioned a report to model increasing demand for ambulances to project how response times would change under different scenarios.

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Channel 10, 10 News, 08/06/2026, Tiffany Warne

Fresh hospital data is raising the alarm on wait times with fewer young people who need urgent care being seen on time. The SA Opposition has voiced its concern, but the SA Government argues that things were even worse when the Liberals were last in power.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, Breakfast, 08/06/2026, Bob Murphy & Richelle Hunt

Leading political analyst Dr Andrew Hughes asserts that Victoria urgently requires a fully independent infrastructure authority with binding statutory powers to distribute public project funding, amid escalating claims that regional hospitals are being systematically sidelined due to partisan politics. The Victorian Government has fiercely rejected the allegations, maintaining that all major healthcare developments are funded strictly based on localised community and population demands.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

NDIS revolt over workers' comp

The Australian, General News, 09/06/2026, Sarah Ison, Page 1

Unions are demanding Labor abandon plans to restrict NDIS access for those also receiving funding through workers' compensation schemes, warning the proposed reforms risk "disadvantaging injured workers" and calling on the government to "maintain the status quo". As disability advocates and industry leaders prepare to lay out their mounting concerns over Labor's landmark NDIS reforms at a parliamentary inquiry this week, the Australian Council of Trade Unions warned against policies seeking to reduce duplication between different taxpayer-funded support schemes.

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

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A member-led future for nurses and midwives in WA

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 08/06/2026, Natalie Dragon

After three decades spanning corporate management, clinical nursing and health leadership, Romina Raschilla never expected to find herself at the helm of Western Australia's largest union. [...] The union recently joined forces with the Australian Medical Association, United Workers Union and Health Services Union to develop a five-point plan to address ramping, presented to the WA Government ahead of winter.

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[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Bad management not bulk-billing behind Cohealth's financial troubles: Stephen Duckett

Australian Doctor, Other, 08/06/2026

The board of a universal bulk-billing community health service needing a \$3 million government bailout is now facing dismissal after a scathing report condemned its management skills. [...] Cohealth itself had blamed Medicare funding for its plight last year, saying that even the additional \$400,000 it would receive from the new bulk-billing incentive payments would not be enough to keep three clinics in the inner city open.

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[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Perth paediatrician Chia Liang Saw faces court on child sex charges

ABC Online, Other, 08/06/2026, David Weber

A West Australian paediatrician who has been charged with child sex offences may have up to nine alleged victims, a Perth court has heard. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has suspended Dr Saw's medical registration, meaning he cannot practice in Australia.

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

[Read More](#)

Indigenous siblings pursue careers in medicine, following in the footsteps of their mother

ABC Online, Other, 08/06/2026, Nakari Thorpe

Since she was young, leesha Nasser knew she wanted to be a doctor. [...] According to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's Medical Board of Australia registrant data, there were 969 medical practitioners who identified as First Nations as of December 31, 2025.

[Read More](#)

Professional capabilities around responding to domestic violence need to be more explicit

Medical Forum, Other, 08/06/2026

AHPRA is looking at ways to strengthen health practitioner capability in responding to family, domestic and sexual violence (FDSV). [...] About one in five Australian women who experience violence from a current or former partner turn to a general practitioner or other health professional for advice or support.

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[Back to Top](#)

AUSTRALIAN CDC

4BC, Breakfast , 08/06/2026, Dean Miller & Sofie Formica

Australian health authorities are issuing urgent public warnings urging vulnerable demographics to get vaccinated against Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) following a sharp seasonal surge of more than 52,000 recorded cases across the nation. To combat the spread, the Federal Government has officially listed the protective vaccine on the National Immunisation Program (NIP).

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[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Psychedelic therapy legal stoush brews

The Australian, General News, 09/06/2026, Penny Timms, Page 4

The Australian Association of Psychologists is weighing up its legal options after the drug regulator excluded the majority of psychologists in a rapid expansion of who can lead psychedelic-assisted therapy sessions. The association is a peak body representing psychologists and its president, Sarah O'Doherty, describes the Therapeutic Goods Administration's decision as "egregious".

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Channel 10, 10 News, 08/06/2026, Sharyn Ghidella

mRNA technology revolutionised vaccines, and Australian researchers have now developed a way for it to prevent heart disease. A new drug is being trialled to target blood clots, but without thinning the blood and causing other serious complications.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 08/06/2026, Peter Overton

There is growing concern over the use of synthetic peptides, and experts say their side effects can range from severe digestive issues to allergic reactions. As the peptide wellness craze dominates social media, the Therapeutic Goods Administration struggles to control a booming unregulated black market.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

Warning on packaging as microplastic danger rises

Daily Telegraph, General News, 09/06/2026, Tia Clarkson-Pascoe, Page 17

Ordinary food products like yoghurt pouches and microwavable rice are exposing children to increasing levels of microplastics with one expert warning it could trigger the next major public health crisis.

Pediatric nutritionist Mandy Sacher said Australians were unknowingly exposing themselves and their children to increasing levels of plastics, and she is calling for mandatory warnings on food packaging.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

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