



# TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 12th June 2026

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

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that states are calling for the Federal Government to slow down its NDIS reforms, while also demanding a scaling-back of commonwealth powers over the scheme. *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [West Australian](#), [Canberra Times](#), [SBS](#)*
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 2) reports that the coronial inquest into 50 pandemic-related deaths at Melbourne's St Basil's Home for the Aged will resume in August to question the facility's former managers after Victoria's highest court compelled them to testify. *Also reported by: [ABC](#), [Daily Mail](#)*
- **[The Age](#)** (page 1) reports a decade-long study by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute found children aged 12 to 13, particularly girls, face an increased risk of poorer mental health and depressive symptoms if they use social media for two or more hours a day. *Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph](#)*
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 3) reports that this year's flu season is off to a slow start in Queensland, but there are fears that low vaccination rates will result in a late spike in cases.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (online) reports that the Therapeutic Goods Administration announced it would prioritise the regulation of unapproved peptides marketed for performance enhancement and anti-ageing, citing safety risks and increased availability.

## Labor NDIS overhaul not what states bargained for

The Australian, General News, 12/06/2026, Sarah Ison, Page 1

State governments have declared open warfare on the disability cuts at the heart of Anthony Albanese's bid to fix the budget, saying plans to move 160,000 people off the scheme must be slowed down and demanding proposed new commonwealth powers over the NDIS be drastically scaled back. [...] But state and territory disability ministers said the commonwealth's latest reforms, unveiled by NDIS Mark Butler in April, went "well beyond" the scale of what they say they committed to.

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## Labor shelves private hospital pricing shake-up

Australian Financial Review, General News, 12/06/2026, Michael Smith, Page 7

Labor has shelved a controversial proposal to introduce a benchmark pricing model for private hospital procedures following opposition from the biggest operator, Ramsay Health Care.

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

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## Butler draws pushback on bid to curtail NDIS support

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 12/06/2026, Broede Carmody and Mike Foley, Page 5

Disability ministers across the political divide are uniting to defy the Albanese government's radical overhaul of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, with all states and territories warning draft laws risk "undermining the original intent" of Julia Gillard's landmark reform. In a joint submission, state and territory disability ministers said there was a "significant risk" that Australians with a disability will be funnelled into state-funded hospitals and that some will languish in ward beds with no access to disability services whatsoever if federal Health Minister Mark Butler presses ahead with his plans.

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

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## Health ministers' extraordinary plea over looming cuts to the NDIS

West Australian, General News, 12/06/2026, Nathan Schmidt, Page 6

State and Territory health ministers have launched an extraordinary attack on the Albanese Government's proposed NDIS cuts, warning they "made no agreement to deliver like-for-like services" for the 160,000 people set to be booted from the scheme. The Albanese Government hopes to save \$35 billion under legislation targeting requirements for providers, and by shifting almost 200,000 people off the scheme.

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

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## Specialist anger at higher costs blame

West Australian, Business News, 12/06/2026, Rebecca Le May, Page 52

Eye surgeons have lashed out as the Albanese Government considers capping specialists fees, saying they're struggling as small businesses and fed up with being painted as the villains behind rocketing out-of-pocket costs. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has been threatening the move for months, saying all options are on the table, concerned patients feeling the pinch from cost-of-living pressures are not getting the care they need.

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## States take aim at Labor over NDIS cuts

Canberra Times, General News, 12/06/2026, Tess Ikonomou, Page 20

People relying on the NDIS will be left without access to crucial services or end up in places unable to

meet their needs under a planned overhaul, state and territory disability ministers warn. [...] NDIS Minister Mark Butler dismissed calls for an extension to the hearings.

*Also reported by:* [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Michael West Media \(Online\)](#).

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## Support surges for Hospice

Maryborough Sun, General News, 11/06/2026, Page 13

In a blow to the local community, the Fraser Coast Hospice is set to enter voluntary administration, marking a significant setback for a service widely regarded as a vital pillar of end-of-life care in the region. [...] Mr Lee called on federal Health Minister Mark Butler to provide immediate support to the hospice.

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## OPINION: Albany deserves certainty, not short-term fixes on GP after-hours service, writes Rick Wilson

West Australian, Other, 11/06/2026, Melissa Sheil

The Federal Budget's extension of funding for the Albany GP After Hours Collaborative is welcome news. [...] After months of uncertainty, and lobbying of Minister Mark Butler by myself, Scott Leary MLA and the City of Albany, the Federal Labor Government has committed to extending the Primary Health Network After Hours Program, keeping Albany's vital GP After Hours service operating until mid-2028.

*Also reported by:* [Albany Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Countryman \(Online\)](#).

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## Federal government invests \$100 million in landmark arthritis research funding

7News.com.au, Other, 12/06/2026, Jennifer Bechwati

A landmark \$100 million federal government investment is raising hopes for better treatments and even a cure for arthritis, a condition that affects one in four Australians. [...] "We need to do more to understand the causes of it and the best way to treat it," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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## State and territory disability ministers lash federal government's NDIS changes

ABC Online, Other, 11/06/2026, Evan Young, Mary Lloyd and Nas Campanella

State and territory disability ministers have accused the Albanese government of pushing on with NDIS reform that does not align with previous agreements, warning the pace of change risks the safety of people with disability. [...] NDIS Minister Mark Butler told reporters earlier the government was carefully watching the inquiry, and its overhaul was "very carefully" thought through and outlined months ago at the National Press Club "We're confident that the timeline that we have set out ... is the right plan, a plan that will ensure we start down the path of getting this enormously important scheme back on track, while also considering the views of the disability community."

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

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## We can't deliver 'like-for-like-services' for people kicked off the NDIS, states warn Albanese government

The Guardian, Other, 11/06/2026, Sarah Basford Canales, Dan Jervis-Bardy, Benita Kolovos and Caitlin Cassidy

State and territory disability ministers have rung alarm bells over the Albanese government's proposed overhaul of the NDIS, warning they can't deliver "like-for-like services" for more than 200,000 participants expected to be shifted off the scheme by 2031. [...] The federal health minister, Mark Butler, refused to be drawn on the concerns when asked on Thursday if the government was prepared to reconsider the scale of the cuts.

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## Pre-school autism checks under state NDIS alternative

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 11/06/2026

A state-run NDIS replacement scheme for children with autism and developmental delays will offer screenings for three and four-year-olds. [...] Children with autism are among about 160,000 people set to be shunted from the NDIS under federal minister Mark Butler's major overhaul to rein in ballooning spending.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! Lifestyle Australia \(Online\)](#), [Thenightly.com.au \(Online\)](#)

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## Funding mission aims to offers hope for arthritis cure

Newcastle Herald, Other, 11/06/2026, Sebastian Tan

Millions of Australians with arthritis will have renewed hope for their futures as the government unveils millions of dollars in funding to tackle the painful condition. [...] "We have world-class researchers in Australia whose ideas could transform health outcomes for future generations," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

Also reported by: [The Hepburn Advocate \(Online\)](#)

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## 'Crunch time': Last-minute funding needed for Queanbeyan respite centre

About Regional, Other, 11/06/2026, Claire Sams

A respite centre's bid for federal funding has been knocked back, with the facility now facing the possibility of sitting empty. [...] "In late May, he wrote on social media that Federal Health Minister Mark Butler's office had confirmed the Federal Government wasn't putting up funding for the facility.

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## Stranded NSW patients waiting for aged care surge 59% yoy

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/06/2026, Caroline Egan

As of 31 March 2026, there were 948 patients in NSW hospitals waiting for aged care according to new data from the State Government. [...] In April, Health Minister Mark Butler announced an additional \$3 billion to get new aged care beds "Whilst the Commonwealth government has come to the party recently around increasing beds, it is simply not going to be enough," The Minister said.

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## Human oversight not part of IAT review as Senator Ruston proposes new laws

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/06/2026, Caroline Egan

Health Minister Mark Butler announced last week a three-month review of his own department's Integrated Assessment Tool (IAT). This week The Weekly SOURCE has confirmed that human oversight of Support at Home decisions, widely regarded as the major shortcoming of the IAT, will not be part of the "rapid review" of the prioritisation mechanisms.

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## No Prime Minister, 99% of aged care homes do not have 24/7 RNs

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/06/2026, Caroline Egan

It was only a few weeks ago that Prime Minister Anthony Albanese repeated the often-quoted statistic. [...] In the last year or so, politicians, including Health Minister Mark Butler and Aged Care Minister Sam Rae, as well as the PM, have regularly stated that 99% of aged care homes now have an RN on duty and on site 24 hours a day.

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## Millions of Australians given fresh hope in arthritis fight

Starts at 60, Other, 11/06/2026, Scott Podmore

A multimillion-dollar research centre to combat arthritis is being heralded as a massive boost for the huge number of Australians who suffer from the disease. [...] "We have world-class researchers in Australia whose ideas could transform health outcomes for future generations," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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### **Channel 7, Seven News, 11/06/2026, Max Futchter and Sarah Greenhalgh**

A \$100m federal government investment will support arthritis research aimed at accelerating breakthroughs in new therapies, improving treatments, and preventing permanent joint damage. The funding brings together doctors, scientists, and patients to advance potential cures with support from PM Anthony Albanese and Health Minister Mark Butler.

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### **Channel 10, 10 News, 11/06/2026, Jennifer Keyte**

State and territory leaders oppose the federal government's NDIS overhaul, warning they cannot be forced to independently deliver services for children with developmental challenges as part of the proposed changes. Health Minister Mark Butler insists the reforms aim to restore the scheme's sustainability and keep the NDIS on track.

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### **SBS, World News Australia, 11/06/2026, Janice Petersen**

State and territory disability ministers oppose the federal government's NDIS overhaul, arguing the proposed changes were not agreed to at National Cabinet and add to concerns raised by thousands of advocates during a three-day inquiry. Health Minister Mark Butler defends the plan as a carefully developed reform designed to restore the scheme's long-term sustainability while keeping people with disability at its centre.

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### **Sky News Live, Newsday, 11/06/2026, Kieran Gilbert**

Health Minister Mark Butler is rejecting calls to delay the NDIS overhaul despite mounting pressure from advocates and state governments to amend the legislation. He insists the government must pass the bill before the winter break to quickly stabilise and reset the scheme.

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### **2GB, Mornings, 11/06/2026, Mark Levy**

Interview with Health Minister Mark Butler. Butler points out that they are looking to provide a record investment in medical research on arthritis and musculoskeletal. He adds that more Australians are suffering from issues in these parts of the body than other chronic conditions, except mental health issues.

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### **2CC, Canberra Live, 11/06/2026, Leon Delaney**

Interview with Dr Devin Bowles, CEO of the ACT Council of Social Services, about the ACT Government budget and gaps in disability support. Bowles says the budget delivers welcome boosts in housing, homelessness, and community services, but falls short in supporting people with disability and carers as NDIS reforms progress under Federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

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## **MINISTER MCALLISTER**

No relevant coverage

## MINISTER RAE

### **No Prime Minister, 99% of aged care homes do not have 24/7 RNs**

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/06/2026, Caroline Egan

It was only a few weeks ago that Prime Minister Anthony Albanese repeated the often-quoted statistic. [...] In the last year or so, politicians, including Health Minister Mark Butler and Aged Care Minister Sam Rae, as well as the PM, have regularly stated that 99% of aged care homes now have an RN on duty and on site 24 hours a day.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### **Fierce backlash over big job cuts in regional TV newsrooms**

Newcastle Herald, General News, 12/06/2026, Madeline Link, Page 5

WIN Television has been accused of stripping its newsrooms to a 'bare bones' operation, raising concerns about the future of regional journalism. [...] In a joint statement, Mr Conroy, Mr Repacholi, Ms Claydon, Ms Swanson and Member for Robertson Gordon Reid and Member for Dobell Emma McBride, said the cuts raised serious questions about WIN's commitment to regional journalism.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

### **Union claims vulnerable Tasmanian won't be able to access 'comfortable death'**

Tasmanian Examiner, Other, 11/06/2026, Saree Salter

More than 200 people in Northern Tasmania may not be able to access end-of-life care after June 30 if funding for a longstanding service cannot be secured, a union claims. [...] Ms Shepherd said the ANMF also wrote to the Aged Care Assistant Minister Rebecca White asking for the funding to be reinstated by the federal government.

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## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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### **Time to put health first**

Riverine Herald, General News, 12/06/2026, Jaci Hicken, Page 23

Men's Health Week is encouraging Australian men and boys to prioritise their health and wellbeing. [...]

"Us blokes are great at looking after everyone else, but we're not always great at looking after ourselves," said Federal Member for Hunter Dan Repacholi, who is the Special Envoy for Men's Health.

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## Australia's failed suicide policies

On Line Opinion, Other, 11/06/2026

Seven men die by suicide in Australia every day. [...] Healthy Men Community Conversations were launched with great fanfare by Dan Repacholi, Special Envoy for Men's Health, alongside the Assistant Minister for Prevention of Family Violence, Ged Kearney - a pairing that tells you everything about whose agenda this actually serves.

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## WIN to slash local NBN News jobs

2HD, Other, 11/06/2026

More than a dozen jobs at NBN News are set to be cut under a major restructure proposed by the network's new owner, WIN Network. [...] Federal MPs Sharon Claydon, Dan Repacholi, Pat Conroy, Alison Penfold and Meryl Swanson have all spoken out on the changes, describing them as a disappointing chapter for regional journalism.

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## DEPARTMENT

### Ursula provides connection

Bundaberg Today, General News, 12/06/2026, Page 46

For five years, Ursula Lueg has been brightening the lives of older Australians as a volunteer with IMPACT Community Services through the Aged Care Volunteer Visitor Scheme (ACVVS). [...] Funded by The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, the Aged Care Volunteer Visitor Scheme is for everyone, young, old and in-between.

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### POTS - the condition leaving Australians bedridden that doctors say medicine has missed

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/06/2026, Daniella Gusmaroli

A crippling condition affecting close to one million Australians, overwhelmingly women, has quietly exploded since Covid, leaving patients bedridden, unable to work and dismissed for years as simply "anxious". [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing confirmed that Federal Government support for Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS) is available through the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS).

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

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### TGA cracks down on peptide craze

The Medical Republic, Other, 11/06/2026, Alyssa Talakovski

Deputy secretary of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and head of the TGA Professor Anthony Lawler said the decision was a risk-based response to an evolving market marked by increased imports and online advertising, including on social media, and emerging safety concerns. "As the availability of unapproved peptide products has increased, so too has evidence of potential risk to consumers," Professor Lawler said.

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## DoHDA clarifies assignment of benefit question... sorta

The Medical Republic, Other, 11/06/2026, Holly Payne

From 1 July, doctors have to obtain their patient's signature every time they bulk bill and store a record of this for two years. While the requirement to obtain a patient's consent to be bulk billed has always been a feature of Medicare, the onus to store the record has always been on the patient's end.

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## IAT 'fix' labelled workaround as DoHDA adds post-assessment editing

Health Services Daily, Other, 11/06/2026, Cate Swannell

More details have emerged about the new functionality the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is introducing to the controversial Integrated Assessment Tool used to assess the needs of people seeking funds under the Support at Home program. For months the department has been criticised for blocking the ability of human clinical assessors to override the IAT.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Act that brought son of Covid victim to tears

The Australian, General News, 12/06/2026, Harvey Constable, Page 2

The son of one of the 50 people who died in an aged-care facility in Melbourne's north says he's glad that the facility's former managers will give evidence at an inquest. Spiros Vasilakis, son of Maria Vasilakis, was emotional outside the Coroners Court of Victoria on Thursday morning after the state coroner said the managers would be required to give evidence on August 3 at the coronial inquest into the deaths.

*Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).*

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### Senior sex boom comes with risk

Canberra Times, General News, 12/06/2026, Steve Evans, Page 37

More Australians are having sex into their 80s. But do older people, especially those making new connections after a long-term sexual relationship, know the rules about consent and what safe sex means?

*Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#).*

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### Coronial probe into Melbourne aged care COVID outbreak resumes after years-long hiatus

ABC Online, Other, 11/06/2026, Kristian Silva

The events of the pandemic will be brought back into sharp focus when an inquest examining 50 deaths at a Melbourne aged care home resumes after a four-and-a-half-year-long hiatus. Since 2020, loved ones of those who died at St Basil's Home for the Aged have been demanding answers from those in charge when a fatal COVID-19 outbreak occurred.

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## **Bosses to testify at inquest over deadly COVID outbreak**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 11/06/2026

Senior aged care staff will be forced to give evidence into the deaths of 50 residents during a COVID-19 outbreak, almost five years after they first objected. St Basil's Home for the Aged chairman Kon Kontis and manager Vicky Kos sought to be excused from participating in the inquest on the grounds of possible self-incrimination.

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## **\$300 GP aged care incentive failing and must be replaced, AMA says**

Australian Doctor, Other, 11/06/2026

The AMA wants the \$300 GP aged care incentive replaced with a new system already, branding it "overly complex and exclusionary". The incentive began just two years ago, with the Federal Government allocating \$112 million over four years and tying it to the MyMedicare patient enrolment program.

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## **Record \$100M funding aims to improve treatment for millions living with arthritis**

Your Life Choices, Other, 11/06/2026, Abigail Abrugar

If you're over 60, there's a fair chance arthritis shapes your daily routine. Opening jars, climbing stairs, getting out of bed; these small battles add up.

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## **Aged care operator who underpaid staff \$5.4M commits to enforceable undertakings**

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/06/2026, Caroline Egan

In December 2024, Southern Cross Care (WA) self-reported underpayments over more than eight years to the Fair Work Ombudsman after employee and union queries about pay and conditions prompted an internal review. The underpayments occurred between January 2017 and November 2025, related to nearly 2,000 staff, and amounted in total to \$5.4 million including interest and superannuation.

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## **If aged care is a utility, why can't it afford to build?**

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/06/2026, James Wiltshire

At the 2024 Leaders Summit, Simon Miller observed that Government sees aged care as a utility. Basically government infrastructure that should make minimum profit at government expense.

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## **\$3B aged care package may fund just three homes a year**

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/06/2026, Lauren Broomham

Colliers analysis suggests the Federal Government's \$3 billion aged care package may fund only around 275 additional residential aged care beds a year. That is equivalent to just two or three typical 100-bed aged care homes a year – a fraction of the approximately 5,000 new beds annually the Federal Government has targeted to meet Australia's ageing population.

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## **Rise in complaints in first months of reform**

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 11/06/2026, Natasha Egan and Katarina Lloyd Jones

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission received 2,553 complaints across the six provider registration categories in the first two months of the new Aged Care Act. That's an average of 1,277 complaints per month across November and December 2025. This compares to an average of 1,053 complaints per month for the preceding four months, which saw 4,212 complaints.

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## Education program seeking dementia carer feedback

Community Care Review, Other, 11/06/2026

A multi-institutional research team has developed a new, self-guided online education program to support carers of people living with dementia, and they are seeking participants for a pilot project assessing its feasibility, acceptability and efficacy. The Carers Way Ahead was originally designed as a behaviour support training program for carers of people with acquired brain injury, but researchers from the University of Sydney Brain and Mind Centre, School of Psychology and Faculty of Medicine and Health, the University of Newcastle School of Science and the UNSW School of Psychology have expanded it to include dementia care.

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## DISABILITY AND CARERS

### Disabled man stranded as workers drove off

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 12/06/2026, Paul Ashenden, Page 11

The family of a non-verbal, intellectually disabled man is distressed and angry after NDIS-backed workers left him stranded without supervision in a suburban park. Craig Reynolds, 49, was one of two clients forced to fend for themselves in Golden Grove's Goldenfields Reserve after the workers forgot to load them back into a bus following a picnic outing.

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

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### \$5m NDIS scam plot shocks residents

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 12/06/2026, Dylan Hogarth and Jacinta Round, Page 11

Neighbours of a home raided at the centre of the investigation of an alleged \$5m NDIS fraud plot have described their shock as police arrested a woman being led out a home with a hood covering her face. Australian Federal Police agents and NDIS raided homes and businesses in Adelaide's north before arresting the 48-year-old woman accused of fraud-related offences at a Blakeview on Wednesday.

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

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### States revolt on NDIS

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 12/06/2026, Page 20

State and territory health ministers have launched an attack on the proposed NDIS cuts, warning they "made no agreement to deliver like-forlike services" for those set to be booted from the scheme. The Albanese government hopes to save \$35bn by shifting almost 200,000 people off the scheme.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#)

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### States attack Labor on NDIS cuts plan, saying this is not the deal their governments signed up for

The Australian, Other, 11/06/2026, Sarah Ison

State governments have declared open warfare on the disability cuts at the heart of Anthony Albanese's plan to fix the budget, saying plans to move 160,000 people off the scheme must be slowed down and demanding proposed new commonwealth powers over the NDIS be drastically scaled back. In a significant escalation of tensions between federal and state governments over NDIS reforms set to save \$185bn over the decade, ministers from across the country launched a united attack against the changes Labor hopes to pass parliament within weeks.

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## **All three and four-year-olds to be screened for autism under Victoria's NDIS alternative**

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 11/06/2026, Daniella White

Every Victorian three and four-year-old child will be offered screening for autism and developmental delays under a new program designed to shift thousands of children from the NDIS onto state-run support. Under Victoria's new Thriving Kids program, trained clinicians will assess all children for developmental concerns and refer those requiring support into a state-run system providing services such as speech pathology and occupational therapy.

[Read More](#)

## **Two extra maternal and child health nurse visits for children in Victoria under Thriving Kids program**

ABC Online, Other, 11/06/2026

All Victorian children will get two extra visits to identify developmental delays as the state prepares to launch its Thriving Kids program for those to be shifted off the National Disability Scheme (NDIS). Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn said the state would review the existing 10 visits with maternal and child health nurses available for children from when they are born to the age of about three and a half.

[Read More](#)

## **NDIS looks at impact of reforms for people with psychosocial disability**

SBS, Other, 11/06/2026

A services provider for people with psychosocial disability says the federal government's current bill to change the NDIS will put the lives of their clients at risk. Giving evidence at a Senate committee inquiry on the bill, Mind Australia says the test for what's called functional capacity, excludes those with severe mental health conditions.

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## **Tightening NDIS eligibility will disproportionately affect women – in more ways than you'd expect**

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 11/06/2026, Molly Saunders and Sophie Yates

Public hearings are underway this week to highlight the impacts of the government's new National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) bill to tighten eligibility and save costs. Over the past two days, the Senate inquiry heard that if the bill passes in its current form, it risks entrenching gender inequities in the NDIS and further excluding women and girls.

[Read More](#)

## **Paralympian slams 'inaccessible' inquiry process while warning of NDIS dangers**

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 11/06/2026, Adam Chenery

A Sunshine Coast Paralympic star has berated her experience after appearing at a federal government Senate inquiry into proposed changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Multiple-medal winner Marayke Jonkers, who competed at three Paralympics in swimming, faced extreme difficulties travelling to Melbourne on Tuesday and then faced further obstacles giving her evidence.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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## **ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 11/06/2026, Patricia Karvelas**

Interview with Jordan Steele, Greens Spokesperson for Disability Rights and Services, about the NDIS inquiry and proposed reforms. Steele says three days of hearings and thousands of submissions show overwhelming opposition to the government's NDIS bill, arguing it would strip supports and leave disabled people and families at risk. He calls for the bill to be scrapped and criticises the government's justification of cost savings.

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

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## **ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 11/06/2026, Patricia Karvelas**

Interview with Bridget McKenzie, Nationals Senate Leader. McKenzie calls for the NDIS inquiry to be extended, arguing that proposed cuts risk leaving 160,000 Australians without support while state governments say they are not prepared to take on displaced participants. She warns the federal government must explain how it will implement savings without causing service gaps.

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## **Channel 9, Nine News, 11/06/2026, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort**

Vic will introduce additional developmental assessments for children to identify conditions such as autism and ADHD before kinder and school as part of the Thriving Kids program starting in October, alongside NDIS changes. Families can also track milestones through the Service Victoria app, with children eligible for two checks before starting kinder and school.

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## **Sky News Live, Politics Now, 11/06/2026, Tom Connell**

Interview with Melissa McIntosh, Shadow Minister of the NDIS, about state opposition to proposed NDIS reforms and exit pathways for participants. McIntosh says states and territories are not ready to deliver equivalent services for people leaving the NDIS and warns the federal government cannot proceed without guarantees that no one will be exited prematurely. She argues governments have failed to properly consult states and disability stakeholders.

*Interview continues on: [Sky News Live \(Sydney\)](#).*

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## **ABC NewsRadio, Mornings, 11/06/2026, Sarah Morris**

Interview with Megan Spindler-Smith, CEO of People with Disability Australia, about the NDIS Senate inquiry into proposed reforms. Spindler-Smith says the inquiry highlights concerns that planned changes may breach human rights by limiting access to essential supports needed for independent living and community participation. She adds the short consultation timeline risks excluding proper community input, while the reforms could displace up to 300,000 people onto other strained support systems.

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## **ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 11/06/2026, Thomas Oriti**

Interview with Ross Joyce, CEO of the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations, about the Senate inquiry into NDIS reforms. Joyce says evidence presented at the inquiry shows broad concern, including from state and territory disability ministers, that the proposed changes lack agreement and clear design. He adds that foundational supports such as Thriving Kids remain underdeveloped, leaving gaps in services and forcing many people with disability to rely on inconsistent support.

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## **3AW, Afternoons, 11/06/2026, Tony Moclair**

Interview with Nicole Rogers, CEO of Autism Australia, about the proposed Thriving Kids initiative. Rogers says the program aims to identify developmental delays in young children through early screening, but warns it may replace NDIS supports with significantly lower levels of assistance. She adds that the scheme could help some children access support earlier, but raises concerns about

children who need higher levels of care being left without adequate pathways back into more intensive services.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### AMA pushes hard on birth

Courier Mail, General News, 12/06/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 23

Queensland's peak medical body is calling for doctors to be returned to the birthing suite, with claims the government is selling the false narrative that having a baby is low risk. The Australian Medical Association Queensland has taken a strong stance against the prioritisation of midwife-led and funded home birth services, and is calling for a return to collaborative maternity services that allow obstetricians, anaesthetists, paediatricians and midwives to work together.

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

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

### Mothers deserve best possible care

Courier Mail, Editorials, 12/06/2026, Page 28

It is easy to forget that until relatively recently childbirth was considered an extremely dangerous exercise. In 1900, about 500 Australian mothers died for every 100,000 births.

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

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### 'You can't fragment care that doesn't exist'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 11/06/2026, Nicholas O'Donoghue

Warnings that pharmacist prescribing will lead to the fragmentation of patient care "do not stack up", the president of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Queensland branch says. In a post on social media, Chris Owen rejected criticism from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP).

[Read More](#)

### 'Not at the cost of safety' – RACGP responds to autonomous pharmacist prescribing modelling

Medical Forum, Other, 11/06/2026

A new report released by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia with modelling that shows potential economic benefits of autonomous pharmacist prescribing has failed to sway general practitioners on the proposal. The 'Rewriting the script' report found autonomous pharmacist prescribing in line with the Pharmacy Guild's proposal would create \$1 billion in health system savings, free up over 10 million GP appointments and prevent 30,000 hospitalisations annually.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Lung disease goes viral among kids

West Australian, General News, 12/06/2026, Claire Sadler, Page 3

More than 1100 children under four have already been hit with the potentially life-threatening respiratory syncytial virus across the State. Latest figures reveal more than 2430 cases of RSV have been recorded in WA so far this year, with children aged 0-4 making up almost half of the infections.

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## Back pain dire for men

Border Watch, General News, 12/06/2026, Page 13

With National Men's Health Week (15-21 June) coming up, the Australian Chiropractors Association (ACA) has released shocking new data. The data, from the 2026 Spinal Health Survey, an independent national survey of 1,040 Australian adults by Pureprofile in May 2026, showed that a significantly high number of Australian men experienced severe back pain that was unrecognised, with working-age men carrying an escalating mental health toll as a result.

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

## 'Health gap': booking a doctor's appointment is leaving many behind

The Senior, Other, 11/06/2026, Carla Mascarenhas

A push is underway to see older Australians become digitally health literate as healthcare continues moving online and they face the prospect of being left behind. Telehealth appointments, patient portals, electronic prescriptions, online booking systems and health apps are becoming standard parts of healthcare, but one in four over the age of 45 have limited digital health literacy, the Australian Digital Inclusion Index has found.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 9, Nine News, 11/06/2026, Peter Overton

More than 5m Australians are taking mental health medication, with Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data showing antidepressants account for the largest share, used by about 3.8m people or 14% of the population. ADHD medications are the second most commonly dispensed treatment, with prescriptions rising sharply, particularly among young boys, and now reaching more than 750,000 Australians.

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## Channel 9, Nine Afternoon News, 11/06/2026, Mark Burrows

Pre-recorded interview with Dr Michael Wright, President of the RACGP, about rising mental health prescriptions in Australia. Wright says antidepressant and ADHD medication use has increased over the past decade alongside greater awareness of mental health conditions, while some anti-anxiety drug prescriptions have declined due to addiction risks.

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## Sky News Live, Credlin, 11/06/2026, Peta Credlin

Interview with former breastfeeding counsellor Jasmine Sussex, about a legal dispute over trans-inclusive language and infant feeding safety. Sussex argues her comments questioned whether a biological male taking medication to induce lactation can safely breastfeed an infant and says she seeks medical and expert evidence to support public interest concerns.

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## CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

### New clinic to make breast screening more accessible

Hobart Mercury, General News, 12/06/2026, Elise Kaine, Page 15

A new permanent breast screening site in Devonport can screen more than 150 patients a week. At the opening of the first permanent breast screening clinic on the North-West Coast, group director of population screening and cancer prevention at the Department of Health Mahmoud Mahmoud said it was "fully staffed" and "in full operations five days a week from 8.30 to 4 to 4.30".

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### Sugary drinks not so sweet

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 12/06/2026, Page 2

Sugar-sweetened drinks appear to increase the risk of two types of liver cancer, while artificially sweetened drinks do not. National Cancer Institute research in the US found that even a one beverage per day increase in sugar-sweetened drinks increased the risk of hepatocellular carcinoma - the most common type of primary liver cancer - and intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma - a rare but highly aggressive form of liver cancer.

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## Queensland hospice's end-of-life service kept alive after 'generous' donations

ABC Online, Other, 11/06/2026, Olivia Nunes-Malek

Last-minute donations have helped keep the doors of a palliative care facility open in regional Queensland after fierce community outcry. The Fraser Coast Hospice, a free end-of-life care facility, announced last month it would enter voluntary administration on June 10.

[Read More](#)

## Early-onset bowel cancer its own disease: top Aussie oncologist

Australian Doctor, Other, 11/06/2026

Colorectal cancer in patients under 50 should be treated as a distinct disease with separate clinical guidelines, a leading oncologist says. While international guidelines acknowledged early-onset colorectal cancer as a specific clinical entity in 2023, medical oncologist Dr Prasad Cooray says Australia and the world have been too slow to respond.

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 11/06/2026, Thomas Oriti

Interview with Louise Hardy, CEO of Arthritis Australia, about a \$100m arthritis research mission. Hardy says the funding drives a national effort to improve treatments, quality of life, and potential cures across arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions affecting millions of Australians. She adds that early diagnosis and targeted care can reduce long-term joint damage, improve outcomes across different age groups, and help address a projected 30% rise in cases by 2040.

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## ABC Radio Perth, Breakfast , 11/06/2026, Mark Gibson

Interview with Jay Allen OAM, Founder of the Australian Skin Cancer Foundation, about the dangers of solariums. Allen says solariums emit UV radiation far stronger than the midday sun, damage skin DNA, and increase the risk of melanoma, which can spread quickly and become fatal if undetected. He shares his own experience with stage three melanoma and warns young people about misleading tanning trends and 'looksmoxing' culture.

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## 3AW, Drive, 11/06/2026, Jacqui Felgate

Interview with Grant McArthur, Senior Consultant Medical Oncologist at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, about the dangers of solariums and rising illegal tanning practices. McArthur says solariums deliver intense UV radiation that damages DNA, mutates skin cells, and significantly increases melanoma and other skin cancer risk. He warns that underground and home-based tanning setups are spreading and reinforces that tanning itself signals skin damage.

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## 4BC, Afternoons, 11/06/2026, Carla Bignasca

Interview with Louise Hardy, CEO of Arthritis Australia, about a \$100m arthritis research mission. Hardy says the decade-long investment targets better diagnosis, improved treatments, and potential cures for arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions affecting more than 7m Australians. She adds that early diagnosis and movement-based care can prevent long-term damage and reduce the wider economic and productivity burden linked to chronic pain and disability.

Interview continues on: [4BC \(Brisbane\)](#).

## FIVEAA, Afternoons, 11/06/2026, Stacey Lee

Interview with Dr Tonia Mezzini, Sexual Health Physician at East Obstetrics + Gynaecology, about gaps in cancer survivorship care. Mezzini explains that advances in cancer treatment increase the number of people living long after diagnosis, yet many still face lingering physical and emotional side effects once active treatment ends. She says survivorship care now focuses on what happens after treatment finishes.

Interview continues on: [FIVEAA \(Adelaide\)](#).

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Teens risk mental harm after year of social media

Age, General News, 12/06/2026, Melissa Cunningham, Page 1

Children aged 12 to 13 are the most at risk of mental health issues from heavy use of social media and show a worrying decline in their psychological wellbeing after just one year. These are the findings of a landmark decade-long study, led by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and published in the Medical Journal of Australia, which examined the behaviour and mental health of almost 1200 Melbourne children.

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

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

### Sad case of social spiral

Daily Telegraph, General News, 12/06/2026, Eilidh Sproul-Mellis, Page 1

Teens who use social media for more than two hours a day are significantly more likely to have poor mental health than peers who spend less than an hour on the platforms, a groundbreaking, decade-long Australian study has found. The Murdoch Children's Research Institute study tracked social media use and mental health outcomes for almost 1100 children, aged 11 or 12, between 2015 and 2021.

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

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### Social media toll on kids

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 12/06/2026, Page 5

Young people who spend two hours or more a day on social media are more likely to have depressive symptoms and poorer wellbeing than those whose use is limited to an hour. The Murdoch Children's Research Institute study involving 1200 children found the strongest impact on mental health among girls aged 12-13, although there were small but noticeable increases in mental health problems in both genders between the ages of 12 and 18.

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

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### Social media can help the blues

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 12/06/2026, Emma Cam, Page 11

A new study has revealed that social media can be an "important weapon" for supporting women in rural areas who suffer from perinatal depression and anxiety. Up to one in five women globally are affected by these conditions, with women in remote communities carrying a "disproportionate burden".

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### Victorian town fights against high suicide rates with community-led prevention training

When Peter Taylor's nephew took his own life three years ago, the Portland resident knew he needed to change the way he thought about mental health. Portland is in Glenelg Shire, in the far south-west of Victoria, a region where the suicide rate between 2020 and 2024 was 45 per cent higher than the state average.

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## IMMUNISATION

### Flu season is coming late, but will hit hard

Courier Mail, General News, 12/06/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 3

The flu virus is dragging its feet with a very slow start to the influenza season. And infectious disease experts suspect 2025 was such a horrendous flu year that many Queenslanders have built up a level of immunity.

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

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### FIVEAA, Afternoons, 11/06/2026, Stacey Lee

Interview with Shannon Hewitt, Chief Pharmacist of Star Pharmacy Group. Hewitt says the federal budget is expanding the National Immunisation Program in pharmacies to improve access to free vaccinations for more age groups, including young children. She explains that while pharmacists already vaccinate children aged five and above, the change aims to fund under-five immunisations in pharmacies so parents have more convenient options beyond GP clinics.

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### ABC Radio Adelaide, Drive, 11/06/2026, Nikolai Beilharz

Interview with Dr Clare Keogh, Deputy Chair of RACGP SA, about SA's flu season and vaccination uptake. Keogh says confirmed flu cases remain well below last year's levels, but cautions the season may still peak later and encourages vaccination as protection. She adds that uptake of the RSV vaccine remains strong, while the state-funded intranasal flu vaccine for children aged two to five offers a simpler alternative to injections.

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### ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 11/06/2026, Adam Steer

Interview with Margie Danchin, Group Leader and Senior Principal Research Fellow from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, about declining HPV vaccination rates. Danchin says the HPV vaccine protects against multiple cancer-causing strains and helps prevent cervical, penile, throat and other cancers when given before young people become sexually active. She warns vaccination rates continue to fall and stresses the importance of screening programs.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

## Researchers on move

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 12/06/2026, Page 4

Australia's biotech, medtech and health tech companies are considering relocating overseas, or moving lifesaving clinical trials, due to controversial tax reforms. Some 76 per cent say they will be either significantly or moderately impacted by the proposal to limit the R&D tax incentive for companies less than 10 years old, according to industry peak body AusBiotech.

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

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## Lack of donation centre a bloody shame

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 12/06/2026, Sophia Baker, Page 9

Steve Rogers wants to donate blood, but with an hours-long return journey to the nearest centre, he says he hasn't been able to. A petition has been launched to bring a Lifeblood donation centre to Portland for the first time since the 2005 closure of the blood bank at the city's hospital.

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## Women have the right to health care in prison. This should extend to freezing their eggs

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 11/06/2026, Molly Johnston and Neera Bhatia

In recent weeks, a female prisoner in Queensland lost her fight to have her eggs frozen while incarcerated. Rachel Smith is currently serving a ten-year sentence for drug trafficking.

[Read More](#)

## FIVEAA, Mornings, 11/06/2026, Graeme Goodings

Interview with A/Prof Rosanna Tavella, Cardiovascular Outcomes Researcher at the Basil Hetzel Institute for Translational Health Research, about improved heart attack care research. Tavella says the PAMICO project delivers a world-first system that tailors heart attack treatment to each patient's circumstances to improve recovery and reduce hospital stays. She adds that ongoing philanthropic funding helps translate research into real-time hospital care, expanding better outcomes for heart attack patients across SA.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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## PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

### Wait times are on the improve despite an increase in demand

Daily Advertiser, General News, 12/06/2026, John Hall, Page 3

While the Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) has seen an increase in demand and complexity in patient cases presenting at emergency departments in the first quarter of 2026, more patients are receiving care on time. From January to March 2026, 40,986 patients visited emergency departments across the MLHD, 1453 (3.7 per cent) more than the same period of the previous year.

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### \$400 million to help clean up hospitals

Newcastle Herald, General News, 12/06/2026, Damon Cronshaw and Jamieson Murphy, Page 6

The Minns government will spend \$400 million on a "maintenance blitz" for the state's struggling public

hospitals, including in the Hunter. The funding will improve internal building conditions, including heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems, to reduce the risk of mould.

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## 'Shocking' six-hour wait

Launceston Examiner, General News, 12/06/2026, Lauren Richardson, Page 1

Patients endured a near six-hour wait to be transferred from an ambulance into hospital care at the Launceston General Hospital (LGH). A photo of the LGH ambulance status board, taken at 10.25am on June 3, shows two patients arrived at 4.36am and 4.38am respectively. At the time of the photo the patients had been waiting 347 minutes and 349 minutes.

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## This is how long patients wait for elective surgery at Illawarra hospitals

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 11/06/2026, Natalie Croxon

More planned surgeries are getting performed on time in Illawarra hospitals compared to the same time in 2025, new data shows. The latest performance report from the Bureau of Health Information (BHI) shows that the proportion of elective surgeries performed on time at Wollongong Hospital sat at 86.3 per cent in the January-March 2026 quarter, an improvement of 8.1 percentage points on the same period last year.

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 11/06/2026, Peter Overton

Work has begun on a new 14-storey hospital at the former Bankstown TAFE site, described as the largest public hospital investment in the state's history. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park says the facility will include state-of-the-art operating theatres, a new emergency department, ICU, cancer services, and expanded mental health and outpatient care.

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## MIX 104.9, 360, 11/06/2026, Katie Woolf

Interview with Dr John Zorbas, President of AMA NT, about Code Yellow pressure at Royal Darwin and Palmerston hospitals. Zorbas says both hospitals operate beyond capacity, with staff cancelling surgeries and struggling to manage rising patient demand across emergency and specialist services. He argues the funding model disadvantages the NT and urges needs-based resourcing instead of short-term bailout funding that fails to fix systemic shortages.

*Interview continues on: [MIX 104.9 \(Darwin\)](#), [MIX 104.9 \(Darwin\)](#), [MIX 104.9 \(Darwin\)](#).*

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Southern NSW Local Health District dispels Eurobodalla Regional Hospital housing shortage rumours

The Courier Mail, Other, 11/06/2026, Tom McGann

A local health district has shut down a groundswell of rumours it is not securing enough housing for future staff at a sprawling, \$330m South Coast hospital, assuring the thousands of staff flocking to the region for employment will have a roof over their heads. Southern NSW Local Health District said

concerns about housing options for staff at the Eurobodalla Regional Hospital circulating online are incorrect, with a range of accommodation projects underway ahead of its opening in 2027.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#)

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## Fair Work case seeking 35% pay boost for primary care nurses begins

Australian Doctor, Other, 11/06/2026

Hearings in a long-anticipated case that could lift primary care nurses' minimum award wages by up to 35% kicked off in Melbourne this week. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) has asked the Fair Work Commission to raise the minimum rates under the Nurses Award 2020, which covers nurses in general practice and other primary care settings.

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## General practice nurses are essential — and we need career pathways to match our contribution

Australian Doctor, Other, 11/06/2026

As momentum builds for new Medicare funding for practice nurses, the Australian Primary Health Care Association says we must do more than create new item numbers to realise their full potential. Here, president Denise Lyons argues funding reform must be matched by clearer career pathways and broader support for nurses to work to their full scope.

[Read More](#)

## Expanding access to contraception is a healthcare step forward

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 11/06/2026

Pharmacy-led care does not replace regular appointments with a GP, but it can ensure safe and effective access to hormonal contraception for women, Pharmacy Guild of Australia national president, Professor Trent Twomey writes.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### 2CC, Canberra Live, 11/06/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with Dr Betty Gee, President of AMA ACT, about the ACT health system inquiry and North Canberra Hospital funding. Gee says the health system inquiry highlights the importance of using data and improving digital health records to support better decision-making and patient care. She adds that while the digital health record rollout faces integration challenges and high costs, the system continues to improve.

Interview continues on: [2GB \(Sydney\)](#).

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### New investigation into dodgy dentist Dr David Hurst after ASIC

## approves funding

West Australian, Other, 11/06/2026, John Flint

Australia's corporate regulator has granted funding for an investigation into the financial affairs of a Perth dental business in which millions of dollars of patients' deposits were misused. The Australian Securities and Investments Commission two weeks ago approved an application for funding by the liquidator of Hurst Group Pty Ltd, which previously operated Perth Dental Rooms.

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

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## AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Laboratories in Congo run out of supplies to test for Ebola

Canberra Times, International News, 12/06/2026, Page 39

Three laboratories in Democratic Republic of Congo have run out of supplies to test for Ebola, the World Health Organisation says as the outbreak of the dangerous Bundibugyo species of the virus continues to grow. In the latest situation report, dated June 7 and released on Tuesday night, the agency said laboratories in Bukavu and Lwiro in South Kivu province, and Goma in North Kivu, had run out of stock.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#).

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### Urgent warning issued after traveller dies in Western Australia from rare mosquito-borne disease with no vaccine

The Courier Mail, Other, 11/06/2026, Emma Kirk

A traveller has died after contracting a mosquito-borne disease with no known vaccine in Western Australia – leading to an urgent health warning from authorities. [...] According to the Australian Centre for Disease Control, MVE is a rare but serious infection of the brain and spinal cord that is caused by the virus and spread by certain types of mosquitoes.

[Read More](#)

### Cases of RSV climbing in WA, especially in young children, as cooler weather creeps in

West Australian, Other, 11/06/2026, Claire Sadler

More than 1100 children under four have already been hit with the potentially life-threatening respiratory syncytial virus across the State. Latest figures reveal more than 2430 cases of RSV have been recorded in WA so far this year, with children aged 0-4 making up almost half of the infections.

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### SBS, World News Australia, 11/06/2026, Janice Petersen

Ebola continues to spread in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, with new cases confirmed in Tchomia, about 50km south of Bunia, the outbreak's epicentre. Amid rising deaths, five children have been discharged from a treatment centre in Bunia after testing negative twice for the virus.

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### Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 11/06/2026, Ashleigh Gillon

Anti-American protests are intensifying in Kenya over a facility being built to treat Americans affected by the Ebola outbreak, with some demonstrators demanding it be removed and vowing continued resistance. Tensions are also rising over police tactics used to secure the site, while health officials in neighbouring Congo report increasing Ebola cases as testing and detection efforts expand.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### **Dr Boreham's Crucible: Syntara seeks its latest transformation**

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/06/2026, Tim Boreham

Syntara (ASX:SNT) CEO Gary Phillips says investors have acted as if its lead myelofibrosis drug has failed in the clinic – which it hasn't. [...] The FDA and the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration are yet to allow a drug to be labelled specifically for skin scarring.

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

[Read More](#)

### **'Serious risk': Therapeutic Goods Administration cracks down on unregulated peptides**

The Courier Mail, Other, 11/06/2026, Angie Raphael and Blake Antrobus

Unapproved peptides that are often marketed for performance enhancement or anti-ageing have become a new priority focus for the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), alongside products like vapes and sunscreens. Peptides are short chains of amino acids which, when joined, make up proteins in our bodies.

[Read More](#)

### **Mama Nayture Drink Purple supplement pulled from shelves over fermentation risk**

7News.com.au, Other, 11/06/2026, Demi Huang

A popular immune-support supplement has been recalled over fears some bottles may have fermented. [...] "There is a risk of users being cut when handling the product, and it could also be harmful if accidentally swallowed," the Therapeutic Goods Administration said.

[Read More](#)

### **TGA cracks down on unapproved peptides**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 11/06/2026, Kate Cowling

"As the availability of unapproved peptide products has increased, so too has evidence of potential risk to consumers," the head of the medicines regulator says. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has added peptides to its priority watch list amid rampant social media advertising and the illegal importation of the protein building blocks.

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### **Changes on prescribed drug 'a good start'**

Border Mail, General News, 12/06/2026, Chelsea Wilson, Page 4

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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### **Medicinal cannabis patients fight 'unfair' Queensland drug driving laws**

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/06/2026, Michael Nolan

A petition calling on the Queensland government to change how police administer roadside drug tests is gaining momentum. Under the current laws, drivers who test positive for the presence of delta-9-

tetrahydrocannabinol in their saliva are charged with a drug driving offence, regardless of their level of intoxication.

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

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## 'Half blind': Drug driving laws slammed

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/06/2026, David McCowen

Road safety experts have taken aim at a controversial plan to allow people who drive with medicinal cannabis in their system to remain on the road. The NSW Government has moved to implement a "three strikes" policy for drivers caught driving with cannabis in their system, as long as they have a prescription for medicinal use of the drug.

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

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## FOOD STANDARDS

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## AICIS

### Australia's huge 'forever chemical' lawsuit focuses on the cleanup – not human health. Why?

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 11/06/2026

The Australian government has launched its largest-ever lawsuit, suing American chemical giant 3M and its local subsidiary. The government is seeking A\$2 billion in damages for the past and future cost of investigating and managing "forever chemicals" contamination from firefighting foams on almost Defence sites.

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