



TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 13th June 2026

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The **[Weekend Australian](#)** (page 4) leads coverage reporting that NDIS Minister Mark Butler has rejected state and territory claims that proposed NDIS reforms require them to provide like-for-like services for people leaving the scheme, saying that was never part of governments' agreements.
- **[ABC Online](#)** and **[The Guardian](#)** report Treasury modelling shows more than 240,000 people would exit the NDIS over four years under the Federal Government's reforms, with NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister saying the government has carefully considered the changes and remains committed to reforming the scheme. *Also reported by: [The Saturday Paper](#), [The Mandarin](#)*
- The **[Northern Territory News](#)** (page 6) reports the new Berry Springs Perinatal Mental Health Centre has officially opened and is expected to support more than 700 Territorians annually, with Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Assistant Minister Emma McBride saying another NT-based centre will be announced soon.
- The **[Geelong Advertiser](#)** (page 22) reports breast cancer survivors are raising concerns over AstraZeneca's decision to discontinue Zoladex 3.6mg from November, while a Health Department spokesman said the Federal Government was working with the company to explore alternative options for affected patients.

- The [Canberra Times](#) (page 1) reports AMA ACT president Dr Betty Ge said an independent review linking patient safety to workplace culture validated longstanding concerns about the ACT health system, with the government accepting 49 recommendations aimed at improving safety, transparency and staff engagement.
- The [Courier Mail](#) (page 3) reports the Queensland Government will examine drug-driving laws as part of a broader review, while Queensland Health said it will continue monitoring medicinal cannabis use and advocating for nationally consistent regulatory reform.
- The [Weekend Australian](#) (page 6) reports Avant Mutual has called for a national prescribing safety framework, warning Pharmacy Guild proposals to expand pharmacist prescribing powers could increase risks of misdiagnosis, medication errors and patient harm.
- The [Newcastle Herald](#) (page 1) reports eight-month-old Bohdi Higginson has become the first person globally to receive experimental epilepsy drug ABS-1230 and has remained seizure-free since April after previously suffering up to 70 seizures a day.
- The [Townsville Bulletin](#) (page 1) reports Queensland Health has apologised after admitting baby Penelope Gage's body was mistakenly left in the Townsville Hospital morgue instead of being sent for autopsy, prompting changes to perinatal autopsy procedures and a clinical review.
- [ABC Online](#) reports Aurora Healthcare will close Mackay Private Hospital on June 16, citing financial viability concerns, prompting fears about reduced access to mental health, rehabilitation and veteran support services in North Queensland.

MINISTER BUTLER

Butler hits back against states' NDIS concerns

Weekend Australian, General News, 13/06/2026, Sarah Ison, Page 4

NDIS Minister Mark Butler has launched a blistering counterattack against state disability ministers claiming Labor's proposed reforms to the \$55bn-a-year scheme go beyond what they agreed to, declaring there had "never been an expectation" from his government that states prop up "like for like" services to the NDIS across their health and education systems. In one of more than 4000 submissions to a Senate committee investigating the bill to rein in

Also reported by: [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [CathNews \(Online\)](#), [Mamamia \(Online\)](#).

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'I do not want to go back': NDIS cuts spark new fears

The Saturday Paper, General News, 13/06/2026, Karen Barlow, Page 1

This week, the parliamentary inquiry into Labor's planned cuts to the National Disability Insurance Scheme heard evidence of people already suffering from constrained services and fearing worse to come. [...] These powers would allow the minister for disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Mark Butler, to meet his stated intention, announced at the National Press Club in April, to slash the budget for social and community participation activities.

Also reported by: [The Saturday Paper \(Online\)](#), [Health Services Daily \(Online\)](#).

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Inquiry examining NDIS spending cuts told 240,000 people would exit the scheme

ABC Online, Other, 12/06/2026, Nicholas McElroy

More than 240,000 people would exit the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) over four years, according to modelling as part of a plan to cut spending on the multi-billion-dollar program. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said in April the federal government overhaul of the NDIS would result in 160,000 fewer people on the scheme by 2031 compared to today.

Also reported by: [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Kalgoorlie\)](#), [Sunraysia Daily \(Mildura\)](#), [The Mandarin \(Online\)](#), [HelloCare \(Online\)](#), [Deepcut News \(Online\)](#).

Albanese government caves on secret lobbyists as Parliament House pass holders to be publicly exposed

Sky News Australia, Other, 12/06/2026, Oscar Godsell

Labor has caved to pressure about concerns of secret lobbyists roaming Parliament House, revealing major reforms which will publicly identify lobbyist pass holders who seek to influence politicians. [...] SkyNews.com.au recently revealed Nick Martin, former chief of staff to Health Minister Mark Butler, walked into his lobbying role and quickly gained access to his former boss.

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It's time for action on primary care reform, with a focus on communities in greatest need

Croakey, Other, 13/06/2026, Melissa Sweet

The Federal Government has been urged to seize opportunity from the crisis at Victorian community health organisation cohealth, and to push ahead with long-recommended reforms to primary healthcare, with a focus on disadvantaged communities. [...] On 8 May, Health Minister Mark Butler announced the Government would provide up to \$1.5 million for up to 12 months to cohealth, so services remain open at the Collingwood, Fitzroy and Kensington sites, while cohealth made changes, including strengthening senior management and board governance.

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Kilkivan champion Rosie Fitzgerald wins prestigious national award for seniors advocacy

South Burnett Times, Other, 12/06/2026

National Seniors Australia has announced Rosie Fitzgerald as the recipient of the 2026 Everaldo Compton Community Champion Medal. [...] The winner of the medal was announced on June 10 at a ceremony and dinner at Brisbane's Convention and Exhibition Centre attended by Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler, and Federal Member for Blair Shayne Neumann.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#)

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'Forgotten': planes grounded as rural healthcare charity counts the cost

The Land Australia, Other, 12/06/2026, Jessica Owers

A charity connecting sick children across the state to vital healthcare services in Sydney has reduced flights in a fight against skyrocketing aviation gas costs. [...] In early April, chief executive Clare Pearson approached the federal health minister Mark Butler, when the fuel squeeze was at its worst, and was subsequently advised that she would hear from the Fuel Supply Taskforce.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News, 12/06/2026, Kate Freebairn

State government officials say the half-billion-dollar upgrade of Flinders Medical Centre stays on schedule and within budget despite concerns about inflation and rising wage costs. Health Minister Mark Butler highlights the project as the largest general hospital capital investment funded by the Albanese government in Australia, originally promised ahead of the 2022 federal election to ease pressure on Adelaide's overcrowded southern hospitals.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 12/06/2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli & Will Goodings

The half-billion-dollar Flinders Medical Centre expansion reaches a major construction milestone with the building officially topping out, although completion remains scheduled for 2028. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler describes it as the largest general hospital capital project funded by the Albanese government, while pressure on SA's health system continues.

[Play Now](#)

Sky News Live, First Edition, 12/06/2026, Ashleigh Gillon

Health Minister Mark Butler is rejecting calls to delay the federal NDIS overhaul despite increasing pressure from advocates and state governments. He maintains the government will push ahead with the planned timeline, aiming to pass the legislation before the winter break and begin reforms from 1 July.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, 07:00 News, 12/06/2026

Evidence given by the Department of Health, Disability and Aging during a Senate Inquiry shows NDIS Minister Mark Butler informed his state and territory counterparts about the changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme on the day he announced it. It comes as state and territory disability ministers say the Government wants reforms that aren't in line with previous arrangements.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

Mark Butler hits back at states' NDIS concerns

The Australian, Other, 12/06/2026, Sarah Ison

NDIS Minister Mark Butler has launched a blistering counterattack against state disability ministers claiming Labor's proposed reforms to the \$55bn-a-year scheme go beyond what they agreed to, declaring there had "never been an expectation" from his government that states prop up "like for like" services to the NDIS across their health and education systems. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister refused to confirm whether the government would accept the Senate committee's recommendations on the legislation, which will capture the swath of concerns raised by advocates and experts in hearings this week, saying only it would "examine" the report due out next week.

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NDIS participants are terrified. Mr Butler needs to acknowledge that

Health Services Daily, Other, 13/06/2026, Cate Swannell

For three days this week we watched participants, parents, advocates and providers come before the Senate inquiry into the proposed NDIS reform legislation and screw their courage to the sticking place. Through tears and anger and frustration they have repeatedly told the Senators, and through them, federal health minister Mark Butler, the government and DoHDA officials, one consistent message: "We are terrified."

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Radio National, AM, 12/06/2026, Melissa Clarke

Interview with Jenny McAllister, Minister for Disability and the NDIS, about recent parliamentary hearings on proposed NDIS changes. McAllister says the government sees significant need to reshape

the scheme due to rising costs, fraud concerns, and inconsistent participant outcomes, while acknowledging feedback from three days of hearings and awaiting the committee's final report.

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MINISTER RAE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Berry's helping hand

Northern Territory News, General News, 13/06/2026, Harry Brill, Page 6

Berry Springs is now home to a new mental health centre which is expected to serve more than 700 Territorians every year. [...] Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Assistant Minister Emma McBride said another centre NT-based centre would be announced in the near future.

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

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Big upgrade coming for youth mental health support

Surf Coast Times, General News, 12/06/2026, James Taylor, Page 9

One of Geelong's busiest youth mental health services is set for its biggest expansion in nearly two decades, with headspace to more than doubling its staff and provide a broader range of support services. [...] Assistant minister for mental health and suicide prevention Emma McBride said most mental health conditions emerged during adolescence, making early intervention critical.

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

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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DEPARTMENT

The battle to speed up global response to pandemic threats

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/06/2026, Angus Dalton, Page 34

Jane Halton was in the room with the world's top health chiefs as the World Health Organisation rang its most serious alarm about the Ebola outbreak. [...] Halton ran the Australian Health Department as secretary between 2002 and 2014, and was enmeshed with Australia's pandemic response while serving on the National COVID-19 Co-ordination Commission.

Bid to keep vital drug

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 13/06/2026, Zoe De Koning, Page 22

Breast cancer survivor Aimee Glen discovered she may lose access to a drug that was keeping her alive through an Instagram story. [...] A Health Department spokesman clarified that as a private manufacturer, AstraZeneca could not be compelled to maintain a PBS listing.

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

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Inquiry examining NDIS spending cuts told 240,000 people would exit the scheme

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Also reported by: [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Kalgoorlie\)](#), [Sunraysia Daily \(Mildura\)](#), [The Mandarin \(Online\)](#), [HelloCare \(Online\)](#), [Deepcut News \(Online\)](#).

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Albanese government caves on secret lobbyists as Parliament House pass holders to be publicly exposed

Sky News Australia, Other, 12/06/2026, Oscar Godsell

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APS uncertain about key elements of NDIS cuts

The Mandarin, Other, 12/06/2026, Dan Holmes

Department of Health officials were unable to provide key details about the government's proposed changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) at an inquiry this week. [...] Disability Minister Mark Butler plans to introduce the first changes by the end of 2027.

Also reported by: [Health Services Daily \(Online\)](#), [Health Services Daily \(Online\)](#), [Health Services Daily \(Online\)](#).

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A trapdoor to poverty?

Health Services Daily, Other, 12/06/2026, Darren O'Donovan

Proposed reforms to the National Disability Insurance Scheme will have profound consequences for social security recipients and risk compounding poverty in Australia. [...] It is vital that a proper vision of sustainability underpins our thinking, as the Inspector-General of Aged Care, Natalie Siegel-Brown, courageously argued in a speech challenging the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing earlier this year.

[Read More](#)

Opposition calls out 'bullying' of GPs over bulk billing

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 12/06/2026, Karen Burge

Questions have been raised over the tactics used by some MPs to 'pressure' GPs into taking up universal bulk billing with the topic coming under the spotlight at a parliamentary hearing. [...] 'Daniel McCabe, from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DoHDA), responded that 'when we modelled this, there were practices that were charging higher out-of-pocket costs that wouldn't be financially better off – there was a smaller percentage'.

A three-tiered plan for general practice funding takes shape

The Medical Republic, Other, 12/06/2026, Holly Payne

Over the past three months, The Medical Republic has heard from five separate sources about a new policy or program being proposed by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. All sources wished to remain anonymous.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

The ingredient that matters most

Canberra Times, General News, 13/06/2026, Anna Johnston, Page 16

I've always had the distinct sense that I was born 60 years too late and some administrative error had placed me in the wrong generation. [...] The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety brought this into national focus, revealing alarming rates of malnutrition among residents.

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

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Aged care resident died from pressure sore sepsis after delays in escalating care, coroner finds

The Mercury, Other, 12/06/2026, Amber Wilson

A coroner has found an elderly nursing home resident died from sepsis caused by an infected pressure sore, recommending a Snug aged care facility improve staff training after delays in escalating his deteriorating wound. The man's death came despite repeated concerns raised by his daughter, who regularly clashed with staff over issues regarding his toileting, showering, fluid and dietary intake, dentures, flies in his room, dressing changes and seating.

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

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The major catch for over-55s in Australia's new social media laws

The Senior, Other, 12/06/2026, Desiree Savage

A Federal MP fears older Australians and minority groups will be worse off if new media laws pass through Parliament this winter. Shadow Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Kerryne Liddle, is concerned the way the News Bargaining Incentive (NBI) is structured will favour larger, metro newsrooms and see our nation's independent media landscape "shrink".

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Altura Learning launches new compliance modules

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 12/06/2026

Aged care training company Altura Learning has launched a compliance learning suite called Altura Essentials. The course is designed to help aged care providers meet the requirements of Aged Care Act 2024 and the strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards and demonstrate workforce readiness.

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Student program improves workforce stability

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 12/06/2026

Four years since launching its Transition to Practice Program for early-career nurses, Lutheran Services has found the rate of participants receiving a job offer after their placement has dropped from 75 per cent to 25 per cent. But the not-for-profit aged care and community services provider said this decrease is a positive sign, because it reflects higher retention rates and fewer vacancies available for new staff.

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 12/06/2026, Lucy Breaden

Interview with Natalie Neilson, Chief Operating Officer at OneCare, about workplace breastfeeding accreditation in aged care settings. Neilson explains that the organisation becomes the first Tasmanian aged care provider to earn accreditation by providing private, comfortable rooms and paid time for staff to express milk or breastfeed. She says the initiative supports a predominantly female workforce and also brings unexpected joy to residents through intergenerational interactions.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Coalition mounts push to delay tax bill, NDIS cuts

AFR Weekend, General News, 13/06/2026, Phillip Coorey, Page 4

The Coalition has offered the Greens a six-month inquiry into plans to cut spending on the NDIS by \$37.8 billion, in return for the minor party agreeing to an inquiry of the same length into the budget changes to capital gains tax and negative gearing.

Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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Grace Tame and NDIS paradox

AFR Weekend, General News, 13/06/2026, Clare Rowe, Page 38

Grace Tame's new ABC podcast on autism has sparked predictable debate. Much of that discussion has focused on Tame herself, her advocacy and whether she is an appropriate public figure to host such a program.

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Alarm over changes

Courier Mail, Letters, 13/06/2026, Andrew Chesterman, Page 81

Recent discussions around proposed changes to the NDIS have raised some alarms for people with disability and their families. At Endeavour Foundation, we recently shared our views with the Senate Community Affairs Committee.

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

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Finding belonging on field

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 13/06/2026, Maddie Fuller, Page 8

For nine-year-old Linkin Jones, every trip on to the football field is far more than a game. Living with both autism and alopecia, the young footballer has faced challenges throughout his short life that many do not encounter in their lifetime.

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Autistic teens caught in middle of NDIS funding dispute

West Australian, Other, 13/06/2026, Duncan Murray

Autistic teenagers are caught in the middle of a buck-passing exercise between the federal government and states and territories over the future of disability support. One of the most vulnerable and crucial periods for an autistic person is adolescence, as they navigate a world of changes and the transition to adulthood.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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NDIS labour hire provider United Foundation enters administration citing registration changes and rising costs

ABC Online, Other, 12/06/2026, Bronwyn Herbert

A disability services labour hire company has entered voluntary administration and laid off 27 staff blaming regulatory changes, withheld NDIS payments and rising workforce costs. United Foundation notified staff this week that administrators from Mackay Goodwin had been appointed in a move it described as a step to "keep trading while we sort the finances out".

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Channel 9, A Current Affair, 12/06/2026, Allison Langdon

In July 2020, a 14yo girl killed 10yo Bridgette "Biddy" Porter in NSW, but she was later found not guilty due to mental impairment. Dominic, Biddy's father, was successful in overturning a suppression order to speak out, but he now suffers from severe PTSD and financial strain as a result of being denied legal aid and being unable to use his \$300,000 NDIS package for his specific therapy needs due to red tape.

Report continues on: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).

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2CC, Canberra Live, 12/06/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with Kamla Brisbane, Chief Executive of Stakeholders and Engagement at Carers ACT, about the ACT budget's impact on unpaid carers. Brisbane says while some budget measures benefit the broader community, carers feel overlooked, with no dedicated funding to address key needs like respite care, formal recognition, and targeted support for young carers. She adds that without clearer investment and structured programs, unpaid carers continue to face ongoing pressure across aged care, disability, and NDIS systems.

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PRIMARY CARE

Safety fear flagged in pharmacy script plan

Weekend Australian, General News, 13/06/2026, Penny Timms, Page 6

The nation's largest doctor insurance group has raised fears of patient harm after the pharmacy lobby put forward a proposal to rapidly expand what conditions pharmacists can prescribe for, including some cardiovascular risk-reduction medication. Avant Mutual, the nation's largest doctor indemnity provider, is calling for the creation of a national prescribing safety framework, saying there is an overdue need for "red lines" to be drawn when it comes to what a pharmacist should be able to prescribe.

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

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RACGP WA vice president Dr Ramya Raman: Housing a major barrier for regional doctor retention

West Australian, Other, 12/06/2026, Cain Andrews

Housing availability and affordability has become a major barrier to retaining GPs in regional WA, according to Royal Australian College of General Practitioners WA vice president and chair Dr Ramya Raman. On her recent trip to Karratha to deliver workshops on menopause, Dr Raman said workforce retention issues caused by housing constraints was one of the biggest concerns for local practitioners.

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Infection prevention and control guideline update

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 12/06/2026, Morgan Liotta

To align with the latest Standards Australia requirements, the RACGP has updated its Infection prevention and control (IPC) guidelines section relating to the sterilisation of medical equipment. The

updated IPC section is in line with the Standards Australia requirement that practices will need to go through a simple risk-assessment process, allowing them to determine the level of sterilisation they need to follow for the type of work undertaken at the practice.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Demand decline hurts Monash IVF

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Business News, 13/06/2026, Page 166

Families mulling the first steps of their assisted fertility journey are delaying their plans, forcing Australia's second-largest service provider to downgrade its earnings. Monash IVF has an assisted reproduction market share of about 20 per cent, behind market leader Genea, number two IVFAustralia and number three Adora Fertility.

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Smoke on the water

Northern Territory News, General News, 13/06/2026, Harry Brill & Rory Williams, Page 1

A desperate group of alleged tobacco smugglers managed to dump \$4.5m worth of black market tobacco on a remote Northern Territory beach before making a wild dash for international waters, which involved opening fire on a pursuing Australia Border Force patrol boat. The mouth-watering dollar figure came to light on Friday afternoon when two men allegedly involved in the plot were brought before Darwin Local Court.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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Funding cuts and repressive laws raise risk of new HIV epidemic, says UNAids

The Guardian, Other, 12/06/2026, Kat Lay

A funding crisis and increasing repression of human rights are making the resurgence of an HIV epidemic more likely, the international agency tackling Aids has warned. Winnie Byanyima, head of UNAids, said: "It's the biggest disruption since the global HIV response was put together and it poses a major threat to the progress we have had."

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Labor Premier Chris Minns breaks ranks to slam Anthony Albanese's government again

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 12/06/2026, Caitlin Powell & Callum Goodde

NSW Premier Chris Minns has criticised Anthony Albanese's tobacco tax policy for a second month in a row, claiming illegal sales are fuelling Australia's black market. [...] The premier said more than 200 illegal tobacconists had recently been shut down across the state, according to the latest data from NSW Health.

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

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Vape, smoke shop shuts but data says most nicotine comes from illegal sources

The Border Mail, Other, 12/06/2026, Blair Thomson

Health authorities continue to close vape and tobacco shops in the Albury area, as new research shows illicit products have an 80 per cent market share. A popular Lavington site on Wagga Road was forced to close to all business as part of an order issued by NSW Health staff on Tuesday, June 9.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Street truths shape career with social purpose

Weekend Australian, Business News, 13/06/2026, Inner Sanctum & Damon Kitney, Page 24

There is a painting on the wall of Ben Kerr's Sydney office simply titled "Stevie". [...] Archie Kerr was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis (CF) when he was just 30 days old.

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Menopause tracker raises awareness, and alarm bells

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/06/2026, Lauren Ironmonger, Page 28

Menopause is a billion-dollar industry in 2026, rising to fill a historically invisible area of women's health. Companies like Clue, Oura and Metluma have all launched products dedicated to the life transition.

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Blokes, put it to the test

Daily Telegraph, General News, 13/06/2026, Zara Powell, Page 31

Men get breast cancer too, and Dominic Di Tommaso wants to see more getting tested. After the professional freerunner's grandmother died of breast cancer, Di Tommaso and his sister recently underwent genetic testing, which uncovered that they both carry the BRCA1 mutation.

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Family's VAD bid to avoid tragedy

Courier Mail, General News, 13/06/2026, Shelley Strachan, Page 28

The family of a Gympie man forced into a long and horrible death because he was denied Voluntary Assisted Dying has launched a bid to spare others of the same ordeal. Former grain and cattle farmer Rod Keys, diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2017, had a final wish to undertake Voluntary Assisted Dying once he could no longer care for himself.

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

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An intimate portrait of the freedom to choose

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 13/06/2026, Claire Sadler, Page 30

When Julian Kingma first photographed the final moments of someone accessing voluntary assisted dying, he expected it to be confronting but the experience was anything but. [...] In WA, a person must maintain decision-making capacity throughout the entire process from the very first request up to the moment the lethal substance is administered.

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Walking miracle

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 13/06/2026, Ashleigh Jansen, Page 1

A Gold Coast mum whose baby underwent major surgery while in utero has just watched the little girl she thought would never walk take her first steps. When Jenaya Ward (pictured) was four months pregnant, doctors told her baby Lucinda had spina bifida.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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Fitness helping to fight cancer

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 13/06/2026, Ruby Kraner-Tucci, Page 21

Natasha Tunney spent her two-decade career helping people with cancer but when the tables turned on her as a patient, the oncology professional identified a significant gap in her care. The 45-year-old

mum-of-two was diagnosed with breast cancer in late 2024, after she discovered a "tiny dent" while putting on deodorant.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#)

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Muscle loss is more common than diabetes in old age. Here's how to avoid it

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 12/06/2026, Shona Hendley

Robert Catanese anticipated some learning curves when he took on part-time garden maintenance work, but he wasn't expecting to uncover a previously unnoticed health issue. "I worked in middle management at a bank for 40 years, so the new job is far more active. I'm bending down doing weeding, I'm doing a lot more walking, and holding and using a lot of garden maintenance tools," says the Sydney-based 66-year-old.

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How a young family is navigating regional healthcare a bit differently

Canberra Times, Other, 12/06/2026, Chelsea Wilson

A young family navigating a multiple sclerosis (MS) diagnosis while living regionally has encouraged them to think outside the box when it comes to treatment. Former cancer centre pharmacist Aimee Pearson said she had trouble navigating the local health system when it came to locking in appointments with specialists for her husband's care.

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

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Aussie boy's sore knee leads to devastating relapse: 'Terrified us'

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 12/06/2026, Kamilia Palu

When five-year-old Vinnie complained of a sore knee and a cough, his parents took it seriously. [...] Because of that, more than 80 per cent of Aussies needing a transplant receive stem cells from overseas.

[Read More](#)

'I was told it might be perimenopause. Then my doctor saw something he didn't want to see.'

Mamamia, Other, 12/06/2026, Gabrielle Oehlmann

Seven months after giving birth to her daughter London, Danni Duncan sat in a doctor's waiting room. [...] Danni is now an ambassador for the Yellow Freesia Foundation, which offers free psychologist-led support groups and workshops for Australian women aged 18–45 navigating cancer.

[Read More](#)

New stroke clinical care standard released

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 12/06/2026, Anmj Staff

For 46,000 people likely to have a stroke in Australia this year, the updated national standard outlines steps to equip them to rebuild their lives and regain independence when they return home. If a person survives a stroke, it can be a shock to them and their families just how much ongoing support they need following hospital discharge, with some changes lifelong. It's why getting the right help can make all the difference.

[Read More](#)

New guidance released on next steps once a stroke patient leaves hospital

Medical Forum, Other, 12/06/2026

The new version recognises care needs beyond the hospital and includes a stronger focus on rehabilitation, individualised care planning and follow-up. Stroke is one of the leading causes of death and disability in Australia.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

UMHCC marks big milestone

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 13/06/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 20

Adelaide's Urgent Mental Health Care Centre (UMHCC) is marking its five-year anniversary as the nation's first such free walk-in service. In that time it has supported more than 25,000 visits from people experiencing mental health crisis or distress, freeing up thousands of places in hospital EDs, and also helping thousands of people who say they would otherwise have not sought help.

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Suicide care finally comes after months of pressure

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 13/06/2026, Kirsty Lichtenstein, Page 4

After months of pressure over crises in the State's mental health system, the WA Government is introducing additional care and support to people leaving hospital after a suicide attempt or suicidal crisis. The new service will include brief interventions, psychosocial support and care co-ordination for people after they are discharged from some EDs or hospitals following a suicidal crisis including in Busselton, where a teenage girl waited 116 hours for a bed in emergency before she was eventually moved to Joondalup for specialist mental health care.

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

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A private grief inspired free service

Launceston Examiner, General News, 13/06/2026, Lauren Richardson, Page 11

After moving to Tasmania, Stephanie Trethewey found herself with two young children, socially and geographically isolated, and "breaking". She struggled after her first child was born, but was still in Melbourne surrounded by her "village".

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

Meet the viral device helping thousands fight social media doom-scrolling

NEWS.com.au, Other, 12/06/2026, Eleanor Wicklund

Australians are turning to an unlikely physical tool to combat doom-scrolling as tech giants face an unprecedented legal reckoning over social media addiction. [...] While the mental health benefits of a digital detox are well documented (especially for teens, where excessive use is associated with doubled rates of depression and anxiety), Australian health experts warn that our phone obsession is doing more damage to our bodies.

[Read More](#)

DrinkWise campaign tackles alcohol and mental health

National Liquor News, General News, 01/07/2026, Simon Strahan, Page 37

DrinkWise launched the Never Have I Ever campaign at Parliament House recently, with an event hosted by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Hon Milton Dick MP. Developed in partnership with ReachOut, the national education campaign is designed to prompt self-reflection, open conversations about mental health and provide a clear pathway to advice and support for those who may be trying to use alcohol as a way of coping with stress and anxiety.

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

ABC News, News Breakfast, 12/06/2026, Catherine Murphy & Emma Reballato

Interview with Prof Susan Sawyer, Director of the Centre for Adolescent Health at the Murdoch

Children's Research Institute, about a decade-long study on teenage social media use and mental health. Sawyer says young people who spend more than two hours daily on social media show higher rates of depressive symptoms and poorer well-being 12 months later, with the strongest effects seen in girls aged 12 to 13 during early adolescent brain development.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News, 12/06/2026, Jennifer Keyte

A landmark 10-year Murdoch Children's Research Institute study finds teenagers who spend two or more hours daily on social media show higher levels of mental health problems a year later than lighter users. It also identifies girls aged 12 to 13 as especially vulnerable during key stages of brain development, based on surveys of nearly 1200 adolescents.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 12/06/2026, Peter Overton

Global momentum builds as governments including Canada and the UK consider following Australia's lead in banning social media for children under 16 amid rising concern about youth wellbeing. New research from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute links at least two hours of daily social media use in teenagers to a higher risk of poorer mental health outcomes.

[Play Now](#)

3AW, Breakfast, 12/06/2026, Ross Stevenson & Russel Howcroft

Interview with Prof Susan Sawyer, Director of the Centre for Adolescent Health at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, about teen social media use impacting mental health. Sawyer says the research links more than two hours of daily social media use with higher risks of depression and poorer well-being, and argues Australia's under-16 social media restrictions remain ambitious but still evolving rather than fully effective.

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IMMUNISATION

Spike in virus sparks vax plea

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 13/06/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 5

The potentially deadly respiratory syncytial virus is on the rise, prompting the Australian Medical Association to urge people to talk to their GP about getting a vaccination, which costs about \$300 for those not eligible for a free shot. SA Health data shows 166 RSV infections were reported in South Australia last weekup from 71 cases in the first full week of May.

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

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Flu season is coming late, but will hit hard

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 13/06/2026, 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: [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#).

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

2CC, Breakfast, 12/06/2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Dr Michael Wright, President of the RACGP, about urging Australians to get flu vaccinations. Wright says last year's record flu season highlights the ongoing risk of severe outbreaks, and urges people, especially vulnerable groups, to get vaccinated while case numbers remain

relatively low. He adds that winter conditions mainly increase transmission because people spend more time indoors.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 12/06/2026, Thomas Oriti

Interview with Dr Michael Wright, President of the RACGP, about influenza trends and vaccination uptake. Wright says flu cases sit well below last year's record levels, but health authorities cannot predict when a major seasonal wave will arrive, especially with changing virus strains and weather patterns influencing spread.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Red flag was raised

Border Mail, General News, 13/06/2026, Page 1

A Ramsay Health Care boss raised concerns about a Border surgeon following the death of two patients in a period of about two months, and has told an Albury inquest it was "very unusual". Coroner Sally McLaughlin is investigating the 2019 death of Kenneth Toll following a double knee replacement operation at Albury Wodonga Private Hospital.

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

Closure of Mackay private hospital a loss that will 'make everything worse'

ABC Online, Other, 12/06/2026, Liam O'Connell

A national private hospital operator that specialises in mental health is closing its doors in north Queensland, saying the facility is no longer financially viable. Aurora Healthcare has run the Mackay Private Hospital for nearly a decade, providing mental health respite and physical rehabilitation beds.

[Read More](#)

Government agencies told to police own AI use missed first transparency test

ABC Online, Other, 12/06/2026, Cam Wilson

Dozens of government bodies have failed the first test of policing their own use of AI, after Australia backed away from stricter European-style AI rules in favour of relying on existing regulators and agencies. [...] The Organ and Tissue Authority (OTA) was initially treated as non-compliant by the DTA, but later correspondence showed the agency had emailed its accountable official details on December 5, 2024.

[Read More](#)

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Fountain of untruth: great 'longevity hack' exposed

Weekend Australian, General News, 13/06/2026, Stephen Lunn, Page 17

Australian academic Saul Newman is the bushy-bearded bete noir of the global longevity movement, calling out over-hyped claims about breakthrough treatments to extend our lives or reverse ageing as little more than unscrupulous shilling for money. The public is paying a high price, in dollars and too often in health, for dubious anti-ageing peptides, supplements and biomarkers, even transfusions using younger people's blood, in a bid to look younger or live longer, the 41-year-old says.

Ozempic might actually save your life

AFR Weekend, General News, 13/06/2026, Ariana Eunjung Cha & Christopher Rowland, Page 36

The story of GLP-1 drugs keeps getting bigger. First they transformed the treatment of diabetes. Then they upended the science and culture of weight loss. Now a growing body of research is raising another possibility.

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

Insta ruining mental health

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 13/06/2026, Allanah Sciberras, Page 2

Teenagers who spend hours glued to social media are likely to experience poorer mental health and a decline in wellbeing, a decade-long study shows, with young girls most at risk. Social media has transformed young people's lives through instant connection but raised concerns about cyberbullying, harmful algorithms and impacts on health, including reduced sleep and fewer offline activities, the Murdoch Children's Research Institute study published on Friday found.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [The Nightly \(None\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [3AW \(Online\)](#).

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Smoking gun in bushfire research

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 13/06/2026, Angela Pownall, Page 11

Babies exposed to bushfire smoke in the womb and in their first year of life are at a higher risk of health problems, including poor birth outcomes, respiratory issues and impaired memory and cognition. WA research has examined the long-term impacts of in utero and neonatal bushfire smoke exposure on the health and cognitive development of Australian children from infancy to adolescence.

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Baby Bohdi bounces back

Newcastle Herald, General News, 13/06/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

Baby Bohdi Higginson became the first person in the world to join a clinical trial of a new drug for a rare form of epilepsy. Bohdi, aged eight months, was diagnosed with KCNT1-related epilepsy in February, a rare and often fatal paediatric disease.

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

Researchers on the move

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 13/06/2026, Page 3

Australia's biotech, medtech and health tech companies are considering relocating overseas, or moving lifesaving clinical trials, due to controversial tax reforms. Seventy-six 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.

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

Kids should be involved in their health care. Here's how to make that happen

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 12/06/2026, Stuart Ekberg & Katie Ekberg

Children have a right to learn, play and grow. [...] Research suggests children who actively participate in their own treatment recover faster from surgery, have less anxiety and feel more valued.

[Read More](#)

Scientists warn little-known amoebae can shrug off chlorine, hide other germs, and spread as waters warm

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 12/06/2026, Vivian Tran

Public health experts are paying closer attention to microscopic organisms that live in lakes, rivers, soil, and even drinking water systems. Researchers say warming temperatures and the growing strain on

aging water infrastructure may increase the risks posed by a little-known group called free-living amoebae, reported ScienceDaily.

[Read More](#)

6PR, Drive, 12/06/2026, Jamie Burnett

Interview with Prof John Mamo, Lead Researcher from the School of Population Health at Curtin University, about a clinical trial targeting migraine treatment. Mamo explains migraines affect about 5m Australians and 1b people globally, with women disproportionately impacted, and highlights how current treatments mainly target nerve responses with limited effectiveness. He outlines a new nutraceutical-based approach focusing on improving brain capillary blood flow and reducing inflammation.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Burning questions

The Saturday Paper, General News, 13/06/2026, Katherine Everest, Page 10

Later this year, the New South Wales government is expected to approve a plant near Parkes that will generate energy by burning garbage trucked in from Sydney. Consultation has been under way for seven years, but Indigenous groups have been excluded from recent rounds, adding to fears the project will affect human health, impact the environment and damage sacred sites.

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

Online racism is significantly impacting mental health, First Nations people say: 'It's like carrying a bully in your pocket'

The Guardian, Other, 13/06/2026, Douglas Smith & Sarah Collard

For the past week and half, the social media feeds of many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been flooded with clips from the same video, posted by a self-declared Australian comedian. This video shows a white woman wearing a fur coat with white dot painting on her face.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , Drive, 12/06/2026, Adam Steer

Interview with Dr Rosalind Webby, Immunisation Medical Advisor at the Centre for Disease Control in the NT, about improving HPV vaccine access and coverage in remote and Aboriginal communities. Webby highlights a decline in vaccination rates driven by school attendance issues, consent barriers, workforce pressures, and communication gaps, particularly affecting adolescents. She says health services expand catch-up options through clinics, pharmacies, and community-led campaigns.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Radiology firm 'deeply disappointed' in Hammat

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 13/06/2026, Charlton Hart & Oliver Lane, Page 13

A private radiology company has written to Health Minister Meredith Hammat frustrated over the outcome of a meeting it had with her in January where it says it raised serious concerns over billing issues at Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital. Ms Hammat met Spartan First Imaging and former attorneygeneral John Quigley earlier this year where they say she was made aware of concerns around how the hospital was claiming rebates from Medicare and running its radiology service.

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

'I worry about our future'

Canberra Times, General News, 13/06/2026, Lanie Tindale, Page 1

A top doctor says a review of Canberra's health system linking patient safety to workplace culture validates concerns that make her afraid for her children's future. Australian Medical Association ACT branch president Betty Ge said the comprehensive review, chaired by Michael Walsh and commissioned by the government after pressure from the Canberra Liberals and ACT Greens, endorsed "concerns our local doctors have been raising for many years".

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

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Why 'efficiency' savings are hurting frontline staff

Burnie Advocate, General News, 13/06/2026, Michael Lumsden-Steel, Page 20

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

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'Staff have endured enough'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 13/06/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 2

Calvary Mater staff are cautiously optimistic that action will be taken to fix the hospital's heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) system. The HVAC system has been pinpointed as a key cause of deadly mould contamination at the hospital.

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

Baby left in morgue

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 13/06/2026, Jackie Sinnerton & Emma Cam, Page 1

The body of a Queensland baby was left forgotten in the morgue of one of the state's leading hospitals for weeks while the heartbroken parents believed she had been sent for an autopsy. In a stunning admission, Queensland Health said Townsville Hospital did not deliver the best care to the family and the horrifying incident has sparked a major overhaul of protocols.

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

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

How our hospitals are coping with 'sustained demand'

Central Western Daily, General News, 13/06/2026, Orlander Ruming, Page 8

Almost one-third of patients with life-threatening conditions are not being seen at Central West hospitals within the recommended timeframes. At Bathurst, Dubbo, Mudgee and Orange hospitals, less than 70 per cent of patients classified as emergency or T2 are seen on time. To be on time, 80 per cent of the patients classified as emergency need to be seen within 10 minutes.

Also reported by: [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#).

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Cairns Hospital's expansion progresses with release of major building tender

Northern Territory News, Other, 12/06/2026, Stella McKenna

A tender for the head contractor to deliver the next stage of the \$1 billion Cairns Hospital Expansion has officially been released. The expansion project, which is expected to generate around 3800 jobs during construction, forms part of the state government's 30-year masterplan for healthcare delivery across the region.

[Read More](#)

Interview with Dr Betty Gee, President of the AMA ACT, about healthcare reform and hospital system improvements. Gee says the 49-recommendation report provides a clearer roadmap for change and acknowledges early progress in hospital processes, while noting ongoing challenges in wait times, workplace culture, and staff psychological safety. She adds that improving transparency in areas like elective surgery referrals and communication between staff and patients remains essential to building trust.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

More than 200 'angry' Geelong nurses demand action over hospital violence

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 13/06/2026, Euan Kennedy

More than 200 Geelong hospital nurses have united to demand urgent safety changes from Barwon Health after two midwives were assaulted. More than 200 Geelong hospital nurses' union members have united to deliver Barwon Health a resolution to the ongoing violence against healthcare workers, prompting a meeting between both parties.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Assignment of Benefit changes you need to know about

Medical Forum, Other, 12/06/2026, Aleisha Orr

For years doctors have been able to have Medicare rebates that are technically paid to a patient, sent on to them for providing their services through a verbal agreement however new assignment of benefit processes come into effect on July 1. The changes were prompted by a report by the Australian National Audit Office released in 2023 that found there could be legal risks with this method of assigning Medicare benefits.

[Read More](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 12/06/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with Michael Walsh, Chair of the Inquiry into the ACT Health System Data, Demand and Processes, about findings and recommendations on health system reform in the ACT. Walsh highlights strong commitment from staff across the system and calls for clearer governance, better collaboration, and stronger engagement between clinicians, managers, and stakeholders. He also emphasises improving data quality, transparency, and ongoing optimisation of the digital health record, noting both its world-leading status and the challenges of adapting it across different generations of users.

Interview continues on: [2CC \(Canberra\)](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Tribunal finds Perth nurse was caught stealing from disabled patients, selling items on eBay

WA Today, Other, 13/06/2026, Rebecca Peppiatt

A Perth nurse has had her registration cancelled and ordered to pay costs after a tribunal found she stole from a family she was caring for. [...] When questioned by her employer about her conduct, the tribunal documents said Bastin “attempted to minimise her behaviour”, did not cooperate with an investigation, accused the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency of defamation and threatened to bring a civil claim against them.

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

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NT government cancels controversial \$1.1 million private midwife contract with Claire Marks

ABC Online, Other, 12/06/2026, Roxanne Fitzgerald

The Northern Territory government has confirmed it has terminated a \$1.1 million dollar contract it handed to a Darwin midwife, nearly 10 months after doctors began raising concerns about the deal. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), which oversees the Nursing and Midwifery Board, has not disclosed the specific grounds for the restrictions it placed on Ms Marks, but has previously said conditions are only imp

[Read More](#)

Victoria to ban accused sex offenders from accessing victim counselling notes

NEWS.com.au, Other, 12/06/2026, Nina Funnell

The Victorian Government has announced sweeping new laws to ban alleged pedophiles and sex offenders from being able to access the confidential sexual assault counselling notes of their alleged victims. [...] Last week in Geelong Magistrates Court, the barrister for accused sex offender Greg Leonard Jackman sought court permission to subpoena “all treatment records” held by AHPRA relating to his alleged victim, dating back to her birth.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Data is not enough: from Covid to measles, America must relearn risk communication

The Guardian, Other, 13/06/2026, Lynne Peebles

Two unfolding outbreaks continue to command global attention. As a hantavirus outbreak tied to a cruise ship appears to be petering out, Ebola cases continue to mount in Africa.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Good health on the home brand front

Priceline is seemingly following in the footsteps of its fellow retailers within Wesfarmers by betting heavily on an expanded private label range to boost sales and drive growth. [...] Ms Amos was optimistic about the health and pharmacy category, adding growing popularity of weight-loss drugs was a "fantastic tailwind".

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

A year of pizza, beer and burnout left Josh at 95kg. This is the lifestyle reset that helped him lose 15kg - and the controversial peptide trend he tried that doctors warn against

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 12/06/2026, Elise Wilson

Josh reached 95kg after a stressful year of overeating and drinking He changed his diet, training and alcohol use at the same time. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration has also issued warnings about the import, advertising and supply of unapproved peptides, stressing that these substances have not been evaluated for safety, quality or effectiveness.

[Read More](#)

Creon shortages to extend into 2027

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 12/06/2026, Nicholas O'Donoghue

Availability of Creon capsules may vary from one pharmacy to another, as increased global demand impacts supplies, Viartis warns Supply constraints affecting Creon (pancreatic extract) 25,000 and 30,000 are forecast to continue until 31 January 2027, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) says.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Drug-driving law review

Courier Mail, General News, 13/06/2026, Taylah Fellows, Page 3

Queensland medicinal cannabis users could soon gain greater certainty about their ability to get behind the wheel, with the state government confirming it will examine drug-driving laws as part of a broader review. It comes after NSW moved to introduce a new framework for medicinal cannabis users that aims to distinguish between lawful patients and impaired drivers.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Darrell Lea investigates after complaints mould found in its chocolate

7News.com.au, Other, 12/06/2026, Bryce Luff

Australian sweets maker Darrell Lea has conducted a "thorough investigation" after complaints a popular range of chocolates were contaminated by mould. [...] On previous unrelated product recalls, Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has highlighted that products affected by mould contamination should not be eaten because they "may cause illness".

[Read More](#)

Illicit alcohol sparks spirits tax scrutiny

National Liquor News, General News, 01/07/2026, Page 23

Growing concerns around illicit alcohol in Australia have prompted urgent calls for government action after research revealed contaminated spirits are being sold openly through Melbourne bottle shops. [...] Researchers found some products displayed poor-quality packaging, missing barcodes and visible

contaminants, while chemical testing identified methanol and plasticisers outside Australian food safety standards.

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AICIS

ABC News, News Breakfast, 12/06/2026, Catherine Murphy & Emma Reballato

A major PFAS class action has been filed in Victoria's Supreme Court against US manufacturer 3M, with compensation claims potentially reaching billions of dollars over contamination concerns. The move follows the federal government's recent decision to sue 3M over PFAS pollution at defence sites.

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