



# TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 14th June 2026

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sunday Mail Brisbane](#)** (page 1) reports Senior clinician Mohamed El Sayed Abdeen faces an independent clinical review after allegedly performing an unconsented, permanent salpingectomy on a patient at Gladstone Hospital, following a prior caution by the Health Care Complaints Commission for performing a similar unconsented sterilisation procedure in 2014.
- **[The Sunday Mail Brisbane](#)** (page 6) reports the National Lung Cancer Screening Program has screened nearly 100,000 eligible high-risk Australians and detected more than 230 primary lung cancers in its first year of providing free scans. Minister for Health Mark Butler strongly urged eligible individuals to participate in the initiative, which was developed alongside the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation to ensure the free computed tomography scans safely and equitably meet the needs of First Nations participants.
- **[The Sun Herald](#)** (page 1) reports the RACGP noted that current evidence shows a weak or inconsistent correlation between THC levels and the degree of impairment, prompting senior clinicians to urge against proposed changes to drug-driving laws for medicinal cannabis users.
- **[The Sunday Examiner](#)** (page 5) reports the Federal Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing has acknowledged the unique challenges facing regional, rural, and remote NDIS participants and families trying to engage disability support workers, particularly for individuals with complex requirements. The acknowledgement follows reports that twenty-year-old NDIS

participant Nickolas Gall has had more than twenty support workers in six years due to severe retention issues in regional Tasmania.

- **The Sun Herald** (page 4) reports long-awaited updates to the Australian Pregnancy Care Guidelines issued by the Federal Government recommend that all pregnant women receive information regarding congenital cytomegalovirus, the leading infectious cause of disability in babies. The updated advice from the federal Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing also suggests offering blood tests to high-risk individuals, such as women with young children, to catch the virus early given that safe hygiene precautions can reduce infection risks by 70 per cent.
- **The Daily Telegraph** (online) reports that following the assault of two midwives outside Geelong hospital, more than 200 members of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation met to deliver a safety resolution to Barwon Health demanding an increased security presence, the reinstatement of a safety shuttle, and collaborative meetings with police.

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## MINISTER BUTLER

### Screens unveil cancers

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 14/06/2026, David Hannant, Page 6

More than 230 hidden cancer cases have been detected after tens of thousands of Aussies came forward to get tested. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said he "strongly urged" eligible people to sign up for it.

Also reported by: [Sunday Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Sunday Territorian \(Darwin\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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### NDIS overhaul must look beyond the balance sheet

WA Today, Other, 13/06/2026

At The Age Schools Summit this week, the Victorian Liberal Party pledged \$156 million to help identify neurodiverse students at the start of their schooling and guide families into early intervention through embedded occupational therapists and speech pathologists in the primary school system. [...] In April, federal Health Minister Mark Butler fired the starting gun on an overhaul of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), aimed at arresting its spiralling cost to the federal budget.

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

WEB Region Canberra, Other, 13/06/2026, 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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## DEPARTMENT

### **Fight for support for son 'never-ending'**

Sunday Examiner, General News, 14/06/2026, Saree Salter, Page 5

More than 20 support workers have worked with Nickolas Gall, but not one has stuck around, according to his mother. [...] A Department of Health, Disability and Ageing spokesperson said the government recognised the additional challenges participants and families living in regional, rural and remote areas face when trying to engage disability support workers.

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

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

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## DISABILITY AND CARERS

### **Channel 10, 10 News (Weekend), 13/06/2026, Georgie Tunny**

The Federal Opposition proposed to the Greens a six-month inquiry into government changes to the NDIS, in exchange for a separate six-month inquiry into changes to negative gearing and capital gains

tax. The Greens oppose the NDIS changes, which are expected to move 160,000 Australians off the scheme by 2030.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Is it cheaper to travel to a bulk-bill GP?

Sunday Examiner, General News, 14/06/2026, Lauren Richardson, Page 16

Looking for a bulk-billing doctor? It could be cheaper to travel to a clinic rather than going to your local. According to 2020 Australian Bureau of Statistics data, the average rate of fuel consumption per passenger vehicle was 11.1 litres per 100 kilometres.

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### Navigating regional healthcare differently

Launceston Examiner, General News, 13/06/2026, Chelsea Wilson, Page 12

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

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Deadly virus most pregnant women have never heard of

Sun Herald, General News, 14/06/2026, Kate Aubusson, Page 4

All pregnant women should be warned about a herpes-like virus and taught how to protect their babies from its potentially deadly and debilitating complications, according to long-awaited changes to national guidelines. [...] An update to the federal government's Australian Pregnancy Care Guidelines recommends that all women be informed by their maternity team about CMV.

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### Stroke recovery boost

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 14/06/2026, Page 7

For the 46,000 people likely to have a stroke in Australia this year, an updated national standard puts in place steps to equip them to rebuild their lives and regain independence when they return home. When a person survives a stroke, it can be a shock to them and their families to realise how much ongoing support they need after hospital discharge.

Also reported by: [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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### The hidden crisis facing successful women: 'I didn't know who I was any more'

Adelaide Now, Other, 13/06/2026, Susannah Myerson

I had it all together. [...] A 2023 report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found that women are now the fastest growing demographic of risky drinkers.

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

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### New WA research pinpoints harm done by bushfire smoke exposure on

## babies' health and development

West Australian, Other, 13/06/2026, Angela Pownall

Australian babies exposed to bushfire smoke while in the womb and during their first year of life face a higher risk of health problems including poor birth outcomes, respiratory issues and impaired memory and cognition, new WA research has found. The study examined the long-term impacts of prenatal and early-life bushfire smoke exposure on the health and cognitive development of Australian children from infancy through to adolescence.

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## CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

### New test for cancer risk

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 14/06/2026, Page 20

Researchers have identified a blood signature that can predict lung cancer risk years before diagnosis. The findings could enhance prevention strategies for Australia's biggest cancer killer.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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### 'Breast cancer affects men too': Athlete speaks out on family's gene battle

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 13/06/2026, Zara Powell

Men get breast cancer too, and professional freerunner Dominic Di Tommaso wants to see more getting tested. Di Tommaso is speaking out about his own BRCA1 gene mutation diagnosis and partnering with the National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF) to raise awareness about the risks men face.

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

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Safe Havens pop-up mental health clinics close across Northern Rivers

ABC Online, Other, 13/06/2026

After losing his wife, Christine Ray, to cancer, Greg Clitheroe thought he was mentally tough enough to carry on, but that changed quickly. [...] "The mental health problem is so great that we are a well-funded and large service, and we're still not able to meet the need," Lismore Medicare Mental Health Service psychologist and clinical service manager Emma Schubert said.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

### Weight link to puberty

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 14/06/2026, Page 7

Children who gain excess weight during their childhood may be more likely to go through early puberty. Researchers including scientists from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute compared children's BMI and obesity data with when their parents reported them first going through puberty.

Also reported by: [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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### ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 13/06/2026, Fauziah Ibrahim & Johanna Nicholson

Interview with Arthritis Australia CEO Louise Hardy. The federal government announced a \$100m investment over 10 years through the Medical Research Future Fund for arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions. The funding is intended to improve early diagnosis, treatment, and care for more than 7 million Australians with these conditions. Hardy says the investment addresses long-term underfunding in this area of research and may support better treatment options and improved quality of life.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

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

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 13/06/2026, Euan Kennedy

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. Members of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) held a safety forum at the hospital on Thursday regarding the risks faced by hospital workers when entering or leaving the facility.

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

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### **It was my choice, not his**

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 14/06/2026, Elodie Jakes & Jackie Sinnerton, Page 1

A 25-year-old Queensland woman says she will no longer be able to have children naturally after she claims she was sterilised without her consent by a doctor who had previously been disciplined for a similar mistake. [...] But a Sunday Mail investigation has found the same obstetrician, Mohamed El Sayed Abdeen, was cautioned a decade ago for performing a tubal ligation on a patient without her consent or knowledge in NSW and she only found out seven years later when trying to conceive.

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## AUSTRALIAN CDC

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### **Raising alert on sleep pill**

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 14/06/2026, Page 20

A commonly prescribed sleeping pill modestly improves sleep quality and reduces obstructive sleep apnoea, but significantly impairs alertness the next day. Flinders University researchers have led a clinical trial examining how low-dose quetiapine (Seroquel) affects sleep, breathing and next-day performance.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### **Doctors slam NSW cannabis driving plan**

Sun Herald, General News, 14/06/2026, Michael McGowan, Page 1

The heads of trauma medicine and other senior clinicians at major NSW hospitals including Royal

Prince Alfred and Royal North Shore have urged the Minns government to abandon changes to drug-driving laws, condemning a proposal they say will normalise impaired driving and lead to more people being killed on the road. The government this month announced plans for a major overhaul of drug driving laws that would introduce a medical defence and three-strike system for medicinal cannabis users.

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## Greens want end to 'double standard'

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 14/06/2026, Jasper Lindell, Page 5

Medicinal cannabis users would not immediately face a criminal charge or be barred from driving if the drug is picked up in their system on a roadside test under a law set to be debated in the ACT. The ACT Greens this week introduced a bill that would give patients prescribed medicinal cannabis a defence against a drug-driving charge if they are not impaired by the drug.

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## Queensland to review drug-driving laws for medicinal cannabis patients

The Courier Mail, Other, 13/06/2026, Taylah Fellows

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 New South Wales moved to introduce a new framework for medicinal cannabis users that aims to distinguish between lawful patients and impaired drivers.

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

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