



TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 17th June 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Australian** (page 5) reports that medical, hospital and seniors groups are urging the Federal Government to reconsider the budget move to scrap the higher private health insurance rebate for over-65s, saying more than three million older Australians will be affected, including many on modest incomes.
- **The Australian** (page 6) reports that a Senate committee investigating the National Disability Insurance Scheme bill intended to save \$185 billion across the next decade has delayed handing down its recommendations despite the looming deadline the Federal Government had set to pass its legislation. *Also reported by:* [Canberra Times](#), [Geelong Advertiser](#), [Daily Mail Australia](#), [Perth Now](#)
- The **Sydney Morning Herald** (online) reports that Australians in their 40s and 50s are now more likely than any other age group to die from an accidental drug overdose, and Victoria has recorded its deadliest year on record for unintentional drug deaths. *Also reported by:* [MSN Australia](#)
- The **Courier Mail** (page 7) reports that needle-free flu vaccines that have been hailed as the solution to improving immunisation rates in children are unavailable across the state due to a stock distribution problem. Heavy demand for the nasal spray alternative in pharmacies and clinics has left some providers without stock while others have a surplus.

- [ABC Online](#) reports that disruptions are expected at Victorian public hospitals today as thousands of allied health workers walk off the job over a pay dispute. Radiographers, sonographers, physiotherapists, podiatrists, speech pathologists and social workers are participating in a 24-hour strike from midnight on Tuesday.
- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (online) reports that doctors are calling for urgent investment in mental health services in this year's Queensland budget, saying emergency departments have turned into "default mental health crisis centres" after a sharp rise in presentations in recent years. The Australian Medical Association Queensland is leading the call for an extra \$600 million in funding.

MINISTER BUTLER

Rebate reform 'to hit elderly poor hardest'

The Australian, General News, 17/06/2026, Stephen Lunn, Page 5

A coalition of medical, hospital and seniors groups is urging Anthony Albanese to reconsider his budget move to scrap the higher private health insurance rebate for over-65s, saying more than three million older Australians will be affected, including many on modest incomes. The Australian Medical Association, the Australian Private Hospitals Association and National Seniors Australia are among those who have jointly written to the Prime Minister and Health Minister Mark Butler asking for further consultation before the change becomes law.

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Inquiry delays NDIS bill report

The Australian, General News, 17/06/2026, Sarah Ison, Page 6

A Senate committee investigating the National Disability Insurance Scheme bill intended to save \$185bn across the decade has delayed handing its recommendations to government despite the looming deadline Labor has set to pass its legislation. [...] Anthony Albanese and Health Minister Mark Butler have said the government will respect the process of the committee and Senate once the bill came up for debate, but Labor has stopped short of committing to adopt its recommendations.

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

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'Cancer centre must be in SA'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 17/06/2026, Andrew Hough, Page 6

South Australia's embattled medical institute is best suited to host a world-leading cancer unit because it would treat young children better than anywhere interstate, MPs have been told. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, who has approved a new \$2.5m project bailout, this week stoked concerns Commonwealth taxpayer funding could divert to Melbourne's Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

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Anger after final report into disability reforms delayed by days

Canberra Times, General News, 17/06/2026, Page 7

A major report into plans to curb the cost of the \$56 billion National Disability Insurance Scheme has been delayed in order for the government to consider thousands of submissions from groups concerned about the changes. [...] NDIS Minister Mark Butler's office did not respond to a request for comment.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#).

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Blast for 'callous' NDIS delay

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 17/06/2026, Ria Pandey, Page 6

A parliamentary probe tasked with scrutinising the Albanese government's changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme has delayed handing down its final report. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler

said he did not know what the states were "trying to do".

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The importance of at-home screening for a deadly cancer

Murray Pioneer, General News, 17/06/2026, Page 19

Cancer Council Australia and the Australian Government are encouraging more Riverlanders to complete their free at-home bowel cancer screening test. [...] Minister for Health Mark Butler said "the (Federal) Government is funding this vital campaign because we know bowel cancer screening saves lives".

Also reported by: [Border Times \(Pinnaroo\)](#).

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The Australians most likely to die from accidental drug overdoses

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 16/06/2026, Annika Smethurst

Australians in their 40s and 50s are now more likely than any other age group to die from an accidental drug overdose, and Victoria has recorded its deadliest year on record for unintentional drug deaths. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the reforms were the first step towards delivering a national drugs database, and would ensure "patients and their care teams can have accurate and up-to-date medicine information".

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

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One Nation's health policies based on misconceptions and may cost the taxpayer, experts warn

The Guardian, Other, 17/06/2026, Krishani Dhanji

Medical experts have blasted One Nation's health policies, saying they do not make sense, are based on misconceptions and could cost taxpayers more money while leaving vulnerable Australians without access to care. [...] The federal health minister, Mark Butler, said One Nation was a "risk to Medicare and cheaper medicines".

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Final report into 'rubbish' disability reforms delayed

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 16/06/2026

A major report into plans to curb the cost of the \$56 billion National Disability Insurance Scheme has been delayed in order for the government to consider thousands of submissions from groups concerned about the changes. [...] NDIS Minister Mark Butler's office did not respond to a request for comment, but Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Monday he would treat the Senate - where Labor must negotiate to get the bill through - with the "respect it deserves".

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

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Seven Australians are dying each day from drug overdose in worst year on record, researchers say

MSN Australia, Other, 16/06/2026, Caitlyn Gribbin

One winter night, Marg Quon wondered why her son had not come looking for his bedtime hot chocolate. "He would always make a cup ... before he went to sleep and he would spill it all the way from the kitchen down to his bedroom," Ms Quon recalled.

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NDIS inquiry final report delayed to June 19

Perth Now, Other, 16/06/2026

A Senate committee tasked with scrutinising the Albanese government's sweeping changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme has delayed handing down its final report. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler announced the NDIS reforms in May.

Coalition threatens to derail reforms over 'lack of transparency'

CathNews, Other, 16/06/2026, Rebecca Comini

Labor's plan to pass reforms to the National Disability Insurance Scheme are in doubt, as Coalition senators raise alarm over a lack of "detail or transparency" and consider moving amendments to key savings measures. [...] NDIS Minister Mark Butler announced in April that as part of efforts to bring NDIS annual growth down to below 2 per cent in the forward estimates before normalising to 5 per cent in the 2030s, the current \$12 billion spend on community and social supports would be reduced by about 50 per cent.

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Riding for those who can't: Bob and his grandson's epic journey

Southern Highland News, Other, 16/06/2026, Sally Foy

Bowral cyclist Bob Montgomery, 82, is preparing to ride more than 5000 kilometres from Broome to his Southern Highlands home to raise \$500,000 for motor neurone disease (MND) support. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler recently announced amendments to the aged care rules, giving older Australians with MND priority access to the Support at Home program.

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ABC, 7:30, 16/06/2026, Sarah Ferguson

Report by ABC reporter Courtney Bembridge. The NDIS is undergoing a massive overhaul, but the report from an inquiry into the NDIS changes has been delayed by the Senate committee, and has asked for an extension until Friday. In a statement to 7.30, Federal Disability Minister Mark Butler said the Federal Government is not for turning on the fundamental policy and will work closely with all parties to get this bill passed.

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ABC Pilbara, Statewide Drive, 16/06/2026, Andrew Collins

Interview with ANU Political Scientist Dr Andrew Hughes. Hughes says the Senate inquiry report on the changes to the NDIS has been delayed, and it is now due to be handed down to the Federal Government next Tuesday. He states that the report has been delayed because the number of public submissions exceeded, and it's a sign for the Federal Government to make concessions to the scheme, but Federal Health Minister Mark Butler maintained the Federal Government will still go ahead with the changes.

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2GB, Night Time (Early), 16/06/2026, John Stanley

Interview with Terry Barnes. Barnes says ordinary people who are accessing the NDIS are worried about their continued access following the Federal Government's planned cuts to the scheme. He notes that when one is in government, it is hard to take things away, but the Federal Government and Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is not bringing Australians along with them.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

The NDIS spent a year fighting our request to give our quadriplegic kid a wheelchair. Talk about wasteful

The Guardian, Other, 17/06/2026, Natasha Sholl

What's frustrating about Labor's budget cuts is that they imply disabled people are to blame for cost blow-outs. When our son was 11 I was looking to restore order in his wardrobe. I labelled every drawer and shelf, put his clean and folded clothes on his bed each day and said it was his responsibility to

place each item in his wardrobe where it belonged. [...] The disability and NDIS minister, Jenny McAllister, says the government has "thought really carefully about these reforms".

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MINISTER RAE

McLean Care axes allied health team as search for new operator continues

The New England Times, Other, 16/06/2026, RK Crosby

McLean Care will move to an externally provided allied health model across all of its residential aged care sites from Tuesday, 1 July, with chief executive Jill Davidson saying the change will give residents better access to face-to-face services like physiotherapy, dietetics and speech pathology. [...] That situation was the subject of a Mayoral Minute at a recent Inverell Shire Council meeting, where Mayor Kate Dight reported on correspondence from federal Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae.

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Coalition vows to give aged care assessors the power to overrule the algorithm

HelloCare, Other, 16/06/2026, Jakob Neeland

A bill introduced to federal parliament this month could force one of the more consequential reversals of Labor's aged care reform agenda: returning the power to qualified human assessors to override an algorithm that currently determines how much care older Australians receive at home. [...] On June 4, Aged Care Minister Sam Rae announced a special priority pathway for people living with motor neurone disease, an acknowledgment, after months of resistance, that the IAT was failing to correctly identify urgency for people with rapidly deteriorating conditions.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Push for better rural healthcare

Swan Hill Guardian, General News, 16/06/2026, Peter Bannan, Page 4

Murray River Council has joined a statewide push for better rural healthcare, with mayor John Harvie warning regional communities continued to suffer unacceptable health disadvantages compared with metropolitan areas. [...] Council ultimately endorsed the action plan and agreed to write to NSW Minister for Regional Health Ryan Park, Federal Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride and local MPs seeking their support.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

No relevant coverage

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

Where are all the male role models?

The Men's Table says connection, care and honest conversation are helping Australian men model a healthier version of masculinity. [...] The Men's Table representatives recently met with Assistant Minister for Social Services and the Prevention of Family Violence, Ged Kearney, and Special Envoy for Men's Health, Dan Repacholi, as they toured Victoria for the launch of the Australian Government's National Healthy Men Community Conversations project.

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101 reasons to see your GP as Men's Health Week puts blokes on notice

South Gippsland Sentinel Times, General News, 16/06/2026, Page 21

Men across the Bass Coast and South Gippsland are being urged to stop putting their health on hold as Men's Health Week runs this week with a simple message that there are plenty of reasons to book that overdue check-up. [...] The Federal Government's Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi is using the week to focus on four priorities.

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Channel 7, National News at Noon, 16/06/2026, Hugh Whitfeld

Interview with Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi. Repacholi says it is Men's Health Week, and they need to make sure that men are prioritising their health. He also urges men to consult their GPs and get a blood test.

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ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 16/06/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Federal Member for Hunter Dan Repacholi. Repacholi says Men's Health Week is important, and they are putting a massive amount of work into ensuring that men are prioritising their well-being and having more conversations about their health. He urges men to consult their GPs and get a blood test.

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2ST, Breakfast, 16/06/2026, Charles 'Max' Maxwell

The Federal Special Envoy for Men's Health, Dan Repacholi, has issued an urgent health appeal to men living across the Shoalhaven region to mark the launch of Men's Health Week. Repacholi is urging local men to overcome the traditional reluctance to seek medical advice and use this week as a critical catalyst to book routine preventative check-ups with their general practitioner.

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DEPARTMENT

The Australians most likely to die from accidental drug overdoses

WA Today, Other, 16/06/2026, Annika Smethurst

Australians in their 40s and 50s are now more likely than any other age group to die from an accidental drug overdose, and Victoria has recorded its deadliest year on record for unintentional drug deaths. [...] A spokesperson for the federal Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said the federal government had made substantial investments in drug treatment, overdose prevention and opioid dependence programs, and expanding access to naloxone – a medication that temporarily reverses the effects of an opioid overdose.

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Seven Australians are dying each day from drug overdose in worst year on record, researchers say

MSN Australia, Other, 16/06/2026, Caitlyn Gribbin

One winter night, Marg Quon wondered why her son had not come looking for his bedtime hot chocolate. "He would always make a cup ... before he went to sleep and he would spill it all the way from the kitchen down to his bedroom," Ms Quon recalled.

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Monash University and Bayside Health open tech-enabled independent living laboratory in Melbourne

Architecture & Design, Other, 16/06/2026

A purposebuilt research facility in Melbourne's south-east has opened with a brief to change how older Australians and people with disability prepare for life at home — using clinical-grade assistive technology in an environment designed to look and feel like an ordinary house. [...] The NCHA holds foundational investment from the Commonwealth Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 16/06/2026, Samantha Donovan

Report by ABC reporter Kimberley Price. The Federal Government says its Support at Home program caters for older people with a disability, but many participants in the program say more funding is needed to help them live fulfilling lives. Disability Discrimination Commissioner Rosemary Kayess, a spokesperson for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, says the \$4.3b Support at Home program provides care and services to eligible older Australians, but she also states that the supports that are in place for older Australians with a disability should provide a level of care equal to the NDIS.

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

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Nutritional health risk for older men

Northern Territory News, General News, 16/06/2026, Page 7

Older Australian men are being encouraged to prioritise their nutritional health this Men's Health Week (June 15-21), with experts warning that malnutrition and unintentional weight loss remain common yet often overlooked challenges in later life. Research shows that up to 50 per cent of older Australians living in the community and residential aged care experience malnutrition or unintentional weight loss, which can negatively impact strength, mobility, independence and overall quality of life.

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Australians with dementia 'effectively blocked' from voluntary assisted dying laws, research finds

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 16/06/2026, Jack Dyson Evans

Research from the University of Southern Queensland has revealed that most Australians living with dementia are unlikely to ever qualify for voluntary assisted dying unless drastic law reform occurs. Around 400,000 Australians are currently living with dementia, however VAD laws require a person to retain decision-making capacity throughout key stages of the process and requires a person to already be dying within 12 months.

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

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Home care shake-up continues ahead of CHSP deadline

The Weekly Source, Other, 16/06/2026, Caroline Egan

With the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) set to be rolled into Support at Home next year, two more councils have made the decision to exit home care services. Mornington Peninsula Shire and City of Monash have committed to a 30 June 2027 end date for delivery of home care, saying the proposed reforms make their services no longer possible.

Resthaven trials virtual reality tech

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 16/06/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

South Australian aged care provider Resthaven has been experimenting with virtual reality technology at its Marion Community Services centre, with trial participants reporting feeling calmer, more motivated and mentally refreshed after sessions. In partnership with South Australian software provider Add-Life, the aged care provider conducted a 10-week trial looking at how immersive activities could be incorporated into existing programs for clients living with conditions such as Parkinson's disease and dementia.

Also reported by: [Community Care Review \(Online\)](#)

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

'Callous move': NDIS act blasted

Hobart Mercury, General News, 17/06/2026, Ria Pandey, Page 11

A parliamentary probe tasked with scrutinising the Albanese government's sweeping changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme has delayed handing down its final report. The findings were scheduled to be tabled on Tuesday after three days of public hearings into the crackdown.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#)

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NDIS proposed changes

Canberra Times, Letters, 17/06/2026, Andrew Chesterman, Page 11

Recent discussions around proposed changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme 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.

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Gold Coast woman confronted in court over Disney trips and cruises on frozen accounts

The Australian, Other, 16/06/2026, Angelica Snowden

Splashing cash on tickets to Disneyland and airfares to the US despite having frozen bank accounts are not exactly examples of restrained spending. Under cross examination in the Federal Court on Tuesday, Laura Fullarton – accused by the corporate cop of allegedly scamming \$90m from investors with husband David McWilliams – agreed.

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

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NDIS support worker jailed for sexually assaulting two female clients

ABC Online, Other, 16/06/2026, Jessica Ross

A Queensland court has heard shocking details about how a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) support worker abused his position of trust to prey on two female clients. Trevor Noel Mutch appeared before the Maroochydore District Court for sentencing on Monday afternoon.

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SBS, World News Australia, 16/06/2026, Janice Petersen

A highly anticipated report from an inquiry into controversial changes to the NDIS has been delayed. People with disabilities shared serious concerns at the three-day Senate hearing last week after the

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ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 16/06/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Youth Disability Advocacy Network CEO Isabelle Choate. Choate says everyone in the sector thinks that there is a lot of waste in the NDIS, and the scheme needs to be sustainable in the future, but the changes to the NDIS are about impacting disabled people's rights, and not about improving the program's efficiency. She also says the NDIS cuts are harsh, and the changes to the program's functional capacity, reassessments, as well as social and community participation, are going to be the biggest direct harm to disabled people.

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PRIMARY CARE

Patients' needs first

Cairns Post, General News, 17/06/2026, Page 12

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia's new report, *Rewriting the Script*, promotes expanded pharmacist prescribing as a way to save money and ease pressure on GPs and hospitals. What should also be included in their report is that the guild has been the fourth largest donor to the ALP since 2014 (Donation Watch, 2026), contributing more than \$2m towards political influence on health policy.

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Elective surgery resumes

Northern Territory News, General News, 17/06/2026, Gary Shipway, Page 7

The Code Yellow at Royal Darwin Hospital and Palmerston Regional Hospital has been lifted. NT Health said due to a number of measures being implemented, including redeploying staff and rescheduling some elective surgeries, demand pressures have eased and patient flow at the hospitals has improved.

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It's common to hear there's 'no money' in healthcare. But sometimes it's management that's lacking

The Guardian, Other, 16/06/2026, Ranjana Srivastava

One cancer patient is advised to increase fluids, another sent an electronic script, and a third consoled. All have been saved from an emergency presentation by the timely intervention of a nurse – in just the first hour of the day.

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'Community pharmacy is changing quickly'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 16/06/2026, Nicholas O'Donoghue

"Full scope is not just a policy discussion" a leading pharmacist tells conference. Community pharmacy is rapidly evolving, and pharmacists will need capability, confidence and support to work to the top of their scope of practice, delegates at the TerryWhite Chemmart (TWC) Masterclass are being told.

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PDL backs 'continued, carefully governed' scope expansion

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 16/06/2026, Nicholas O'Donoghue

Profession's indemnity insurance provider responds to concerns over pharmacist prescribing. Organisations commenting on the expansion of pharmacists' scope of practice need to understand contemporary pharmacy practice and the frameworks that underpin it, Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL) says.

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Medicare Mental Health Check In: Free digital mental health support

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 16/06/2026, Anmj Staff

Australians can now access free, confidential, high-quality mental health support online, with no referral or diagnosis needed, to help deal with life's ups and downs. The federal government, in partnership with St Vincent's Health Australia, has launched Medicare Mental Health Check In, a free national service providing practical support for people aged 16 and over experiencing mild mental health challenges like stress, anxiety and low mood.

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New cardiac rehab model could save South Australia up to \$10M a year

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 16/06/2026

Flinders University research has helped shape South Australia's new statewide model of care for cardiac rehabilitation, demonstrating that a flexible, person-centred approach significantly improves completion rates among rural and remote heart patients while reducing costs. Cardiac rehabilitation (CR) is strongly recommended after heart events and procedures, yet remains underused, with only 20–50% of eligible patients participating — despite well-established recovery benefits.

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2CC, Breakfast, 16/06/2026, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Royal Australian College of General Practitioners President Dr Michael Wright, about the dangers of synthetic peptides use. Wright discusses the dangers of using synthetic peptides, which are chemicals seen in weight-loss drugs like Ozempic. He states that the challenge for them are importing these peptides, with the Therapeutic Goods Administration already putting warnings about the dangers.

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4BC, Drive, 16/06/2026, Gary Hardgrave

Interview with Australian Medical Association Queensland President Associate Professor Erica Gannon. Hardgrave says mental health is a massive issue, but the state's public hospital system is struggling with chronic underinvestment, making it difficult to meet the rising demand for care at all levels. Gannon also says Queensland needs to spend \$600m on acute inpatient psychiatry beds, public hospital staff, and on community mental health, and the next budget will be the opportunity for the Queensland Government to show them how it will return the money to Queenslanders in the form of better mental health care.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Australia's 'deadliest year on record' exposes a worsening hidden crisis

SBS, Other, 16/06/2026, Yasmine Alwakal

Jake Edgar was just 12 years old when he started using illicit drugs. Living in what he described as an "unstable household" and moving from state to state with his parents who also used drugs, it wasn't until he was 15 when visiting a friend he realised his upbringing was not normal.

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Reassuring findings on NSAID use and IBD-related hospital admissions

Medicine Today, Other, 16/06/2026, Melanie Hinze

Prescription NSAID use is not associated with an increase in inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)-related hospitalisation in patients with ulcerative colitis, although similar conclusions could not be definitively reached for those with Crohn's disease, according to new US research. The retrospective cohort study, published in Arthritis Care & Research, used data from a national database of administrative health claims from 2000 to 2022 to evaluate the association between NSAID exposure and time to IBD-related hospitalisation across IBD subtypes (a proxy for severe IBD flares).

Importance of paying attention to bone health in midlife highlighted

Medicine Today, Other, 16/06/2026, Melanie Hinze

Women's fracture risk begins to rise from age 35 years and accelerates from the mid-40s, overtaking that of men by about 45 years of age, whereas men's fracture rates peak in early midlife before gradually declining, according to new research. The study, published in the Journal of Bone and Mineral Research, drew on UK Biobank data, combining data on self-reported fractures from the 2006 to 2010 baseline assessment with linked Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data from 2001 to 2022, in adults aged 35 to 65 years.

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Could shift work make menopause symptoms worse? New study seeks answers

HelloCare, Other, 16/06/2026, Jakob Neeland

For many women working in aged care, the symptoms of menopause can arrive during some of the most demanding years of their careers, often while they are juggling physically and emotionally challenging shift work. With aged care being a predominantly female workforce that relies on 24-hour staffing, researchers say there is a growing need to understand how menopause interacts with night shifts, rotating rosters and irregular work schedules.

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Study explores menopause challenges for shift workers

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 16/06/2026

Researchers from Adelaide University are investigating how menopause affects women working in shift-based roles, in a study that aims to address a significant gap in workplace health research. The project will examine whether women working night shifts, rotating rosters and other irregular schedules experience additional health and well-being challenges during perimenopause, menopause and post-menopause.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 16/06/2026, Saskia Mabin

Interview with RSL Life Care Family and Veteran Hub Manager Richard Norris, on Men's Health Week. Norris says Men's Health Week highlights the need for men to talk about their health problems, and he notes that prevention is this week's key message. He also urges men to get their regular GP checkups, blood pressure tests, and cancer screenings.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 16/06/2026, Sally Sara

A devastating public health analysis has confirmed that Australia continues to navigate its deadliest era on record for drug-induced fatalities. According to data compiled by the Penington Institute within its comprehensive annual overdose profile, the nation recorded more than 2,200 drug deaths in a single year, marking a decade-long stretch where annual overdose fatalities have continuously exceeded the 2,000 threshold.

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FIVEAA, Afternoons, 16/06/2026, Stacy Lee

Interview with The Australia Institute Deputy Director Ebony Bennett, on new research revealing that most Australians support abortion access. Bennett says abortion is legal in all states and territories, and even though it became controversial for certain sections of Australian society, there has been consistent support in the Australian public for access to abortion because it is healthcare. She also notes that women need access to abortion due to different reasons, such as developing severe health complications.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Mum's shock from 'sinister' symptoms

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 17/06/2026, Evangeline Polymeneas, Page 19

After being told she was experiencing normal post-pregnancy symptoms, mother of three Tegan Nedelkos wasn't convinced. More than a year after giving birth, she developed pronounced bloating and fatigue and noticed blood in her stool.

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

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Smoke screen for cancer

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 17/06/2026, Page 10

Lung cancer screening programs that include strong, consistent and long-term quit-smoking support could play a crucial role in preventing smoking-related deaths. A Flinders University review reveals that although many screening programs are beginning to offer smoking cessation assistance, most are not yet designed to deliver the full benefit.

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

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Failure on diabetes

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 17/06/2026, Page 6

Long-term use of testosterone treatments may make older men stronger but is unlikely to help them in the battle against type 2 diabetes. Adelaide University researchers found the treatment did help reduce body fat and improve muscle mass and strength, blood glucose, and sexual desire.

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Micro-X joins with University of Sydney for lung CT scanner research project

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 16/06/2026

Micro-X has executed a research deal with the University of Sydney to explore applications of its Nano Electronic X-ray (NEX) Technology in future miniaturised lung CT systems. The university is leading the \$1.9 million partnership under the Australian Government's Critical Technologies Challenge Program (CTCP).

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

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Young mother shares devastating cancer diagnosis to help save others

Adelaide Now, Other, 16/06/2026, Chloe Grimshaw

A young Queensland mother-of-two has bravely shared her shock cancer diagnosis in the hopes more women complete regular screening tests and advocate for further investigation into unusual symptoms. Massage therapist Meagan Richards was 32 years old when she received a shock cervical cancer diagnosis after attending a gynaecology appointment intended to investigate suspected adenomyosis, a condition similar to endometriosis.

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Australian men to get easier access to prostate cancer blood tests under new guidelines

7News.com.au, Other, 16/06/2026, Jennifer Bechwati

Australian men of all ages will soon be able to receive blood tests for prostate cancer as part of major changes to how the disease is diagnosed. Craig Watts, 61, was diagnosed with prostate cancer just four days after his mother's funeral.

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Thousands face uncertainty as breast cancer treatment pulled

The New Daily, Other, 16/06/2026, Eve Swain

Australian women with breast cancer are set to lose access to the hormone therapy Zoladex 3.6mg from November after AstraZeneca confirmed it will withdraw the drug from both the PBS and private market, citing commercial reasons. About 7000 patients use the treatment each year, with more than 94,000 prescriptions filled in the past 18 months.

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Cancer Council Victoria urges men to undergo vital health checks

Shepparton News Online, Other, 16/06/2026

This Men's Health Week, Cancer Council Victoria is urging men to take steps to reduce their risk of cancer and undergo important health checks. Men are 20 per cent more likely to be diagnosed with cancer than women, a risk that only increases with age, leading to one in three men being diagnosed with cancer by age 75 compared to one in four women.

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Cancer risk may be increased after unexplained first seizure, finds study

Medicine Today, Other, 16/06/2026, Rebecca Jenkins

First-time seizures are linked to an elevated short-term risk of cancer, a large population-cohort study finds. Seizures were a known cancer complication, researchers wrote in JAMA Neurology, but it was unclear if they could also be the first sign of undiagnosed cancer.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 16/06/2026, Tim McMillan and Angela Tsun

City of Stirling Mayor Mark Irwin has opened up about his private battle with a heart attack, which almost cost him his life a year ago. Around 11 West Australians die from heart attack every day, and Irwin is now urging others not to ignore regular health checks.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 16/06/2026, Peter Mitchell

Australian men of all ages will be able to receive blood tests for prostate cancer, and it's part of major changes to how the disease is diagnosed. Labor heavyweight and former Federal Treasurer Wayne Swan is speaking out against his party, calling for more funding to prevent needless deaths.

Also reported by: [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#).

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Channel 9, Nine News, 16/06/2026, Peter Overton

QIMR Berghofer scientists are working to unravel the mysteries of melanoma after finding hundreds of genes that might make people more susceptible to cancer. It is hoped the DNA breakthrough will highlight new ways of treating the disease and preventing its development.

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

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4BC, Drive, 16/06/2026, Carla Bignasca

Interview with Stroke Foundation's Bloke Beside You Campaign Ambassador and former Commonwealth powerlifter Nathan Baxter. Baxter shares the moment he suffered from a stroke and how it affected him. He also states that advocating for one's own health is important, and people should learn how to rest and not push themselves too hard.

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4BC, Afternoons, 16/06/2026, Carla Bignasca

Interview with QIMR Berghofer Head of Genetics and Skin Cancer Laboratory Associate Professor Matthew Law. Bignasca says Australia has the highest melanoma rates in the world, but QIMR Berghofer researchers have uncovered more than 250 genes linked to the growth of both moles and melanoma, and it could change the way they prevent and treat melanoma. Law discusses his research, stating that melanoma risk is not solely dictated by sun exposure, and that they identified that genes related to failed immune system responses are tied to the cell proliferation seen in melanomas.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

No work a huge risk

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 17/06/2026, Page 10

More than 3000 Australians die by suicide each year, yet one of the strongest known drivers of suicide risk unemployment remains largely overlooked in Australia's suicide prevention programs. Adelaide University researchers say Australia cannot significantly reduce suicide rates without addressing the social and economic conditions that place people at risk, including unemployment, financial hardship, insecure work, income instability and workplace distress.

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'Queensland has the money that we need': Doctors' \$600m request for budget

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 16/06/2026, Courtney Kruk

Doctors are calling for urgent investment in mental health services in this year's Queensland budget, saying emergency departments have turned into "default mental health crisis centres" after a sharp rise in presentations in recent years. Associate Professor Erica Gannon, an emergency doctor and president of the Australian Medical Association Queensland, is leading the call for an extra \$600 million in funding, after an audit of the state's mental health levy found it was raising millions more than initially projected.

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IMMUNISATION

Pharmacies out of nasal vax

Courier Mail, General News, 17/06/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 7

Needle-free flu vaccines that have been hailed by the government as the solution to improving abysmal immunisation rates in children are unavailable across the state due to a stock distribution problem. Heavy demand for the nasal spray alternative in pharmacies and doctors clinics has left some providers without stock while others have a surplus.

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Suboptimal mpox vaccination coverage in Australia, study suggests

Medicine Today, Other, 16/06/2026

As few as 10% of Australian men who have sex with men (MSM) may be vaccinated against mpox, an analysis suggests, revealing an immunity gap that could lead to future outbreaks. Limited Australian data on mpox disease epidemiology and vaccine uptake have been published since the global outbreak began in 2022, researchers led by the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS), Sydney, wrote in eClinicalMedicine

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MenACWY update

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 16/06/2026

The Department of Health has advised that the meningococcal disease chapter in the Australian Immunisation Handbook has been updated to reflect the availability of MenQuadfi MenACWY vaccine in the six weeks to less than 12 months age group. Information on the safety and effectiveness of MenQuadfi vaccine was also updated.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Private health bosses call for gold cover overhaul

Australian Financial Review, General News, 17/06/2026, Michael Smith, Page 9

Insurers and hospital operators warn that as many as 200,000 Australians will downgrade their top-tier health cover due to cost-of-living pressures and the Albanese government's decision to axe a tax rebate for elderly Australians.

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

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Early alert as sweet as sugar

West Australian, General News, 17/06/2026, Claire Sadler, Page 18

Sugar molecules in the body can reveal disease long before it is able to be detected, a new West Australian study has revealed. The Edith Cowan University research studied glycans - sugar molecules that coat the surface of every cell and attach to proteins and fats.

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The ADAPT peanut oral immunotherapy program

Medicine Today, Other, 16/06/2026

Food allergy is a significant health issue in Australia, with about one in 10 infants developing a food allergy by the age of 1 year. Peanut allergy is the most frequently encountered immunoglobulin (Ig)E-mediated food allergy in Australian school-aged children and, unlike many childhood food allergies, such as cow's milk and egg allergies, is less likely to resolve on its own.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Luke Carroll joins push for health checks at Yarrabah

National Indigenous Times, Other, 16/06/2026, Joseph Guenzler

Award-winning Wairadjuri and Ngunnawal actor and presenter Luke Carroll will visit Yarrabah this month to support a youth health campaign focused on regular checks, follow-up care and community connection. Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services has confirmed Mr Carroll will be a special guest at the Yarrabah Youth Health Festival/YPC Campaign from June 29 to 30.

[Read More](#)

Metro South Health launches Indigenous research jury

National Indigenous Times, Other, 16/06/2026, Joseph Guenzler

Metro South Health recently launched Australia's first HHS-wide (Hospital Health Service) Community Jury for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research. The project, launched on 21 May, brings Metro South researchers together with First Nations representatives to support more culturally responsible and responsive research across the region.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

No plans to replace Royal Darwin Hospital, Health Minister confirms in Estimates grilling

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 16/06/2026, Fia Walsh

The Northern Territory government has no plans underway to build a new hospital for Darwin, despite ageing infrastructure forcing staff and patients to deal with leaking roofs, faulty airconditioning, broken lifts, and incidents such as bricks crashing through the ceiling during Cyclone Fina. Health Minister Steve Edgington fronted the Estimates Committee on Monday, where he was also grilled on the NT's maternity service woes and the rate of Code Yellows.

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

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Nurses strike as workload balloons

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 17/06/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 9

Nurses will walk off the job for 24 hours at Flinders Medical Centre from Thursday morning, putting a cloud over services at the southern suburbs flagship hospital – but officials insist no elective surgery will be cancelled. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation cited The Advertiser's exclusive report on soaring emergency department presentations as part of the reason for demanding more efforts to ease workload pressure.

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

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'Insulting' wage offer sparks strike: what it means for hospital patients

Ballarat Courier, Other, 16/06/2026, Michelle Smith

Allied health workers from Grampians Health have joined colleagues from public health services across the state to strike for 24 hours as negotiations for better pay and conditions break down.

Radiographers, physiotherapists, podiatrists, hospital pharmacists, psychologists, occupational therapists, medical scientists, social workers, dietitians and sonographers stopped work from midnight on Monday night.

[Read More](#)

Victorian allied health workers to walk off the job as pay negotiations with the government break down

ABC Online, Other, 16/06/2026

Disruptions are expected at Victorian public hospitals today as thousands of allied health workers walk

off the job over a pay dispute. Radiographers, sonographers, physiotherapists, podiatrists, speech pathologists and social workers are participating in a 24-hour strike from midnight on Tuesday.

[Read More](#)

NSW Labor's record \$10b health budget 'reflects the govt priorities'

Nursing Review, Other, 16/06/2026, Stefanie Schultz

The NSW government has announced what it says is the largest increase to the health budget in the state's history, unveiling a \$10.3 billion package over four years to recruit thousands of health workers, expand services and fully staff new hospitals coming online across the state. The government said the investment marks a decisive shift after a decade of wage caps and workforce shortages that have strained the public health system.

[Read More](#)

Landmark nurses and midwives Work Value Case heard by FWC

Nursing Review, Other, 16/06/2026

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation's (ANMF) landmark Work Value Case with the Fair Work Commission (FWC) enters its final day in Melbourne today. The ANMF is seeking significant wage increases for nurses, midwives and assistants in nursing across the health system.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 16/06/2026, Alicia Loxley and Tom Steinfort

Victorian hospitals have been forced to cancel elective surgery today as thousands of allied health staff went on strike. It is the longest stop work action ever taken by the workforce as it escalates its pay dispute with the Victorian Government.

Similar coverage reported by: [SBS \(Sydney\)](#), [SBS \(Sydney\)](#).

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

No relevant coverage

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

True scale of Congo Ebola outbreak still unknown one month in, responders say

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 16/06/2026, Clement Bonnerot and Emma Farge

One month after Ebola cases were confirmed in eastern Congo, its true scale remains unknown, with

major data gaps muddying the picture and persistent, sometimes violent, community resistance hampering the response, health workers and officials say. The three affected provinces in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo have so far recorded 782 confirmed cases and 181 deaths, meaning this is already the third deadliest Ebola outbreak on record.

[Read More](#)

SBS, World News Australia, 16/06/2026, Janice Petersen

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has reported its highest daily increase of confirmed Ebola cases since the latest outbreak began a month ago, with the total number now surpassing 800. There have been at least 192 deaths, with more than 90% of the cases in the Ituri Province.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Weight loss has bedroom twist

Herald Sun, General News, 17/06/2026, Ashleigh Gleeson, Page 15

Aussies taking weight loss jabs are experiencing vastly different impacts on their sex drives. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration, meanwhile has had four notifications of men suffering erectile dysfunction while on GLP-1 Wegovy, the same drug as Ozempic that is prescribed at a different dose.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#)

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Mum's death linked to meds

Hobart Mercury, General News, 17/06/2026, Duncan Abey, Page 11

A young Northern Tasmanian mother who suffered a fatal medical episode while driving could have died from a cardiac condition triggered by medication used to manage Ozempic side-effects, a coroner has ruled. The 33-year-old mother of two, referred to as HK for privacy reasons, was running preholiday errands in Perth on the morning of December 27, 2024, when her Honda CRV was observed crossing on to the wrong side of the road.

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

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Girl, 15, 'declared brain dead' after dangerous social media challenge

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 16/06/2026, Rebekah Scanlan

A heartbroken father has warned parents of a dangerous social media "challenge" popular among teens – after his 15-year-old daughter has been left "brain dead" as a result of taking part. [...] Medicines containing diphenhydramine are regulated by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for use as both allergy symptom relief and short-term insomnia relief in Australia.

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

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EZZ-backed research highlights compound's role in healthy ageing

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 16/06/2026

Co-funded by EZZ Life Science, University of Auckland research proposes that three compounds associated with healthy ageing may act more effectively in combination. [...] Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) followed suit in December 2025, adding NMN to its list of permissible ingredients for listed complementary medicines.

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

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Does paraquat cause Parkinson's? Here's what the evidence says

about this common weed killer

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 16/06/2026, Ian Musgrave

Paraquat is one of the world's most widely used herbicides. It's also highly toxic and some research points to a link with Parkinson's disease. Its use is highly restricted in some countries, and banned in others.

[Read More](#)

Safety of unregistered medicinal cannabis products examined

Medicine Today, Other, 16/06/2026, Melanie Hinze

Higher-concentration tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) medicinal cannabis products accounted for more than half of all voluntary adverse event reports submitted to the TGA in the three years up to mid-2025, with psychiatric disorders the most commonly reported event, according to new research. The retrospective analysis, published in the Australian & New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry, examined voluntary adverse event reports for unregistered medicinal cannabis products submitted to the TGA between 6 July 2022 and 31 May 2025.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Evenings, 16/06/2026, Emma Crowe

Interview with University of Wollongong Associate Professor Theresa Larkin, on the Therapeutic Goods Administration's crackdown on unregulated injectable peptides. Larkin says some peptides are regulated, and they are being used for medical purposes, but the trend of unregulated peptides is causing the market to boom, and people are not exactly sure about their content. She states that the injectables are stimulating growth, but they do not want unregulated growth because it might disrupt hormone function and develop tumours or cancer.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Explained: New drug-driving laws to allow medicinal cannabis patients on Australian roads

The Courier Mail, Other, 16/06/2026

The debate around medicinal cannabis and driving rules is gaining significant momentum across Australia. With Queensland launching a major review and New South Wales moving forward with a historic overhaul, governments are struggling to balance patient rights with road safety.

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

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Concerns raised over NSW cannabis-driving reforms

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 16/06/2026, Nicholas O'Donoghue

Changes to how drivers are penalised if they have medicinal cannabis in their bloodstream are inconsistent with other impairment laws, surgeons warn. Proposed reforms to halt automatic bans for drivers with medicinal cannabis in their systems risk increasing road trauma cases, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) says.

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FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

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Household staples, toys contain toxic forever chemicals, but are they safe?

The Senior, Other, 16/06/2026, Anna Houlahan

A group of man-made chemicals are slowly building up in our soil, water and bodies over decades - but one expert breaks down whether they are hazardous to our health or not. These "forever chemicals", grouped under the umbrella-term PFAS, are highly valued by manufacturers as they repel water, stains and grease and don't break down.

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