



TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 19th June 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
| [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Disability and Carers](#) | [Primary Care](#)
| [Population Health](#) | [Chronic Conditions and Screening](#) |
[Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Immunisation](#) | [Health Systems Strategies](#)
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sydney Morning Herald \(page 9\)](#)** reports that an elderly dementia resident at HammondCare's Southwood Cottage care facility in Sydney has allegedly been beaten by another resident.
- **[The Daily Telegraph \(page 14\)](#)** reports that following the death of a pregnant woman who presented at a major Sydney hospital with mental health concerns, NSW Mental Health Minister Rose Jackson said "I have ensured a review into the care provided is already under way and will include an independent psychiatrist to ensure the circumstances are thoroughly examined."
- **[The Daily Telegraph \(page 26\)](#)** reports that funding decisions made by the government's Integrated Assessment Tool will now be able to overridden by humans.
- **[The Canberra Times \(page 1\)](#)** reports that the ACT Integrity Commissioner has ordered an investigation into claims executives at the North Canberra Hospital and The Canberra Hospital had "created a substantial and specific danger to public health and safety" by forcing senior doctors to resign.
- **[The Guardian \(Online\)](#)** reports that One Nation Senator Malcolm Roberts has called for the party to entirely ban abortion.

Labor cannot allow childcare to become the next NDIS

Australian Financial Review, General News, 19/06/2026, Phillip Coorey, Page 1

There are worrying signs Labor is presiding over another NDIS in the making childcare.

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

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Attempting to fix the scheme was always going to end in tears

Australian Financial Review, General News, 19/06/2026, Pru Goward, Page 29

The outcry shows the huge electoral risk in trying to curb spiralling recurrent expenditure.

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

Kilkivan identity honoured

South Burnett Today, General News, 18/06/2026, Liam Hauser, Page 10

Kilkivan District Community Care Association Incorporated president and co-founder Rosie Fitzgerald was awarded the illustrious Everalld Compton Community Champion Medal last week. [...] The Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, delivered the keynote address before the Federal Member for Blair, Shayne Neumann, delivered the closing remarks.

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Sick kids stranded as fuel costs ground the vital charity flights

The Land, General News, 18/06/2026, Page 3

A charity connecting sick children across the state to vital healthcare services in Sydney has reduced flights in a fight against skyrocketing aviation fuel costs. [...] A spokesperson for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said representatives had since met with Little Wings to discuss impacts arising from the current fuel situation, including increased fuel cost pressures.

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

Medicare rebate freeze is the real reason for high patient costs, doctor argues

The Australian, Other, 18/06/2026, Michael Gannon

Mark Butler says soaring medical costs are a 'barbecue stopper' – and there's no defence for extreme fees. But there's one easy way to salve consumers' woes.

[Read More](#)

Aged care tool under fire as man with late-stage MND loses appeal for higher funding

ABC Online, Other, 18/06/2026, Sacha Payne

Melbourne man Graham Crossan, 80, relies on his wife Gaynor to help him eat, move and even breathe. [...] Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler has announced a three-month rapid review of the Support at Home "prioritisation mechanism" but has defended the algorithm as improving the consistency and fairness of how in-home aged care is allocated.

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Update on assignment of benefit changes

Medical Forum, Other, 18/06/2026, Aleisha Orr

There has been a last-minute reprieve to the changes due to come into effect as of July around assignment of benefit (aob) processes. The RACGP confirmed Health Minister Mark Butler had stepped in to put in place measures to alleviate some of the concerns raised about the potential effects on access to care and administration burden.

[Read More](#)

Physicians urged to lobby minister on COPD biologics

The Limbic, Other, 18/06/2026, Emma Koehn

Biologic therapies will change the game for countless Australia patients with COPD, but respiratory physicians must now take on an active advocacy role to make sure they meet their potential, the Australian COPD Symposium has been told. [...] But a PBAC recommendation does not guarantee a PBS listing, and Dr Ramakrishnan urged clinicians to make the case directly to Minister for Health Mark Butler.

[Read More](#)

Dear Minister, do you mean it?

The Weekly Source, Other, 18/06/2026, James Wiltshire

You tell us regularly we need to be opening one new aged care facility every three days for the next 20 years. [...] "We can't magic up the number of aged care facilities that we need next week." (Mark Butler, 11 June 2026)

[Read More](#)

States reject Butler's aged care bed shortage claim

The Weekly Source, Other, 18/06/2026, Caroline Egan

Planning reform under spotlight for aged care Close observers of Federal Health, Disability and Ageing Minister Mark Butler's media appearances may have noticed a recurring theme emerging in recent weeks. Under pressure to explain the shortage of aged care beds preventing 3,300 older people being discharged from hospital, the Minister has repeatedly said state planning rules and local council governments are slowing down construction of new beds.

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Two months later, where is the consultation on reviving aged care?

The Weekly Source, Other, 18/06/2026, Caroline Egan

Consultations promised after the Health, Disability and Ageing Minister's \$3 billion bed boost promised at the National Press Club have not yet eventuated. [...] Yet nearly two months later, the sector has heard nothing on the topic, although the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has confirmed with The Weekly SOURCE Minister Rae will be leading consultations.

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SBS, World News Australia, 18/06/2026, Janice Petersen

Older Australians and aged care experts are raising concerns about a controversial assessment algorithm that determines support needs in the aged care system, warning that no human can override its decisions. Health Minister Mark Butler has ordered a rapid review of the tool, while Aged Care Minister Sam Rae says the government will continue refining the system and listening to older Australians to improve outcomes.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 18/06/2026, Samantha Donovan

The federal government delays a controversial bulk billing reform for 12 months after concerns from health groups about impacts on vulnerable patients and increased GP administrative burden. The change would have required written consent for Medicare rebates, but from 1 July verbal consent will remain sufficient, allowing patients to simply agree to bulk billing during consultations. Health Minister Mark Butler says the adjustment maintains compliance without adding unnecessary barriers for patients and clinics.

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ABC Radio Sydney, The World Today, 18/06/2026, Andy Park

The use of algorithmic decision-making in aged care support is under scrutiny after 80yo MND patient Graham Crossan was repeatedly denied higher-level home care funding under My Aged Care despite severe needs. Shadow Minister for Aged Care Anne Ruston criticises the system as 'robo-aged care,' while Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler announces a three-month rapid review of the

assessment algorithm. The Department of Health says it has received over 1100 review requests since the tool's introduction, with many decisions upheld and only some amended.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

No relevant coverage

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MINISTER RAE

Human fix for AI flaw

Daily Telegraph, General News, 19/06/2026, Julie Cross, Page 26

Humans will be able to reject funding decisions made by the government's controversial aged care algorithm dubbed Robodebt 2.0 in an embarrassing concession that the current system is not working. Aged Care Minister Sam Rae has been under intense pressure to allow humans to override the Integrated Assessment Tool's algorithm when it spits out rogue results.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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MND is now a priority

Fleurieu Sun, General News, 18/06/2026, Dee Elferink, Page 23

A question in Federal Parliament by Member for Mayo Rebekha Sharkie has resulted in sufferers of Motor Neurone Disease (MND) being prioritised in Aged Care - but she said it should not have taken her determined advocacy to get action. [...] Ms Sharkie had contacted Aged Care Minister Sam Rae about her constituent several weeks prior to asking the question in Parliament.

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Aged care tool under fire as man with late-stage MND loses appeal for higher funding

ABC Online, Other, 18/06/2026, Sacha Payne

Melbourne man Graham Crossan, 80, relies on his wife Gaynor to help him eat, move and even breathe. [...] Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler has announced a three-month rapid review of the Support at Home "prioritisation mechanism" but has defended the algorithm as improving the consistency and fairness of how in-home aged care is allocated.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 18/06/2026, Kylie Baxter

Interview with Chris Grice, CEO of National Seniors Australia, about cost-of-living pressures affecting older Australians. Grice says seniors on fixed incomes struggle with rising rents, unstable tenancy renewals, and rental assistance that fails to keep pace with real housing costs, forcing difficult choices

between essentials. He also criticises an 'age-to-care' assessment algorithm that can restrict support for people over 65, referencing concerns raised in Parliament by Aged Care Minister Sam Rae.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, 12:00 News, 18/06/2026

The Department of Aged Care has upheld the decision when he tried to reapply. Independent MP Monique Ryan described it as a robo aged. Meanwhile, Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae says a rapid review has been launched.

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ABC Radio Sydney, 23:00 News, 18/06/2026

Aged Care Minister Sam Rae says the government has launched a rapid review of the way the algorithm prioritises funding and will continue to listen to older Australians. The parents of two children killed after they were struck by a car in Sydney's southwest have expressed their grief and shock.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 18/06/2026, Loretta Ryan and Craig Zonca

Interview with Federal Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride. Compere mentions that McBride is currently looking to speak at the headspace Conference. McBride points out that the original statistic of one in five young people that are accessing headspace back in 2007 has now doubled. She states two in five young Australians today are experiencing mental health challenges, which is why headspace is expanding and strengthening its network and making such a move a top priority.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

No relevant coverage

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

Men urged to put their health first during Men's Health Week

The Lismore App, Other, 19/06/2026

Men across the Northern Rivers are being encouraged to make their health a priority this week, with health advocates warning that too many men continue to delay seeking help until problems become serious. [...] Federal Government Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi said changing that mindset could have a significant impact on men's health outcomes.

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DEPARTMENT

Cancer Treatment Boost For Northern Rivers As New Radiation Technology Arrives At Lismore Base Hospital

Northern Rivers Times, General News, 18/06/2026, Robert Heyward, Page 1

Cancer patients across the Northern Rivers are set to benefit from faster treatment times, improved technology and enhanced patient care following the completion of a major upgrade at the North Coast Cancer Institute at Lismore Base Hospital. [...] The Australian Government provided \$8.2 million in funding through the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to support the project.

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Sick kids stranded as fuel costs ground the vital charity flights

The Land, General News, 18/06/2026, Page 3

A charity connecting sick children across the state to vital healthcare services in Sydney has reduced flights in a fight against skyrocketing aviation fuel costs. [...] A spokesperson for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said representatives had since met with Little Wings to discuss impacts arising from the current fuel situation, including increased fuel cost pressures.

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Healthcare students tour region

Young Witness, General News, 18/06/2026, Brendan McCool, Page 1

Students explore healthcare services and facilities available in the regions Twenty university healthcare students have gone regional and visited Young and other towns in the region as part of the Rural Doctors Network's Go Rural program. [...] The Go Rural Program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and administered by Rural Doctors Network.

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Aged care tool under fire as man with late-stage MND loses appeal for higher funding

ABC Online, Other, 18/06/2026, Sacha Payne

Melbourne man Graham Crossan, 80, relies on his wife Gaynor to help him eat, move and even breathe. [...] Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler has announced a three-month rapid review of the Support at Home "prioritisation mechanism" but has defended the algorithm as improving the consistency and fairness of how in-home aged care is allocated.

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MFA Awards 2026 finalists

AdNews, Other, 18/06/2026

Best Use of Small Budget: [...] RSV Maternal Vaccination, Australian Government – Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Also reported by: [B & T Online \(Online\)](#), [Mediaweek \(Online\)](#)

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Assignment of benefit changes delayed at last minute

Health Services Daily, Other, 18/06/2026, Holly Payne

Verbal consent to bulk billing will be acceptable for the next 12 months, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has told the RACGP.

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More doctors, fewer specialists: Australia's medical training pipeline in disrepair

Oncology Republic, Other, 18/06/2026, Alyssa Talakovski

A new federal report finds Australia is producing more medical graduates than ever, but failing to train enough specialists to meet community need. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's recently released whole of medical workforce compendium report found all six states and both territories would experience an imbalance in the structure and composition of their medical workforce.

Latest technology in radiation therapy boosts cancer services at Lismore Base Hospital

The Lismore App, Other, 19/06/2026

Cancer patients across the Northern Rivers will have greater access to cutting-edge treatment closer to home following the completion of a major technology upgrade at the North Coast Cancer Institute at Lismore Base Hospital. [...] Funded through an \$8.2 million grant from the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, the project also included refurbishment of the radiation therapy bunkers to improve the patient experience, along with upgrades to the planning room used by staff to schedule and design treatment programs.

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Fixing the numbers won't fix the pipeline, GPRA warns

The Medical Republic, Other, 18/06/2026, Alyssa Talakovski

General Practice Registrars Australia says more training places won't be enough if we don't start addressing why doctors leave underserved communities. [...] The response followed the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's recently released whole of medical workforce compendium report, which found all jurisdictions would face a medical workforce imbalance – namely, an oversupply of hospital prevocational doctors and a shortfall of specialists A shortage of more than 12,800 full-time equivalent (FTE) GP and non-specialist doctors was expected by 2048.

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Breaking: Assignment of benefit changes delayed

The Medical Republic, Other, 18/06/2026, Holly Payne

Verbal assignment of benefit will be acceptable for the next 12 months, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has told the RACGP. The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has delayed some of the more concerning incoming changes to Medicare assignment of benefit rules, according to the RACGP.

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The Weekly Source, Other, 18/06/2026, Caroline Egan

Consultations promised after the Health, Disability and Ageing Minister's \$3 billion bed boost promised at the National Press Club have not yet eventuated. [...] Yet nearly two months later, the sector has heard nothing on the topic, although the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has confirmed with The Weekly SOURCE Minister Rae will be leading consultations.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Man, 87, bashed by fellow resident in aged care home

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 19/06/2026, Jack Gramenz, Page 9

An elderly resident at a specialist dementia care facility catering for people with severe behavioural and psychological symptoms has allegedly been bashed by another resident in Sydney's south-west. The two residents were in a secure garden courtyard at HammondCare's Southwood Cottage when the incident occurred at about 9pm on Wednesday.

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

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Dementia patient attacked

Daily Telegraph, General News, 19/06/2026, Page 26

Disturbing images have revealed the shocking injuries suffered by an elderly dementia patient after he

was allegedly assaulted by another resident inside a Sydney aged care facility. John, 87, was left bloodied with significant facial and arm injuries after the incident at HammondCare's Linden Cottage in Hammondville about 9pm on Wednesday.

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

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Family demands answers after elderly dementia patient brutally bashed by another resident in Sydney's south west

7News.com.au, Other, 18/06/2026, Clementine Cuneo

A family is demanding answers after an elderly dementia patient was brutally attacked at an aged care home in Sydney's south-west. Much-loved husband and grandfather John, 87, was bashed by another resident on Wednesday night, causing serious head injuries with the extent too distressing to show.

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

[Read More](#)

Horror images emerge of brutal attack on dementia patient, 87, at care centre in Sydney's west

NEWS.com.au, Other, 18/06/2026, Emma Kirk

An elderly dementia patient has allegedly been assaulted by another resident at a care facility in Sydney's southwest. Disturbing images of the 87-year-old man reveal the extent of the horrific injuries to his face, which is bloodied and bruised and depicts blood pouring from an ear.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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The Stats Guy: We rely on migrant workers more than you might think

The New Daily, Other, 18/06/2026

As a demographer, I remain concerned about the ageing of Australia and the resulting universal skills shortage, especially in aged care. I therefore argue that Australia is well advised to continue its high migration approach.

[Read More](#)

The over-50s are most likely to overdose. Here's how older people use drugs

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 18/06/2026

For the first time in a decade, this year's report showed people aged 50–59 years made up the highest proportion of unintentional deaths (25.5%). People 40–49 years old are a close second (25.4%).

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 18/06/2026, Peter Overton

An 87yo dementia patient suffers severe injuries after an altercation with another high-care resident at a Hammondville HammondCare aged care facility, prompting alarm from his family. They are calling for a full investigation into how the incident occurred, while the other resident involved undergoes clinical assessment through Dementia Australia.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News, 18/06/2026, Hugh Riminton

An 87yo dementia patient is in Liverpool Hospital after being bashed by another resident at a Hammondville nursing home, prompting police to consider possible charges over what they describe as a terrible incident. Both men require specialist care for severe behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia and cannot be managed in mainstream aged care settings.

[Play Now](#)

2GB, Afternoons, 18/06/2026, Michael McLaren

A report will be prepared for the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission after an 87yo Sydney nursing home resident suffered serious facial injuries in an alleged assault by another resident. HammondCare has launched an internal investigation into the incident at its southwest Sydney facility.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 18/06/2026, Kylie Baxter

Interview with Bridget Wilkinson, CEO of COTA, about Seniors Month and celebrating ageing through community activities. Wilkinson says Seniors Week expands into a full Celebrate Ageing Seniors Month in October, offering events like arts tours, fitness activities, talks, and social gatherings to encourage older Australians to stay active and connected.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Accused scam pair wait on court call

The Australian, Business News, 19/06/2026, Angelica Snowden, Page 15

When it came to finance, Laura Fullarton was not a "babe in the woods". And her husband, David McWilliams, knew he needed to disclose assets but chose not to in "deliberate defiance" of freezing orders, the corporate cop has argued in the Federal Court in Brisbane on the final day of contempt-of-court hearings.

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

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We can lead on inclusion

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 19/06/2026, Chelsea Tobin, Page 44

Geelong has always been a community that understands the importance of looking after each other. As the National Disability Insurance Scheme moves through its next phase of reform, Geelong has an opportunity to show what genuine inclusion looks like in practice.

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PRIMARY CARE

One of Australia's biggest dental networks up for sale

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 19/06/2026, Page 14

National Dental Care, the private equity backed dental roll-up that has grown to more than 100 clinics across the country, is set to hit the auction block for the first time in more than a decade.

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

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Hospice calls for funds to secure palliative care services

Border Watch, General News, 19/06/2026, Page 16

A vital Limestone Coast palliative care service is calling on the state government for urgent funding to continue supporting families across the region through end-of-life care. In Home Hospice Care Inc (IHC) remains the only volunteer-based palliative support service operating in the Limestone Coast and is calling for \$150,000 per year to ensure the services could continue to meet growing demand.

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Radical healthcare system shakeup may see paramedics prescribe medications for pain and diabetes

7News.com.au, Other, 18/06/2026, Jennifer Bechwati

In an unusual alliance, a doctor and a pharmacy boss have united to call for stronger safeguards before prescribing powers are expanded to other healthcare professionals. "This is not a turf war. We're putting patient safety on the table here," RACGP Vice President Dr Ramya Raman warned, raising concerns that fragmented care could lead to misdiagnosis and complications.

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'Safe prescribing requires safe systems': RACGP

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 18/06/2026

Health ministers and regulators are being advised to put patient safety first, as the Pharmacy Board of Australia considers measures to expand pharmacists' prescribing powers.

[Read More](#)

'Safe prescribing coalition' lobbies ministers

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 18/06/2026

A cross-sector coalition of leading healthcare organisations have raised concerns about patient safety arising from expanding prescribing roles without appropriate safeguards in a joint open letter sent to Federal and State health ministers and the Pharmacy Board of Australia today.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Dementia biggest killer

Daily Telegraph, General News, 19/06/2026, Page 14

Alzheimer's disease has overtaken coronary heart disease as the leading cause of death in Australia. Dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, accounted for 17,549 deaths in 2024, according to the latest Australian Institute of Health and Welfare figures, while 16,275 deaths were due to heart disease.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#)

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Men need healthy mindsets

Daily Telegraph, General News, 19/06/2026, Matt Cross, Page 18

Two years ago, I was woken from a colonoscopy. In a soft voice, I was told they found cancer in my bowel.

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Anti-tobacco smokescreen

Herald Sun, General News, 19/06/2026, Regan Hodge, Page 10

Victoria's response to the illicit tobacco trade has been labelled a "sham" while its lack of action to combat black market booze is leaving traders "terrified". Former AFP and Border Force investigator Rohan Pike said the availability of illicit cigarettes more than three years after the start of the tobacco war reflected poorly on the government's response.

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

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Mali's minority retort

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 19/06/2026, Paul Starick and Aden Hill, Page 10

Peter Malinauskas is demanding an end to bids for changes to abortion laws and warning further

attempts would be "an act of futility" despite personally supporting limiting late-term abortions in a historic parliamentary vote. In an exclusive interview with The Advertiser, the Premier said he had "no interest in advocating for these issues to keep coming into parliament", after the Laborcontrolled lower house on Wednesday night voted down a bill restricting abortions after 25 weeks.

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Bleak outlook for rehab patients

Hobart Mercury, General News, 19/06/2026, Page 21

Australians being treated for drug and alcohol issues are almost four times more likely to die than the general population. Between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2023, almost 37,700 people with a history of specialist alcohol and other drug treatment services died, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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No cheers for vets

Northern Territory News, General News, 19/06/2026, Zoe Smith, Page 23

A former soldier who trained under Ben Roberts-Smith in Afghanistan while battling a devastating alcohol addiction, says a plan to cap veterans at \$5000 on allied health services will prove challenging for many trying to break the cycle. [...] Recent data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) reveals alcohol remains Australia's most common drug of concern.

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

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Hurdle in keeping kids safe

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 19/06/2026, Sarah Pye, Page 18

New research has found government spending on child protection services nearly doubled to more than \$10bn across a decade, while child protection activity stayed largely the same. The first-of-its-kind study, by researchers at Deakin University in collaboration with partner universities, tracked a full decade of child protection system activity alongside government expenditure, using publicly reported data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and the Productivity Commission.

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Mildura falls short in health stakes

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 19/06/2026, Allan Murphy, Page 11

Mildura residents are among those with the unhealthiest lifestyle habits in Australia, according to a new study by home care provider Care For Families. The report reveals where Australians struggle the most with preventable health problems with Mildura ranked the 10th highest for unhealthy lifestyle score.

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Federal MPs to host Dubbo forum addressing silent crisis in men's health

The Courier Mail, Other, 18/06/2026, Dane Millerd

With Australian men accounting for 76.5 per cent of all suicide deaths in 2024, two federal MPs have called a regional forum in Dubbo to confront the challenges facing men and boys head-on. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, a boy born in Australia in 2024 can expect to live 81.6 years on average, compared with 85.5 years for females.

[Read More](#)

Sarah Game won't rule out introducing further bill to restrict late term abortion

ABC Online, Other, 18/06/2026, Evelyn Ieckie

Family First upper house MLC Sarah Game has not ruled out introducing another bill restricting late-term abortion access, after her proposed legislation to restrict abortions after 25 weeks failed in the

lower house last night. Ms Game's bill passed the upper house yesterday afternoon 10 votes to 9 with the support of three newly-elected One Nation MPs, but was voted down in the lower house 36 votes to 9, following less than two hours of debate.

[Read More](#)

One Nation senator Malcolm Roberts says he will push for party to adopt blanket abortion ban

The Guardian, Other, 18/06/2026, Tory Shepherd

One Nation should move to ban abortion entirely, Senator Malcolm Roberts has told a Brisbane Christian conference. His comments are at odds with those of the party's leader Pauline Hanson, who told the National Press Club on Wednesday it was only "too late to have an abortion" after 20 weeks.

[Read More](#)

Patients don't come in parts: the growing need for holistic healthcare

The Guardian, Other, 18/06/2026

A patient in their 80s rarely presents with a single health condition. [...] In 2022 an estimated 38% of Australians were living with multimorbidity – two or more of 72 selected long-term health conditions – according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's report Multimorbidity in Australia.

[Read More](#)

Why the obsession with the post-partum 'bounce back' has to stop

NEWS.com.au, Other, 18/06/2026, Eleanor Wicklund

The internet has predictably lost its collective mind after influencer Molly-Mae Hague stepped out looking glamorous 10 days after giving birth to her second child. The 27-year-old turned heads in a sleek, full-length cream dress from her own fashion label, Maebe, to watch her partner, Tommy Fury, defeat retired strongman Eddie Hall in a highly anticipated boxing match.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 18/06/2026, Lara Stimpson

Australians are being urged to use the free bowel cancer screening kits delivered to their homes, as new data highlights the program's life-saving impact. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reports bowel cancer deaths have nearly halved since the national screening program began in 2006.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 18/06/2026, Kylie Baxter

Interview with Dr Emily Ryan, Director of the Tasmanian Burns Unit at the Royal Hobart Hospital, about preventing burn injuries during National Burns Awareness Month. Ryan says the key risk comes from people not knowing immediate first aid, stressing that 20 minutes of cool running water can stop a burn from worsening and reduce scarring. She highlights common causes such as hot liquids in children, flash burns from accelerants, and campfire injuries.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Afternoons, 18/06/2026, Joel Rheinberger

Interview with Maria Packard, Senior Food and Nutrition Advisor at the Heart Foundation, about heart-healthy winter cooking habits. Packard highlights that many young people consume nearly double the recommended salt intake, often through fast food, convenience meals, and high-salt discretionary foods that increase blood pressure and long-term heart disease risk.

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Cancer tool for patients

Hobart Mercury, General News, 19/06/2026, Page 24

Peter Mac researchers have developed a digital tool that can rapidly and accurately identify cancer patients with potentially serious immunotherapy side effects. Immune checkpoint inhibitors are a form of immunotherapy used to treat a range of cancers.

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Game-changer brain surgery for Parkinson's

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 19/06/2026, Daniel Shirkie, Page 18

A Queensland-first is giving Parkinson's disease sufferers a fighting chance, thanks to new technology and techniques. Staff at the Mater Private Hospital have been making use of new advances in deep brain stimulation, with the technique offered for the first time in Queensland at their hospital in Townsville.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 18/06/2026, Saskia Mabin

Interview with Motor Neurone Disease patient Derek Fisher and wife Nicole about living with the diagnosis and its impact on family life. Fisher explains he received a diagnosis after months of testing for symptoms that start with foot drop and says the disease forces him to leave work and gradually lose physical abilities.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Does 'cultural drift' explain why we're less happy?

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 19/06/2026, Sarah Berry, Page 19

As we feel the pinch of increasing financial pressure, Australians are less satisfied with their lives today than they were in the pandemic. This was the finding of research by KPMG, as reported by this masthead last week.

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

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Cops, THHS cleared in findings

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 19/06/2026, Cameron Bates, Page 1

Townsville Health and Hospital Service and Queensland Police have been cleared of blame in the lead-up to the fatal shooting of suicidal army veteran Steven Angus in 2023. The Coroners Court did, however, make two recommendations to help Queensland Health and Queensland Police Service provide an "effective and consistent response to responding to mental-health incidents".

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Cannabis-psychosis link confirmed

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 18/06/2026

Daily use of cannabis among young people has been linked to an increased risk of mental health disorders, with the link between daily cannabis use and psychosis the strongest and most consistent finding. University of Queensland research published in Lancet Psychiatry analysed evidence from 17 previous studies to assess whether.

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IMMUNISATION

Flu fighters in with sniff of victory

West Australian, General News, 19/06/2026, Rhianna Mitchell, Page 3

Families have embraced WA's new needle-free flu vaccine program, with 75 per cent of immunised children opting for the nasal spray so far this winter. It comes as the State records its best start to the flu season in five years, which health experts say is due in part to an increase in vaccination rates among WA children.

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HPV jabs cut risk of dying from cervical cancer before 30 to almost zero

The Guardian, Other, 18/06/2026, Anna Bawden

Women who received an HPV vaccine in early adolescence have virtually zero risk of dying from cervical cancer before the age of 30, according to a groundbreaking study, but falling vaccination rates could see a rise in avoidable deaths. Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women, according to the World Health Organization, and high-risk human papillomaviruses (HPV) cause 99% of cases.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Tax changes a threat to our biotech success story

The Australian, General News, 19/06/2026, Peter Beattie, Page 11

One of Australia's great success stories, our biotech sector, faces devastating consequences, including the flight of capital and companies overseas, if the federal government does not make further changes to capital gains tax and research incentive proposals. We have spent decades trying to build the industries to drive our future economy in areas where we can value-add with research, innovation and technology to create world-leading manufacturing, an approach that has driven investment and growth across our biotech sector.

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Research database to help cure MND

Courier Mail, General News, 19/06/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 19

A world-first mnd database has been set up in Queensland to help researchers across the globe find better treatments and ultimately a cure for the devastating disease. The groundbreaking medical bank, mostly funded by the viral ice bucket challenge, includes samples of blood, tissue and genetic material that researchers will be able to use to validate drugs and develop targeted therapies.

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

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Onion clue to disease

Herald Sun, General News, 19/06/2026, Page 25

People who like the taste and smell of onions are more likely to have a lower risk of blood pressure and type 2 diabetes. University of Queensland researchers have examined taste and smell genes to help determine whether specific foods cause or are linked to disease.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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Curtin University study investigates how well new garlic-based supplements may ease migraines

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 18/06/2026, Belinda-Hickman

Could a supplement of garlic and amino acids provide an answer for migraines? A new Curtin University study is seeking to help answer that question, and has begun recruiting adult Western Australians who frequently suffer the debilitating headaches to take part in an upcoming clinical trial.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Grog ban extension welcomed by community

Northern Territory News, General News, 19/06/2026, Fia Walsh, Page 13

The peak body for Aboriginal community-controlled health services has welcomed the Northern Territory government's decision to extend alcohol bans in town camps and communities. On Thursday, the CLP said it would extend interim alcohol protected areas beyond January 2027, prohibiting the possession, consumption, sale or supply of alcohol in Aboriginal outstations, communities and town camps in the NT.

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

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After years of reform, a preventable disease eradicated in 'white Australia' is still on the rise

ABC Online, Other, 18/06/2026, Tim Little

When Alec Doomadgee left a Cairns coronial inquest investigating the deaths of his sister and a child he helped raise, he was hopeful. "That coroner wanted to leave a legacy of change," he said.

[Read More](#)

'Rivers of grog': territory's booze bans extended

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 18/06/2026

Measures to stop "rivers of grog" flowing into Aboriginal communities and town camps have been extended in a bid to reduce alcohol-related violence in a crime-troubled territory. The Northern Territory government on Thursday released its plan to tackle problem drinking, detailing efforts to ensure community safety by addressing alcohol-related harms.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#).

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

'Danger to public health'

Canberra Times, General News, 19/06/2026, Lanie Tindale, Page 1

The ACT Integrity Commissioner ordered an investigation into claims that hospital executives "created a substantial and specific danger to public health and safety" by forcing senior doctors to resign. A dozen cardiologists, doctors of the heart, resigned from North Canberra Hospital and The Canberra Hospital between 2022 and June 11, 2026, according to Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith.

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

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Council approves hospital hotel development

Newcastle Herald, General News, 19/06/2026, Dylan Nicholson, Page 14

Maitland City Council has unanimously approved a development application for a \$12 million hotel within the city's health district for patients and families. The development application for 34 Turton Street, Metford, was lodged in 2025.

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

\$400m plan to rescue hospitals

Central Western Daily, General News, 19/06/2026, Reidun Berntsen, Page 5

Hospitals in the Central West will receive much-needed upgrades after a recent state parliamentary inquiry revealed scathing details about the conditions of regional health facilities. The NSW government announced a \$400 million investment in the state's hospitals as part of the 2026/2027 state budget.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 18/06/2026, Rory McClaren

Interview with Paul Ekkelboom, General Secretary of the Ambulance Employees Association of SA, about the SA public sector employment freeze and ambulance service impacts. Ekkelboom supports exempting ambulance call takers from the freeze but argues the entire SA Ambulance Service needs exemption because back-of-house roles like fleet, administration, and maintenance directly support frontline operations. He warns that staffing uncertainty and reduced support capacity risk weakening emergency service delivery.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

'We're more than flu shots': GP nurse says fair pay long overdue

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 18/06/2026, Robert Fedele

As the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) pursues its landmark Nurses and Midwives Work Value Case before the Fair Work Commission (FWC), general practice nurse Adama Luminous-Akazua says the push for long-overdue wage increases is about far more than money – it's finally recognising the value and complexity of the work nurses, midwives and assistants in nursing (AINs) do.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News, 18/06/2026, Kate Freebairn

Nurses and midwives at Flinders Medical Centre launch a 24-hour strike over pay and working conditions, walking off the job from 7am and not returning until the following morning. The action follows similar industrial action at Lyell McEwin Hospital, marking continued escalation in South Australian nurses' industrial campaign.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 18/06/2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

150 nurses and midwives at Flinders Medical Centre didn't go to work today, while others rallied for better paying conditions as part of industrial action that's been going on for more than a year. The

union wants a pay rise of 20% and says another strike is planned at the Royal Adelaide in a fortnight.

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2CC, Canberra Live, 18/06/2026, Leon Delaney

ACT Integrity Commissioner Michael Adams has ordered an investigation into allegations that hospital executives created a public health risk by pressuring doctors to resign. Around a dozen cardiologists left Canberra public hospitals between 2022 and 2024, leaving North Canberra Hospital without permanent cardiologists for about a year.

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Radio National, Breakfast, 18/06/2026, Sally Sara

Interview with Bruce Chater OAM, Head of the Rural and Remote Medicine Unit at the University of Queensland, about life and challenges in rural medical practice. Chater explains that rural medicine draws him in through broad, community-based care and strong local connections, using his experience in Theodore to show how small-town relationships shape both clinical work and personal life.

Interview continues on: [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#), [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#), [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#).

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Channel 7, Seven News, 18/06/2026, Max Fatcher and Sarah Greenhalgh

Paramedics could soon gain the ability to prescribe medications such as pain relief and diabetes treatments under proposed new healthcare powers, modelled on similar changes in New Zealand. Doctors warn the expansion is moving too quickly and could risk patient safety, while governments also consider extending prescribing rights to nurses and other healthcare professionals.

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6PR, Drive, 18/06/2026, Jamie Burnett

Interview with Dr Danielle McMullen, President of the AMA, about proposed changes to prescribing powers and patient safety in Australia. McMullen says the debate is not about professional turf but about ensuring safe, coordinated care, arguing that medicines require strong safeguards and collaboration between doctors and pharmacists to prevent errors and avoid unnecessary harm. She warns that expanding prescribing powers within pharmacy settings could create perceived or real conflicts of interest.

Interview continues on: [6PR \(Perth\)](#).

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Probe on pregnant woman's death

Daily Telegraph, Edition Changes, 19/06/2026, Jake McCallum, Page 14

NSW Health is investigating the care provided to a heavily pregnant woman who presented at a major

Sydney hospital with mental health concerns, before later being found dead in her home. A "serious adverse event review" has been launched into the tragedy.

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Midwife would have saved freebirth mum

Herald Sun, General News, 19/06/2026, Himangi Singh, Page 18

The tragic death of a mother who suffered a fatal haemorrhage after a gruelling threeday "freebirth" was preventable and she "would have survived" if a trained midwife had been present, the Coroner's Court has heard. Stacey Warnecke, 30, died in hospital on September 29 last year from complications of post-partum haemorrhage, several hours after she freebirthed her son Axel at home and suffered severe blood loss.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

First Australian hantavirus cruise ship passenger speaks from quarantine

ABC Online, Other, 18/06/2026

The first Australian to speak publicly about being onboard the hantavirus-struck cruise ship has shared his experience after spending five weeks in a quarantine facility in Western Australia. Four Australian citizens, one permanent resident and one New Zealander were repatriated to Australia on May 15, after an outbreak of the rodent-borne illness on the MV Hondius.

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

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC National News, 18/06/2026, Joe O'Brien

New research from the Australian Antarctic Program shows bird flu has had a devastating impact on remote Heard Island in the Southern Ocean, killing more than 13,000 baby seals. The findings highlight the severe threat the disease poses to wildlife populations in isolated ecosystems.

[Play Now](#)

Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 18/06/2026, Ashleigh Gillon

Ebola infections in Central Africa are becoming increasingly difficult to contain due to weak testing systems, vaccine scepticism, and political instability. Health authorities, including the Africa CDC and WHO, warn the outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo could become the worst on record if it is not brought under control.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 18/06/2026, Kylie Baxter

Interview with Kirsty Short, Virologist at the University of Queensland, about the impact of H5 bird flu on wildlife and risks to Australia. Short says the virus has killed more than 13,000 baby seals on Heard Island and has also spread through migratory birds, causing severe outbreaks in marine mammals and other species. She warns Australia faces real ecological risk if the virus arrives, particularly for native wildlife such as Tasmanian devils.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

From the footy field to the frontlines: Why MND can't be ignored any longer

HelloCare, Other, 18/06/2026, Jakob Neeland

When Neale Daniher walked out onto the MCG for the last time, he could no longer speak clearly. [...]

One drug, tofersen, has recently been provisionally approved by Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration for people with a specific genetic mutation that causes MND.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

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