



TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 20th June 2026

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Weekend Australian](#) (page 1) reports leading oncologist David Thomas has warned Australian cancer survival rates could fall and access to innovative medicines worsen unless the PBS is reformed, while Health Minister Mark Butler said companies are taking a harder line on pricing and acknowledged a risk to future access to new drugs. *Also reported by: [Weekend Australian](#)*
- The [Weekend Australian](#) (page 1) reports Eli Lilly says it rejected PBS listing terms for diabetes drug Mounjaro because the conditions were "unviable and unsustainable", while Mark Butler said pharmaceutical companies are pressing hard during a period of global market change and the Health Department is reviewing medicines pricing mechanisms. *Also reported by: [Weekend Australian](#)*
- The [AFR Weekend](#) (page 1) and [Weekend Australian](#) (page 1) report the Federal Government may delay NDIS reforms until August by offering the Greens a longer inquiry in exchange for support for its capital gains tax and negative gearing legislation, as the [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 15) reports delays to NDIS reform legislation have cast doubt over billions in projected savings. *Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph](#), [West Australian](#)*
- The [Saturday Age](#) (page 3) reports Victorian health authorities have warned against illegal peptide products after six people suffered acute liver poisoning linked to unapproved weight-

loss drug Retatrutide, with Chief Medical Officer Professor Michael Kidd warning black-market peptides pose a growing public health risk.

- The [Weekend Australian](#) (page 1) reports authorities are awaiting confirmation of Australia's first suspected H5N1 bird flu case in Western Australia, with the government involving health, environment and state agencies in the response despite human infections occurring only in exceptional overseas cases.
- The [Daily Telegraph](#) (page 20) reports some self-funded retirees are moving to aged-care facilities in Southeast Asia after the Federal Government's aged care reforms increased service costs, while long waiting times and high accommodation charges continue to drive demand for overseas alternatives.
- [ABC Online](#) reports Queensland woman Lyn Eather said she may have to move her mother with dementia far from her rural community to access residential aged care, while a spokesperson for Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said the government will spend \$47 billion next year to deliver more aged care beds.
- The [Hobart Mercury](#) (page 5) reports births at Calvary Hospital have more than doubled following a federally funded \$6 million maternity upgrade, with Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White saying the investment will help Tasmanian families access safe maternity care and maintain birthing choices.
- The [Northern Territory News](#) (page 16) reports the Northern Territory will host a new federally funded long-acting reversible contraception Centre of Excellence, with Federal Assistant Minister for Women Rebecca White saying improved affordability and access will help women choose the contraception that best suits their needs.

MINISTER BUTLER

Medicine calamity

Weekend Australian, General News, 20/06/2026, Natasha Robinson & Penny Timms, Page 1

Australian patients risk losing access to lifesaving medicines, with the nation "cleaved off" from global drug development, amid growing demands for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme to pay more for innovative therapies. [...] David Thomas, who established the nation's genomic tumour-screening service, is warning of an impending crisis in healthcare a growing risk that federal Health Minister Mark Butler has also acknowledged.

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

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Bitter pill: why plug pulled on Mounjaro

Weekend Australian, General News, 20/06/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

The rejection by one of the world's biggest pharmaceutical companies of Australia's preferred bargain over the blockbuster drug Mounjaro was dramatic and scathing. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler is realistic about the potential threats to medicines access but considers some pharmaceutical companies are "playing it hard" for strategic advantage.

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

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

\$631m for autistic children's NDIS diversion

Weekend Australian, General News, 20/06/2026, Lachlan Leeming & Sarah Ison, Page 4

NSW may demand more commonwealth funding as part of ongoing NDIS reforms, warning cost-saving measures pursued by the federal government in order to rein in the \$55bn-a-year disability scheme would continue being "tested" against the financial contributions so far promised to the state. [...] NDIS Minister Mark Butler last year announced \$4bn of this funding would be directed towards programs for mild to moderately autistic children in particular, known as Thriving Kids, after a boom in the number of children with developmental delays on the scheme.

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Labor's NDIS savings thrown into doubt

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 20/06/2026, Rob Harris & Matthew Knott, Page 15

The federal government's plans to bank billions of dollars in National Disability Insurance Scheme savings have been thrown into doubt after a second delay to a parliamentary report has exposed growing political resistance to reforms Labor says are essential to rein in soaring costs. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the reforms were necessary to preserve the scheme for future generations and has previously indicated the legislation remains on track to pass parliament by early July.

Also reported by: [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Stress high as savings sought with NDIS

Daily Advertiser, General News, 20/06/2026, Maryam Sulaiman, Page 2

Billiejo Gabriel was "distressed" when told she would no longer receive the same amount of support for her disability. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler recently announced a host of changes to NDIS funding, including a drop in the taxpayers' contribution from \$70 billion to \$55 billion by 2030.

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Fresh thinking on Coffs health shortage

Coffs Coast News of the Area, General News, 19/06/2026, Kate Pye, Page 5

The pressure on Coffs Harbour's healthcare system is growing. Record emergency department demand, an ageing population and chronic staff shortages are stretching services across the Mid North Coast - and a local Yazidi community member has put forward a proposal he believes could be part of the answer. [...] Mr Neamah has submitted the proposal to federal health minister Mark Butler and NSW health minister Ryan Park.

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Seniors champion

Gympie Today, General News, 19/06/2026, Arthur Gorrie, Page 1

National Seniors Australia has awarded its 2026 Everalld Compton Community Champion medal to Rosie Fitzgerald of Kilkivan. [...] Mr Compton presented the award last Wednesday 10 June at Brisbane's Convention and Exhibition Centre in the presence of Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler, who delivered the keynote address.

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WA mother says NDIS reforms will hit regional Australia hardest

ABC Online, Other, 19/06/2026, Jarrod Lucas & Chris Edmondson

West Australian mother-of-three Annette Nicholas is in no rush to become an empty-nester but unlike most parents, she fears that dream may soon be out of reach. [...] Minister for Disability Mark Butler told parliament only one out of 16 providers was registered, and measures would be introduced to address fraud and improve integrity within the NDIS.

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The NDIS has given Joe vital social skills. Funding cuts leave his mother fearing how he will 'do life'

The Guardian, Other, 20/06/2026, Sarah-Basford

Joe Barham's favourite drink to make for customers is an iced chocolate. But flat whites are also popular, he says, when the weather cools down in the typically humid Gold Coast. [...] Under a proposal by the federal government introduced last month, the NDIS minister, Mark Butler, would slash all social and community participation budgets by 50% for participants to save \$13.2bn from July to June 2030.

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GP access safeguarded for aged care residents after government revises bulk billing changes

The Indian Sun, Other, 19/06/2026

Older Australians living in residential aged care will continue to have access to bulk-billed GP services following a federal government decision to amend planned changes that had raised concerns across the sector. Ageing Australia has welcomed the move, praising Federal Health, Disability and Ageing Minister Mark Butler for responding to warnings that proposed changes to bulk billing arrangements could have disrupted access to medical care for many aged care residents.

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ACSQHC leads work on national standards for virtual care

Pulse+IT, Other, 19/06/2026, Reesh Lyon

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has been tasked with developing national safety and quality standards for virtual care, supported by the government and Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler MP. The virtual care standards would establish clear, consistent expectations for high-quality care delivered virtually -whether through hospitals, primary and community healthcare, or commercial providers.

Also reported by: [Hospital and Healthcare \(Online\)](#).

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Minister 'confident' of NDIS reforms despite criticism

Health Services Daily, Other, 19/06/2026, Caitlin Wright

With the ndis senate inquiry report imminent, Mark Butler is still trotting out the line that people with disability are at the centre of his reforms. Many would disagree.

[Read More](#)

Pharmacy Code of Conduct doesn't reflect current practice

The Medical Republic, Other, 20/06/2026, Louise Stone

It is my belief that the shared code of conduct used by pharmacy no longer reflects current pharmacy practice. [...] This is obvious with the address by Minister Mark Butler given to open the annual Pharmacy conference It's a privilege and a pleasure?

[Read More](#)

'Exhaust options' before NDIS

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/06/2026, Ciara Seccombe, Page 12

Patients will be forced to try all other "appropriate treatment" for their condition before becoming eligible for National Disability Insurance Scheme funding under draft laws. This includes specialist care even if cost or distance is a barrier, according to explanatory notes on the bill, introduced to Parliament by Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 19/06/2026, Michael Thomson

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has thanked the group of Australians involved in a recent hantavirus outbreak for their cooperation over the last six weeks. Five Australians and one New Zealander have been in quarantine at the Bullsbrook facility and will be released on Tuesday.

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ABC Great Southern, 06:30 News, 19/06/2026

Tiani Lange, a WA-based NDIS provider, says staff shortages are likely to get worse if proposed changes to the \$50b scheme are approved. Federal Minister for Disability Mark Butler has told Parliament that currently only one in 16 providers are registered, which the Federal Government wants to change to address fraud within the NDIS.

Also reported by: [ABC Midwest and Wheatbelt \(Geraldton\)](#).

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ABC Radio Canberra, 18:00 News, 19/06/2026, Unspecified

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has expressed gratitude to a group of Australians involved in a recent hantavirus outbreak for their cooperation over the last six weeks. Five Australians and one New Zealander have been in quarantine in Perth and will be released on Tuesday.

Similar coverage reported by: [Triple J \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#), [2SM \(Sydney\)](#), [NOVA 96.9 \(Sydney\)](#), [NOVA 93.7 \(Perth\)](#), [ABC Radio Melbourne \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC NewsRadio \(Sydney\)](#), [River 1467 \(Mildura\)](#), [Hot FM 91.1 \(Sunshine Coast\)](#), [Radio Australia \(Asia Pacific\) \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#).

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ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 19/06/2026, Saskia Mabin

Interview with Pharmacy Guild of Australia Senior National Vice President Simon Blacker. Blacker states that having a nationally consistent service offering across community pharmacies is one way that they can then go to the Commonwealth Government and ask for uniform funding, so more vulnerable people can access the care when they need it. He also says the Commonwealth has now a pilot, which has been announced by Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, because states and territories now allow community pharmacists to assess and potentially treat uncomplicated urinary tract infections.

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

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

No relevant coverage

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MINISTER RAE

Olive Eather's journey living with dementia on her family farm in central Queensland

ABC Online, Other, 19/06/2026, Jasmine Hines

When Lyn Eather's mother Olive was diagnosed with dementia, she was determined to keep her at home on the family farm for as long as possible. [...] A spokesperson for Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said the government was spending \$47 billion next year to deliver more aged care beds, but where they will go has not been announced.

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

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Private Health Insurance Rebate update

National Seniors Australia, Other, 19/06/2026

The proposed cut to the Private Health Insurance (PHI) Rebate has angered older Australians, with many concerned about their ability to maintain their cover and their access to private health care. [...] Before the proposal was announced by Aged Care Minister, Sam Rae, National Seniors Australia (NSA) had already undertaken research and raised your concerns around private health insurance affordability (and value) to help bring about an independent review into the private health system.

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News, 19/06/2026, Lexy Hamilton-Smith

Baralaba woman Olive Eather has been living with dementia, but she and her family are struggling to access support in their rural location, and for them, staying there might not be possible due to limited

beds. Dementia Australia says delays in residential care are common, while Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae says the Federal Government is investing \$47b to deliver more beds and 20 new specialist dementia care units.

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ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 19/06/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae, on Australians calling for the Federal Government to review the aged care assessment tool used for Support at Home packages. Rae says they have reformed the assessment system because the old system was inaccurate, which produced unfair outcomes for older Australians across the country, and they have now brought in a new integrated assessment tool, but he also notes that there is misinformation about it. He states that the new assessment is conducted by skilled, trained assessors who work with older people to understand their functional needs.

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

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Mini baby boom at hospital

Hobart Mercury, General News, 20/06/2026, David Killick, Page 5

The upgraded maternity facilities at Calvary Hospital have been experiencing a mini baby boom. [...] Federal Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Rebecca White said the boost would give peace of mind to expectant parents.

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

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NT wins major health program

Northern Territory News, General News, 20/06/2026, Fia Walsh, Page 16

Territory women will soon have better access to safe, affordable birth control with the Northern Territory selected to host one of eight new long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) Centres of Excellence being established across Australia. [...] Federal Assistant Minister for Women Rebecca White said access to affordable contraception was essential for women to make informed decisions about their health.

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

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ABC, ABC News, 19/06/2026, Guy Stayner

Upgraded maternity facilities in Calvary's Lenah Valley Hospital in southern Tasmania have opened to allow another 500 babies to be delivered at the hospital each year. Federal Assistant Health Minister Rebecca White says they have been able to support operations at Calvary and Royal Hobart Hospitals because of the Federal Government \$6b investment.

Similar coverage reported by: [Seven Tasmania \(Hobart\)](#).

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ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 19/06/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Assistant Health and Aged Care Minister Rebecca White. White says abortions will continue to happen, and they do not want to see the banning of safe abortions happen. She states that she's sick of women's rights being politicised, because they fought hard to win rights when it comes to the women's reproductive healthcare system across Australia.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

Men's suicide risk can persist for years after break-ups

Nambucca Valley News Of The Area, General News, 19/06/2026, Page 5

It is Men's Health week and an opportunity to shine a light on alarming data from Ten to Men, the world's largest longitudinal study on male health. [...] Special envoy for men's health, Dan Repacholi MP, said that breaking up was hard at the best of times but for men it was the start of a high risk period.

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Deadly Choices gets into Origin spirit backing 715 checks during Mens Health Week

National Indigenous Times, Other, 19/06/2026, Jarred Cross

While the Blues and Maroons have three weeks until their series decider, Deadly Choices are getting into the Origin spirit with some greats of the game encouraging others to take action now during Men's Health Week. [...] In Magandjib / Brisbane, Deadly Choices ambassadors Prince and Civoniceva were joined by Federal Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi.

[Read More](#)

NBN Newcastle Hunter, NBN News, 19/06/2026, Tyson Cotrill

There is a free health check for Singleton men today as Morgan Engineering workers were offered blood and cholesterol tests to catch any early warning signs of illness. Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi says they need to make sure that they are prioritising men's health.

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2GB, Mornings, 19/06/2026, Mark Levy

Interview with Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi. Repacholi urges men to enjoy the rest of Men's Health Week, and reminds them to get tested.

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ABC Newcastle, Breakfast (Late), 19/06/2026, Paul Culliver

Interview with Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi. Repacholi says it is Men's Health Week, where they are prioritising men's health and ensuring that men are aware of some of the issues that they are facing. He also says they need more men to participate in conversations with their GP around their health, and get themselves checked through blood tests.

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

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ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 19/06/2026, Craig Reucassel

Interview with Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi. Repacholi says it is Men's Health Week, where they are prioritising men's health and ensuring that men are aware of some of the issues that they are facing. He also says they need more men to participate in conversations with their GP around their health and well-being.

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DEPARTMENT

Bitter pill: why plug pulled on Mounjaro

Weekend Australian, General News, 20/06/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

The rejection by one of the world's biggest pharmaceutical companies of Australia's preferred bargain over the blockbuster drug Mounjaro was dramatic and scathing. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler is realistic about the potential threats to medicines access but considers some pharmaceutical companies are "playing it hard" for strategic advantage.

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

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Poisoning warning from illegal drug

The Saturday Age, General News, 20/06/2026, Melissa Cunningham & Henrietta Cook, Page 3

Health authorities have issued an urgent warning after six confirmed cases of Victorians being left with acute liver poisoning from taking an illegal peptide advertised for weight loss. [...] Australia's drug watchdog, the Therapeutic Goods Administration, also sounded the alarm and yesterday the nation's Chief Medical Officer, Professor Michael Kidd, said unapproved, black-market peptides posed a growing public health risk.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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A nudge in the right direction?

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/06/2026, Heather Saxena, Page 2

GPs who received nudge letters from health officials cut back on frequently ordered pathology requests, according to new research on GPs who did not know they were test subjects. [...] "As part of the Department of Health's commitment to the best practice use of pathology requesting, I am writing to you because your requests for certain pathology test combinations are higher than 90% of GPs practicing [sic] in similar geographic regions in Australia."

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GP access safeguarded for aged care residents after government revises bulk billing changes

The Indian Sun, Other, 19/06/2026

Older Australians living in residential aged care will continue to have access to bulk-billed GP services following a federal government decision to amend planned changes that had raised concerns across the sector. Ageing Australia has welcomed the move, praising Federal Health, Disability and Ageing Minister Mark Butler for responding to warnings that proposed changes to bulk billing arrangements could have disrupted access to medical care for many aged care residents.

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Also reported by: [Hospital and Healthcare \(Online\)](#).

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The life 'curveball' of becoming a carer is exhausting. But workplaces

can help

Women's Agenda, Other, 19/06/2026

Bo Searle was already a busy mum of two and full time senior digital strategist at Merck Healthcare when life threw her "a curveball". [...] Carers Australia delivers the Carer-Inclusive Workplace Initiative, a program funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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Public Sector Updates – Statewide

anmftas.org.au, Other, 19/06/2026, Lisa King

The ANMF has met with members and consulted with impacted employees regarding the proposed Tasmanian Health Service (THS) Integrated Operations Centre (IOC) changes. [...] The ANMF has been advised by the lead negotiator for the Nursing and Midwifery Public Sector Enterprise Agreement (EA) negotiations that the Department of Health (DoH) bargaining team have not yet received their bargaining parameters.

[Read More](#)

ABC NewsRadio, Breakfast, 19/06/2026, Sarah Morris

Shadow Minister for Aged Care Anne Ruston has slammed the Federal Government's use of an algorithm to determine aged care support after the ABC revealed an 80yo man with late-stage MND was denied extra funding. The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has upheld Melbourne man Graham Crossan's original assessment, denying him the highest level of support after he asked for a review.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [ABC Radio Melbourne \(Melbourne\)](#)

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

State cuts foreign tax to boost housing

AFR Weekend, General News, 20/06/2026, Paul Karp, Page 6

Foreign investors will have a stamp duty surcharge lifted by the NSW government in a bid to boost the construction of build-to-rent housing and retirement villages.

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Aged-care resident in court over assault

Weekend Australian, General News, 20/06/2026, Emma Kirk, Alexandra Feiam & Rhiannon Lewin, Page 5

A man accused of assaulting an elderly dementia patient at a care facility in Sydney's southwest has appeared in court for the first time. Disturbing images of the 87-year-old dementia patient 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: [7News.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [HelloCare \(Online\)](#)

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We're heading for Asia, where they do care

Daily Telegraph, General News, 20/06/2026, Julie Cross & Remy Varga, Page 20

Sick of horror stories about long waiting lists, high prices, staffing shortages and slop for food, self-funded retirees have started heading for places like South East Asia, where they can save tens of thousands. [...] The Albanese government's aged care reforms saw the price of services soar assisted showers at home can cost up to \$180 an hour, while optional extras in aged care facilities, like a TV in your room and more food choices, can cost \$55 day. On top of that, upfront refundable deposits can easily exceed \$1m in Sydney and Melbourne.

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

Consistency, authenticity key to building trust

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 19/06/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

After being named the most trusted brand in the Aged Care and Retirement Villages category at the Reader's Digest Awards, Anglicare SQ CEO Sue Cooke tells AAA what the secret ingredients are. The aged care sector needs to collaborate and prioritise becoming a trusted sector, Anglicare Southern Queensland chief executive officer Sue Cooke tells Australian Ageing Agenda.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 19/06/2026, Mark Burrows

A 69yo male aged care resident has been charged after attacking an 87yo dementia patient at HammondCare's facility in Hammondville. Nine News approached HammondCare today, but it refused to comment, saying it was focused on supporting families and staff impacted, while the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner stated that it will take action to hold the provider to account if it has not met its legal obligations.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Facing up to life's inner demons as a cricket legend and a mum

Weekend Australian, Sport, 20/06/2026, Daniel Cherny, Page 40

Australian seamer Megan Schutt is better able to keep on her daughter Rylee's wavelength now. [...] Rylee, who turns five in April, has autism and ADHD.

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

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Greens set to stall Labor's NDIS reform

AFR Weekend, General News, 20/06/2026, Phillip Coorey & John Kehoe, Page 1

The Albanese government may be forced to delay for at least a month its plans to reform the National Disability Insurance Scheme, in return for the Greens agreeing to pass budget legislation on capital gains tax and negative gearing through the Senate.

Also reported by: [Weekend Australian \(Australia\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#).

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Triple whammy for Labor

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 20/06/2026, Michelle Grattan, Page 151

Only a little more than a year into its second term and with Pauline Hanson turning politics upside down, the Albanese Government finds itself in policy quicksand on three core issues: its Budget tax reforms, its wrestle to curb the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the electorally sensitive area of immigration. On Thursday, the Government announced changes worth \$475 million over the forward estimates to its tax package, yet to be legislated.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#).

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Six Territory NDIS providers banned

Northern Territory News, General News, 20/06/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 8

Six NDIS providers and services have been permanently banned from supporting vulnerable people in Territoryone due to their violent criminal history. Four individuals and two NDIS service providers in the Northern Territory have been served lifelong bans on supporting vulnerable people in Australia in the past six months.

NDIS provider WeFlex pays \$19,8000 ACCC penalty for misleading social media ad

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 19/06/2026, Duncan Evans

A company offering personal fitness services for NDIS participants has paid a \$19,8000 fine for a misleading advertisement on social media. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission hit WeFlex Pty Ltd with the penalty for an ad that ran across the company's Facebook and Instagram channels from November last year to February this year.

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

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Rebekah is losing her ability to walk and see, but doctors don't know why

Newcastle Herald, Other, 19/06/2026, Freddie Moffat

Kim Barnes asks herself the same question every time she arrives to take care of her sister, Rebekah Connolly. [...] Ms Barnes said a lack of a proper diagnosis means Ms Connolly's application to access the National Disability Insurance Scheme is unlikely to be successful.

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

[Read More](#)

ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 19/06/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Shadow NDIS Minister Melissa McIntosh, on the further delays to the report into the NDIS overhaul. McIntosh says the report was meant to be handed down on Tuesday, and it was delayed by the Federal Government until today, but it's now revealed that the report has been further delayed again. She says people, particularly Australians living with a disability who are relying on the NDIS, are now really concerned about what's going on.

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SBS, World News Australia, 19/06/2026, Anton Enus

A report into the Federal Government's overhaul of the National Disability Insurance Scheme has been delayed for a second time. Concerns were raised by community members about how the dramatic savings plan could affect them.

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Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 19/06/2026, Tom Connell

Interview with Shadow Minister for Families and Social Services Melissa McIntosh, on a Senate committee's report on the overhaul of the NDIS being delayed. McIntosh says the report was supposed to be released on Tuesday, and the Federal Government decided to delay it until today, but they are still waiting for the said report. She also says she does not think that the Federal Government is doing anywhere near enough to address the fraud in the system, and she's had serious concerns about people who desperately need the NDIS.

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PRIMARY CARE

24-hour pharmacy limits hospital visits

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 19/06/2026, Nicholas O'Donoghue

Pharmacies operating round the clock are delivering "better care" and keeping patients out of hospital, a South Australian Assembly member says. Out-of-hours visits to South Australia's first 24/7 pharmacy have surpassed 600,000 since February 2024, Labor's Cheyne Rich told the SA House of Assembly.

[Read More](#)

Privacy matters, OTC contraceptive study finds

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 19/06/2026, Kate Cowling

Patients were more likely to support a pharmacist prescribing OTC oral contraceptives if the professional had extra training, could provide affordable care and a private setting, according to a recent study. Australian women would likely support over-the-counter (OTC) access to oral contraceptives, provided certain conditions were met – including a private space.

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Men's health the focus of new RACGP group

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 19/06/2026, Jo Roberts

'I am very focused on using this position to make improvements that are meaningful, that resonate with general practice, as well as men more generally. It is exciting.' Dr Alex Romain, the inaugural Chair of the RACGP's newest Specific Interests Group (SIG), Men's Health, is keenly aware of the many ways men and boys lag behind women and girls, not just in health outcomes, and life expectancy, but in engagement.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Nanny state now wields the cane

Weekend Australian, General News, 20/06/2026, Chris Uhlmann, Page 13

Education was different in the 1960s and 70s. [...] The Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates that about 80 per cent of tobacco consumed in 2025 came from illicit sources, up from 12 per cent in 2017, which is a policy triumph only if the aim was to hand the market to criminals.

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

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Hunger games

Daily Telegraph, Weekend, 20/06/2026, Dr Linia Patel, Page 12

Weight loss medication is increasingly popular, but as a nutritionist and author explains, it does come with side effects. During my time working on the frontlines of weight management as a community dietitian ... a familiar refrain was used: "Losing 5-10 per cent of your body weight can make a real difference."

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

'I went to wake him up...'

Canberra Times, General News, 20/06/2026, Petlee Peter & Bageshri Savyasachi, Page 1

Lara Zasiadczyk-Riveros is devastated. The sight of the empty ground-floor bedroom at her Kaleen home, which was once "lit up" with her boy's laughter, now leaves her in tears.

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A soldier's story of hardship and victory

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 20/06/2026, Zoe Smith, Page 14

A former soldier who trained under Ben Roberts-Smith in Afghanistan, and once battled a devastating alcohol addiction, says a plan to cap veterans' allied health services spending at \$5000 will prove challenging for many of those trying to beat their addiction. [...] It comes amid recent data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), which confirmed alcohol was Australia's most common drug of concern.

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

Australian-first surgery allows baby twins who were born deaf to hear

mum's voice at the same time

ABC Online, Other, 20/06/2026, Stephanie Dalzell

For the first nine months of their young lives, baby twins Artie and Jack Porter lived in a world without sound. [...] The way cochlear implants services are funded is complex, with both the federal and state governments picking up aspects of the care leading up to the surgery, the procedure itself, and the follow-up therapies.

[Read More](#)

The top killers of men at every decade – and how to beat them

Australian Financial Review, Other, 19/06/2026, Euan Black

Men die earlier than women, and in greater numbers than women from almost every non-sex-specific health problem.

[Read More](#)

Peter Malinauskas, Ashton Hurn explain yes votes on SA abortion

Adelaide Now, Other, 18/06/2026, Paul Starick & Aden Hill

South Australian abortion bill architect Sarah Game says she will be shifting her focus on to other issues following the short-lived triumph and swift downfall of her second abortion bill on Wednesday. "I am very disappointed that it didn't pass the lower house," she told The Advertiser.

[Read More](#)

Stacey Warnecke died after choosing a birth free of all medical help. An inquest wants to know why

The Guardian, Other, 20/06/2026, Melissa Davey

As Stacey Warnecke lay on the floor of her home, short of breath after a massive postpartum haemorrhage, the woman she hired as her birthkeeper, Emily Lal, told her she was likely having a panic attack. "Don't leave me," Warnecke said to Lal, who had no medical qualifications, but who Warnecke had paid \$6,000 to support her pregnancy, a coroner's court heard this week.

Also reported by: [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

Drug policy 'dangerously out of balance': Pennington Institute

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 19/06/2026, Nicholas O'Donoghue

Overdose deaths hit record level as a "predictable consequence of policy failure", advocacy group says. A community-wide response is needed to address the rising number of overdose deaths in Australia, the Pennington Institute believes. The institute's Overdose Snapshot 2026 showed that seven Australians lose their lives every day due to drug overdoses, based on preliminary data from 2024.

[Read More](#)

Further abortion restrictions risk causing harm: RACGP

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 19/06/2026, Karen Burge

A GP expert has been left 'frustrated' by a series of events placing women's healthcare choices in the spotlight, saying concurrent debates on abortion restrictions 'undermine our clinical skills and practice'. A big week in women's health has seen South Australia's politicians debating controversial changes to abortion access at the same time as One Nation Leader Pauline Hanson used a national address to speak out on late-term termination.

[Read More](#)

Men's health the focus of new RACGP group

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 19/06/2026, Jo Roberts

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'Sickening' cost of smoking out crime

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/06/2026, Paul Smith , Page 13

Dr Nick Coatsworth divides opinion certainly in the medical community. Partly it is about his allegedly permissive stance on COVID-19 protections while deputy chief medical officer, partly about his views on NSW psychiatrists quitting the public sector in their fight over pay and partly about his views on specialists' fee transparency.

Also reported by: [Australian Doctor \(National\)](#).

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

Climate change: A 'health emergency'

medicSA, General News, 01/07/2026, Kate Wylie, Page 22

Climate change is frequently framed as an economic issue and unfortunately has been highly politicised. This misses the point, because fundamentally climate change is a health issue; its impacts are health impacts. It is contributing to morbidity and mortality worldwide, exacerbating existing diseases, and creating new and evolving health risks.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

My gifted days

Daily Telegraph, Weekend, 20/06/2026, Lisa Mayoh, Page 1

Kellie Finlayson doesn't want a funeral. [...] Bowel cancer claims the lives of 103 Australians a week, or 5372 a year so she admits staying positive can sometimes feel "almost performative now, which is weird" but necessary to keep going.

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

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

I want to see my son grow up, nothing else

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 20/06/2026, Talara McHugh, Page 27

All Harley Dunn wants is to watch his eight-year-old son Grayson grow up. Diagnosed with IgA nephropathy an auto-immune disease that attacks the kidney the 33-year-old diesel mechanic from Penola in the SouthEast has stage-four kidney failure and relies on dialysis to live.

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

Thousands to back petition for VAD

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 20/06/2026, Page 27

A parliamentary petition calling on the federal government to help people in regional and rural areas access voluntary assisted dying is aiming to get at least 10,000 signatures. The government has resisted calls from grieving families to change the law to allow doctors to perform some consultations via telehealth.

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

Youth cancer cases surging

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 20/06/2026, Nikita McGuire, Page 25

A fit and healthy woman who thought bowel cancer only affected older people has detailed her harrowing battle with the disease, after she was diagnosed at the age of 30. Sharing her story for Bowel Cancer Awareness Month, Townsville's Lauren Gribble had her world turned upside down in 2023.

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

Anal cancer screening in Australia

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/06/2026, Dr Mary Poynten, Page 36

The incidence of anal SCC from here on, referred to as 'anal cancer' is increasing globally, including in Australia. Although rare in the general population, the risk is highly concentrated in several well-defined populations.

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

The future of health – from head to toe

The Australian, Other, 19/06/2026, Tara Parker-Pope

When it comes to the diseases that threaten to steal our healthy years – Alzheimer's, heart disease, cancer, arthritis – they all have one thing in common: By the time we get diagnosed, often much of the damage is already done. But a wave of new scientific advances have the potential to shift that timeline far earlier.

[Read More](#)

Adelaide fashion icon's death after taking magic mushrooms to be probed at inquest

ABC Online, Other, 19/06/2026, Kathryn Bermingham

The death of an Adelaide fashion industry icon who suffered a cardiac arrest after taking magic mushrooms as an alternative treatment will be probed at a coronial inquest. [...] She had sought out magic mushrooms as an alternative treatment for anxiety and, in the hours after ingesting the substance, went into cardiac arrest and needed resuscitation at home.

[Read More](#)

Friday essay: I had to crowdfund my cancer treatment in Australia's 'universal' health-care system

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 19/06/2026, Na'ama Carlin

Economic hardship is a lingering consequence of Brooke's breast cancer treatment, more than 30 years ago – which she paid for by selling her wedding ring. The treatment left her debilitated, fatigued and unable to work for some time.

[Read More](#)

Toowoomba endometriosis clinic to slash 'seven-year wait'

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 19/06/2026, Jack Dyson Evans

Darling Downs women will now have access to greater medical care after the Drayton Medical Centre unveiled a new Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain Clinic. The clinic is one of 11 new clinics funded by the federal government, bringing the total in Australia to 33.

[Read More](#)

Decision aid for incontinence meds

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 19/06/2026

Monash University researchers, led by pharmacist Dr Amanda Cross, have developed the first co-designed resources to safely guide the use of urinary incontinence medications for people living with dementia. The Guiding Principles, which were launched earlier this week, aim to provide families and healthcare professionals with evidence-based guidance on starting.

[Read More](#)

The PCOS name change every woman should know about

Prevention, Other, 19/06/2026, Christine Diane Almanzor

For decades, polycystic ovary syndrome has been one of the most common hormonal conditions affecting women. It has also been one of the most misunderstood. The name itself is part of the problem.

[Read More](#)

Managing diabetes in older age

Diabetic Living, General News, 01/08/2026, Page 94

The prevalence of diabetes increases significantly with age, and the number of older adults living with the condition continues to grow. According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), in 2021 almost 1 in 5 adults between 80-84 were living with diabetes, almost 30 times higher than those aged under 40 years.

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 19/06/2026, James Glenday and Emma Reballato

Interview with Heart Foundation dietician Jemma O'Hanlon. O'Hanlon says heart disease is one of the leading killers of Australians, and a person dies every 12 minutes from heart disease. She states that good nutrition is a key factor to reduce the risk of heart disease, and the Heart Foundation has published its new winter recipe collection.

Also reported by: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

2GB, Breakfast, 19/06/2026, Ben Fordham

Fordham says Alzheimer's is now the leading cause of death in Australia. He notes that heart disease is still the leading cause of death for men, while dementia is the biggest killer for women.

[Play Now](#)

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Concern at mental health reaction

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 20/06/2026, Jessica Page, Page 8

Doctors have described the Premier's response to warnings that child mental health reforms have stalled as "alarming", and demanded a clear timetable and regular audits. The Australian Medical Association, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation and Health Services Union presented a united front in Perth two days after the State's Auditor General revealed only one of the 32 recommendations accepted in 2022 has actually been implemented.

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

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Coroner finds no failings in care of suicidal veteran Steven Angus shot by police

ABC Online, Other, 19/06/2026, Chloe Chomicki

Deputy State Coroner Stephanie Gallagher has delivered her findings following a coronial inquest into the death of Steven Angus, which finished in April. The coroner found there were no failings by either police or hospital staff in their response to Mr Angus or the treatment he received as a veteran experiencing suicidal ideation.

[Read More](#)

'Tunnel vision' concealing abuse-driven suicide

West Australian, Other, 19/06/2026, Will Nicholas

Suicides linked to domestic and family violence frequently slip through cracks in the justice system because of investigator bias and perpetrators influencing proceedings, an inquiry has been told. A parliamentary probe on Friday heard that up to half of women's suicides are associated with domestic abuse, but the connection is often obscured by investigators fixating on addiction and mental health issues.

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

[Read More](#)

'Need support, now': Gen Z faces hidden toll of cost-of-living crisis

NEWS.com.au, Other, 19/06/2026, Bek Day

If the past few years have sharpened the point of the cost-of-living crisis, then the first six months of 2026 have driven that point home. [...] Youth mental health organisation Reach Out found money worries were causing severe mental health repercussions for young people, including sleep problems in over 50 per cent.

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IMMUNISATION

Beyond Bali belly

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/06/2026, Dr Nabeel Makmahi, Page 32

A child's post-holiday illness highlights the importance of a pre-travel checkup and vaccines before heading to endemic areas of risk. MAYA, a previously well six-year-old girl, was brought in by her mother, Nat, for review because the whites of her eyes have become yellow over the past two days.

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ABC Radio Darwin , Breakfast, 19/06/2026, Jess Ong

Interview with NT Chief Health Officer Paul Burgess. Burgess says there are 226 cases of diphtheria in the Northern Territory, but the numbers are reduced every week due to vaccinations. He also says they have seen the rollout of federal assistance, and there are now mobile teams active in at least three regions across the NT, which is going to accelerate their vaccination effort.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Skinny drug's expansion

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Business News, 20/06/2026, Page 158

The primary owner of Ozempic maker Novo Nordisk is launching a network of research incubators across Europe, seeking to create breakthrough obesity and diabetes treatments by turning academic discoveries into commercial ventures. The CardioMetabolic Bridge program will open its first location in London this month, followed by sites in Italy and Germany later this year.

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Terrible consequences for biotech if CGT proposals are not reversed

The Australian, Other, 19/06/2026, Peter Beattie

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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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Good laugh is medicinal

Herald Sun, General News, 20/06/2026, Page 25

Laughing could help people with chronic lung conditions manage their symptoms. While a link between laughing and mental health benefits has been well established, there is a lack of research into how it could improve the lives of those with physical health conditions.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#)

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

New MND database

Hobart Mercury, General News, 20/06/2026, Page 5

Australian researchers have developed a new database to combat motor neurone disease (MND). University of Queensland scientists and clinicians and researchers nationwide have built the world's most comprehensive unified patient database of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, the most aggressive form of MND that usually results in death within 3-5 years.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#)

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Home work dangers

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 20/06/2026, Page 50

Research has recorded an increase in heart issues and heart attacks in the 30 to 45-year-old age group. There are the traditional causes of heart issues, diet, smoking, being over weight, a sedentary lifestyle and diabetes.

Also reported by: [Diabetic Living \(National\)](#)

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It's been proven for decades. So why is misinformation so popular?

SBS, Other, 19/06/2026, Yasmine Alwakal

Michelle Wong has spent years scouring social media for misinformation. She says it's not difficult to find posts claiming that sunscreen is "toxic" or that chemical sun safety products cause kidney disease.

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

[Read More](#)

Dispensary Corner 19 Jun 26

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 19/06/2026

IS there no end to the benefits of the 21st century miracle drug Ozempic? While most of the positives lauded thus far have focused on health, research published yesterday in the journal Criminology revealed that the use of GLP-1RAs could also be linked to a reduced risk of committing violent...

[Read More](#)

Seizure a red flag for cancer

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/06/2026, Bella Rough, Page 14

About 2.4% of adults with a first-time seizure are diagnosed with neurological cancer within a year, a JAMA Neurology study suggests a rate 76 times higher than the general population. It suggests that unexpected seizures may be an early warning sign, especially for metastatic cancer, said the researchers from Denmark's Aarhus University, based on their study of 50,000 adults with no preceding cancer who had a first-time hospital diagnosis of seizure.

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GLP-1 RA lowdose option?

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/06/2026, Jamie Thannoo, Page 1

Endocrinologist Dr Kishani Kannangara recently faced a clinical predicament one increasingly common for many doctors. Her patient, a man in his early 50s, had life-threatening obesity but was deemed unsuitable for surgery.

The missing voices in mental healthcare

medicSA, General News, 01/07/2026, Page 28

New research findings reinforce the need for mental health research and services to be designed and delivered with input from, and to reflect the lives and perspectives of, people with lived experience of mental illness, writes the study's co-authors, Flinders University's Professor Sharon Lawn and Monash University's Prof Anton Isaac. Despite countless research studies and programs, people with mental health challenges, and their families, continue to battle to access the help they need.

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Old concepts find new place in treating infection

medicSA, General News, 01/07/2026, Page 36

Research briefs Researchers at The Alfred and Monash University are testing a revolutionary treatment for patients with life-threatening infectious diseases. The treatment involves injecting a patient with viruses called bacteriophages, or phages for short, to kill bacterial infections that have not responded to other treatments.

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Delirium episode a risk factor for serious complications

medicSA, General News, 01/07/2026, Page 37

A single episode of delirium in hospitalised older adults is a significant risk factor for other serious health complications including fractures, stroke and sepsis, a University of Queensland study has found. Delirium is often triggered by infection, surgery, pain, dehydration or medication, and affects as many as one in four older adults during their hospital stays.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Move to prevent 'rivers of grog' as NT town camp alcohol bans to be extended

ABC Online, Other, 19/06/2026, Matt Garrick

The decision to extend the bans has been welcomed by the NT's Aboriginal-controlled health sector, which has been calling for the clarity around the future of the restrictions. It comes as town camp safety is in the national spotlight following the alleged abduction and murder of Kumanjayi Little Baby from an Alice Springs town camp in April.

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

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Health services lacking in booming area west of lake

Newcastle Herald, General News, 20/06/2026, Madeline Link, Page 20

Residents of one of the region's major future growth areas have described "horrific" experiences trying to access healthcare and Lake Macquarie councillors want to fix it. Despite a predicted population boom, residents living south of Toronto to the northern area of the Central Coast still have to travel significant distances to access urgent or public hospital care.

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Bosses 'ignore' attacks on staff

Premature patient discharges, unrepairable surgical beds, and a toxic executive culture that blames assaulted frontline workers for violence are severely crippling Townsville University Hospital (TUH), a damning new nurses' survey has revealed. The survey, conducted by the Nurses Professional Association of Australia (NPAA), exposes that the hospital operates on "Tier 3 status almost daily," burdened by constant ambulance ramping and a severe bed bottleneck.

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Budget 26/27: the good, bad and ugly

medicSA, General News, 01/07/2026, Peter Subramaniam , Page 12

The budget lock up is a strange kind of bubble. [...] This year, my second representing AMA SA on Budget Day, I was looking for a big swing something that shows the South Australian Government understands the scale of the challenges in our healthcare system and has a plan to address the underlying causes.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Allied health workers strike

Shepparton News, General News, 19/06/2026, Ashley Darling, Page 8

Allied health workers from the Goulburn Valley joined thousands of their colleagues from across Victoria in strike action for fair pay on Tuesday, June 16. Thirteen staff members from GV Health travelled together on a bus to Melbourne to join the protest on the steps of the Victorian parliament, representing around 100 colleagues in the Goulburn Valley.

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Kalbarri the latest doctor's surgery to close, leaving town with no GP

The Australian, Other, 19/06/2026, Dr Ramya Raman

Kalbarri is a picturesque coastal town five hours' north of Perth. Home to 1500 local residents, it attracts more than 200,000 tourists a year. [...] On June 26, Kalbarri's only general practice will close its doors permanently, unable to stay afloat since shifting to a fully bulk-billing model.

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

[Read More](#)

Q&A: Michael Whaites, NSWNMA General Secretary

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 19/06/2026, Robert Fedele

As workforce challenges and cost-of-living issues intensify across the professions, Michael Whaites, General Secretary of the New South Wales Nurses and Midwives' Association (NSWNMA), speaks to the ANMJ about his journey and the key issues facing nurses, midwives and carers.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Xavier 'branded' for fight of his life

Weekend Australian, General News, 20/06/2026, Penny Timms, Page 7

Xavier Pudovkin seems like your typical rough-and-tumble kid. [...] One of the medications Xavier needs, DFMO (difluoromethylornithine), has since been listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, so it is subsidised for particular treatments in Australia at a greatly reduced price.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Face-to-face therapy visit boosts support for Onslow students

West Australian, Other, 19/06/2026, Phoebe Solon

Children at Onslow School have met their occupational therapist in person for the first time after receiving weeks of support through telehealth, with a recent visit from allied health specialists helping strengthen access to essential services in the remote Pilbara community. Specialists from Teach, Speak, Hear (TSH) travelled to Onslow at the beginning of the month to conduct assessments and work directly with students, teachers and families.

[Read More](#)

Telehealth 'default' for state

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/06/2026, Bella Rough, Page 4

Specialist outpatient clinics should default to virtual care, such as telehealth and remote monitoring, if clinically appropriate and patients want it, says Victoria's Department of Health. The "short-term" goal set in the department's Specialist Care Reform Blueprint, published in May, is to reserve in-person appointments for patients "with complex needs, those who cannot use virtual options or those who express a preference for in-person appointments".

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Sausage-machine medicine?

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/06/2026, Ciara Seccombe, Page 6

An analysis has examined the Medicare cash per minute for bulk-billed consults. GPs warning that the Federal Government's billions in the budget for bulk-billing is creating incentives for so-called sausage-machine medicine now have numbers to back up their claim.

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Peak welcomes GP bulk billing 'win' for residents

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 19/06/2026, Natasha Egan

Aged care providers have welcomed the government's last-minute change to Medicare reforms that looked likely to result in GPs stopping support for aged care residents. Peak bodies, including Ageing Australia and The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, have been advocating against the changes to Medicare assignment of benefits due to take effect on 1 July that would require documented consent for each GP visit, including telehealth consultations.

[Read More](#)

Patient end support items: Widening the healthcare gap

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 19/06/2026, Morgan Rayner

In March 2026, Patient End Support (PES) item numbers were re-introduced across Australia. The problem is one key phrase: 'MBS PES services can only be claimed if a private specialist or consultant physician referred to the patient has also billed a relevant MBS video consultation'.

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Some docs now scared to help women in pain

Herald Sun, General News, 20/06/2026, Robyn Riley, Page 24

Women with endometriosis are suffering delayed diagnosis, delayed access to pain management and even delayed surgery because many doctors are "running scared" from treating patients with the debilitating gynaecological condition. In the wake of extraordinary claims against Dr Simon Gordon, other doctors are now fearful of negative media attention.

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

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Psychologist sent flirty texts to patient

Canberra Times, General News, 20/06/2026, Lanie Tindale, Page 26

A murrumbateman psychologist sent sexually suggestive and flirtatious text messages to a vulnerable patient seeking treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder, a tribunal found. The Health Care Complaints Commission found Anna Irene Stevens to be guilty of professional misconduct and unsatisfactory professional conduct in a decision handed down on June 1, 2026.

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'Bedside manner' concerns

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 20/06/2026, Alex Treacy, Page 5

Early complaints against nurse now charged with stalking and abuse The employer of a Gold Coast mental health nurse charged with stalking and abusing vulnerable young eating disorder patients has furiously denied suggestions it did not handle earlier complaints about the nurse appropriately.

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Doctor faces 31 new child sex charges

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 20/06/2026, Caleb Runciman & Jessica Evensen, Page 8

A Perth paediatrician accused of filming his young patients on "hidden cameras" has been charged with 31 additional child sex offences, including over allegations he took up-skirt photographs of young school girls. [...] Mr Saw's medical registration was suspended by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency last month, meaning he cannot practise in Australia.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#)

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Doctor fined \$30k for 'picture book'

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/06/2026, Page 1

Heather Saxena an anaesthetist who self-published a book of photos from surgical cases that sold just eight copies has been fined \$30,000. The 370-page book, The Anaesthetic Picture Book, listed on Amazon in 2023, contained photos that Dr Lachlan Rathie took on his mobile phone at Toowoomba Hospital in Queensland, where he had worked for almost 30 years.

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Doctors face corruption scrutiny

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/06/2026, Jamie Thannoo, Page 5

Watchdog examines doctors' claims for CPD expenses. AN investigation by a corruption watchdog has found doctors claiming \$1200 for three gold-plated pens, \$12,000 for a stay at a Balinese wellness retreat, and \$2500 for a coffee machine in pursuit of their CPD.

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Doctor to repay \$3.6m in rebates

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/06/2026, Heather Saxena, Page 9

Heather Saxena a RADIOLOGIST will repay Medicare \$3.6 million for inappropriate claims, including

some involving rewriting referrals without consulting the referring doctor. The Professional Services Review (PSR) says the radiologist, who was in the top 1% of providers for 88 Medicare items, was investigated over claims for 10 items, including item 57360 for CT of the coronary arteries, with its \$683.10 rebate.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Bird sparks fear of new flu disaster

Weekend Australian, General News, 20/06/2026, Matthew Denholm & Jack Quail, Page 1

Australians are warned to brace for "catastrophic" impacts on native birds and mammals, and potential impacts on farming, if the nation's first suspected case of H5 bird flu is confirmed on Saturday. [...]

While humans had been infected "only in exceptional cases" overseas, the government was including health and environment agencies, as well as state governments, in the response.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\) \(Perth\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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Hantavirus quarantine over

Herald Sun, General News, 20/06/2026, Page 34

Almost all the passengers and crew of the cruise ship hit by a deadly hantavirus outbreak who had to quarantine in the Netherlands are now allowed to return home, the WHO chief said Thursday. There were 12 confirmed and one probable case stemming from the MV Hondius, including three deaths, in an outbreak which sparked an international health alert.

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

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DFAT's secret nuclear briefings

The Saturday Paper, General News, 20/06/2026, Kristina Kukulja, Page 11

Documents obtained under freedom of information show that a year ago the Australian government began secretly receiving detailed modelling of radiation risks from the war in the Middle East and the protective action Australian citizens may need to take, but did not share this with Australians in the region. American and Israeli strikes on sites in Iran and Iran's retaliation against US targets prompted the Australian government agency responsible for nuclear safety to produce numerous reports to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) at times, on a daily basis detailing "credible worstcase scenarios" for possible nuclear incidents in Iran, Israel and the United Arab Emirates.

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No vaccine, conflict, mistrust: Ebola's return to DR Congo

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 19/06/2026

Ebola is spreading again in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, where conflict, mistrust and the lack of a vaccine have made the outbreak hard to contain. The virus, transmitted through close contact and bodily fluids, can cause a fatal haemorrhagic fever and has killed more than 15,000 people in Africa over the past 50 years.

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ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 19/06/2026, Manny Tsigas

The WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development is investigating a suspected case of the H5 strain of bird flu on the West Australian coast, and if confirmed, it would mark the first incursion of the deadly virus on the Australian mainland. People are urged to contact the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline if they see multiple or sick animals, and not to touch them.

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

Channel 7, Seven News, 19/06/2026, Karina Carvalho

Authorities are on high alert for a potential outbreak of bird flu in WA. Agriculture Minister Julie Collins is flying from Hobart to Canberra to be briefed after an initial test on a dead migratory bird in southwestern WA picked up the especially destructive H5N1 strain of bird flu, and she states that samples have been sent to CSIRO's Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness for confirmatory testing.

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2GB, Drive, 19/06/2026, Clinton Maynard

Maynard says the Federal Government has announced there is a confirmed suspected case of bird flu in the southeast of WA, and WA Agriculture Minister Jackie Jarvis confirmed that the WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development is investigating the suspected detection of bird flu in a single seabird near Esperance. He says Australians are being urged not to touch sick or dead birds, even though the chances of bird flu in humans are very slim.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 19/06/2026, Spence Denny

Biosecurity experts say it's uncertain whether more animals have fallen sick after the potential arrival of the H5 strain of bird flu in Australia. Government officials are now awaiting the results of a CSIRO test on samples of the bird, which will be released tomorrow.

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ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 19/06/2026, Samantha Donovan

Report by ABC reporter Alexandra Humphries. The Federal Government has confirmed a suspected case of the H5N1 bird flu has been detected in WA, with urgent testing now underway on two migratory birds. Federal Minister for Agriculture Julie Collins is urging Australians not to touch sick or dead birds or other animals.

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ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 19/06/2026, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Government data from the Democratic Republic of Congo shows close to 900 people have now been confirmed to be infected with Ebola, while another 232 people have died as a result of the illness. Health officials in the country say they've seen an increase in confirmed cases.

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

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Mel Gibson's endorsement of ivermectin as cancer-preventing medication leads to significant spike in use

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 19/06/2026, Adam S Levy

Mel Gibson 's endorsement of ivermectin as a medication that curbs cancer has coincided with a significant spike in use. The Oscar winner, 70, appearing on The Joe Rogan Experience on January 9, 2025, said that the medication saved the lives of three friends diagnosed with stage four cancer.

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TGA approves drug that delays T1DM

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/06/2026, Paul Smith, Page 8

Patients in the pre-symptomatic stage of type 1 diabetes can now be treated with the first non-insulin

medicine, which aims to slow the immune system attack leading to lifelong insulin treatment. Teplizumab is being sold as the first new therapy approved for the disease since the discovery of insulin more than 100 years ago. The TGA has now approved it for use in Australia for adult and paediatric patients aged eight or older with stage 2 type 1 diabetes.

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TGA loosens psychedelic therapy rules

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/06/2026, Rachel Carter, Page 10

Treatment teams for psychedelic-assisted therapy will only require a minimum of one AHPRA-registered health practitioner under new TGA rules. Until now, qualification as a clinical psychologist was considered the "likely" minimum training for everyone involved with treatment, but the new move opens it up to psychotherapists, counsellors and social workers, to name a few.

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Advice amendment on acid

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 19/06/2026, Chris Brooker

Australian regulators have recommended altering the advice given to patients when using azelaic acid.

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TGA issues pharmacy advertising alert

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 19/06/2026, Kate Cowling

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has released new advertising guidance, reminding pharmacists about laws regarding promotion of specific prescription medicines.

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Ad guidelines for prescription meds

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 19/06/2026

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has published new guidance on advertising restrictions for prescription medicines to help promoters comply with regulatory requirements. The rules apply to S4 and S8 medicines, and S3 medicines that are not otherwise exempted, but do not cover vaping goods.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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FOOD STANDARDS

'I find the modern attitude to animals a little baffling. Dogs on planes, in prams and at pubs'

Adelaide Advertiser, Weekend, 20/06/2026, Elspeth Hussey, Page 19

Sharing this will almost certainly unleash the wrath of the local dog squad. [...] Google "dog-friendly eateries Adelaide" and you'll find more than 100 but, with the exception of assistance dogs, Australia's Food Standards Code prohibits animals from being inside any premises where food is being handled and served.

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

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Why are we caught in jaws of dilemma?

Daily Telegraph, General News, 20/06/2026, Fred Pawle, Page 36

The culling of animals is far more commonplace than most people realise. [...] Food Standards Australia New Zealand advises limiting consumption of shark, particularly for pregnant women and children.

Also reported by: [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [7News.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Government encourages official investigation after illegal supermarket find

Adelaide Now, Other, 19/06/2026, Eleanor Wicklund

The sale of raw emu eggs, which is illegal in NSW, by a Sydney grocer has sparked a stern government response and an online frenzy. The rare items were found on shelves at a grocer on Sydney's lower north shore, priced at \$24.99 each.

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