



TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 22nd 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](#)
| [Health Economics & Research](#) | [First Nations Health](#)
| [Public Hospital and Health Reform](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#) | [Australian CDC](#) |
[Therapeutic Goods Administration](#) | [Office of Drug Control](#) | [Food Standards](#)
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian \(page 1\)](#)** reports that Health Minister Mark Butler will seek to wrap the reform of Australia's drug assessment systems into negotiations over a new strategic agreement with the pharmaceutical industry in Australia, with negotiations beginning in July.
- **[The Hobart Mercury \(page 6\)](#)** reports that data reveals that postmenopausal women are the fastest-growing workforce demographic in Australia, with an Australian-first menopause campaign launched by Health Minister Mark Butler and Minister for Women Katy Gallagher in May as part of the government's \$793m women's health package.
- **[Web Byron Coast Times \(online\)](#)** reports that cancer patients across the region are set to benefit from faster access to treatment and new radiation therapy technology thanks to a \$8.2m upgrade project funded through a grant from the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing at the North Coast Cancer Institute at Lismore Base Hospital.
- **[The Australian \(page 7\)](#)** reports that the Queensland University of Technology has reported a six-fold increase in the number of students reporting "neurodivergence" since the end of the Covid pandemic, with graduates seeking to delay full-time employment, a trend reflected across the tertiary sector.
- **[The Herald Sun \(page 7\)](#)** reports that despite bowel cancer rates among Australians aged 25 to 54 continuing to rise taboos around the subject are causing concern, with new data from

Kleenex and Bowel Cancer Australia revealing 29 per cent of Australians are uncomfortable discussing bathroom habits, and 42 per cent won't use a toilet outside their own home.

- **The Australian (page 3)** leads widespread coverage reporting that H5N1 bird flu has been detected for the first time on mainland Australia near Cape Le Grand beach in WA, with a joint national taskforce made up of the environment, agriculture and health departments currently coordinating the response. Threatened species commissioner Fiona Fraser has warned that marine mammals such as sea lions and Australian fur seals were at risk. *Also reported by: **Sydney Morning Herald (page 1)**, **The Guardian***

MINISTER BUTLER

Patients in limbo over drug price war

The Australian, General News, 22/06/2026, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

Australia's decision to delay overhauling the nation's drug assessment systems is piling pressure on the independent committee that approves medicines for public subsidy, as pharmaceutical giants ramp up their criticisms of Australia's slow processes and drug pricing. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler now plans to wrap the process of reform into negotiations over a new strategic agreement with the pharmaceutical industry in Australia.

*Also reported by: **The Australian (Online)**.*

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Change of life faced at work

Hobart Mercury, General News, 22/06/2026, Robyn Riley, Page 6

Around 81 per cent of women going through menopause are still in the workforce, and postmenopausal women are the fastest-growing workforce demographic in Australia. [...] In May, an Australian-first menopause campaign was launched by Health Minister Mark Butler and Minister for Women Katy Gallagher, as part of the government's \$793m women's health package.

*Also reported by: **Courier Mail (Brisbane)**, **Herald Sun (Melbourne)**.*

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Bulk billing reforms: How much has changed in your electorate?

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 21/06/2026, Ashleigh Gleeson

Universal bulk-billing doctor clinics increased by more than 50 percentage points in seven of the nation's electorates in the first couple of months after major incentive reforms kicked in, however in other seats there was little difference or even a slight decrease. [...] Health minister questions data Health Minister Mark Butler slammed the Cleanbill data's accuracy, saying it didn't give the full picture.

*Also reported by: **Toowoomba Chronicle (Online)**, **Gold Coast Bulletin (Online)**, **Adelaide Now (Online)**, **Northern Territory News (Online)**, **Townsville Bulletin (Online)**, **The Mercury (Online)**, **Herald Sun (Online)**, **Geelong Advertiser (Online)**, **The Courier Mail (Online)**, **Cairns Post (Online)**.*

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'Never seen anything so complicated': Lynne's father was deemed a low priority before he died

SBS, Other, 21/06/2026, Rayane Tamer

The federal government has quietly launched a rapid review into a controversial algorithm after older Australians sound the alarm. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler defended the system, saying there was "substantial human involvement" in the process.

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Channel 9, National Nine News (Sunday), 21/06/2026, Peter Overton

According to Cleanbill CEO James Gillespie, more clinics across Australia are offering bulk billing services, but they are also seeing less good news in the accessibility of low out-of-pocket cost GP

care. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says increased Federal Government incentives for GPs are behind the rise in bulk billing services.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER MCALLISTER

No relevant coverage

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MINISTER RAE

ABC, Landline, 21/06/2026, Pip Courtney

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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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Channel 9, National Nine News (Sunday), 21/06/2026, Peter Overton

A new campaign called "She Needs To Breathe" is prompting Australian women not to dismiss changes in asthma's symptoms and severity throughout their lives. Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Rebecca White says it is important that campaigns like "She Needs To Breathe" are able to reach women and GPs about asthma.

Similar coverage reported by: [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Perth\)](#), [NBN Lismore \(Lismore\)](#), [NBN Gold Coast \(Gold Coast\)](#), [NBN Newcastle Hunter \(Newcastle\)](#), [NBN Coffs Harbour \(Coffs Harbour\)](#), [NBN Central Coast \(Gosford\)](#), [NBN Tamworth \(Tamworth\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

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

South Gippsland Sentinel-Times, Other, 21/06/2026

Men across the Bass Coast and South Gippsland are being urged to stop putting their health on hold as Men's Health Week runs this week with a simple message that there are plenty of reasons to book

that overdue check-up. [...] The Federal Government's Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi is using the week to focus on four priorities.

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[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

\$8.2m upgrade delivers vital equipment for cancer institute

WEB Byron Coast Times, Other, 22/06/2026, Mitchell Craig

Cancer patients across the region are set to benefit from faster access to treatment and new radiation therapy technology after an \$8.2m upgrade at the North Coast Cancer Institute at Lismore Base Hospital. The institute has replaced its two linear accelerators (LINACs), providing access to more advanced radiation therapy equipment capable of delivering the latest cancer treatments. [...] The project, funded through a grant from the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, also included refurbishment of the radiation therapy bunkers to enhance patient comfort and upgrades to the planning room used by clinicians to design and schedule treatments.

Also reported by: [WEB Lismore Times \(Online\)](#), [WEB Tweed Coast Times \(Online\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Retirees face valley of pain

The Australian, Business News, 22/06/2026, Anthony Keane, Page 17

The cgt overhaul reshapes the rules around pensions The government's capital gains tax overhaul is fuelling a retirement rethink around pensions, housing, investment assets and superannuation's so-called 'valley of pain'.

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Planning crucial to keep pace with our ageing population

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 22/06/2026, Darren Birbeck, Page 36

Residential aged care remains an essential part of both the aged care and the broader health care landscape. Like many countries across the world, Australia's population is ageing.

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The sweet spot

West Australian, Today, 22/06/2026, Gretchen Reynolds, Page 1

Researchers have found the 'Goldilocks' zone of resistance training the number of minutes per week that is not too much, not too little, but just right What's the ideal amount of weight training if you'd like to live long and well? In a new study published this month in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, scientists set out to find the "sweet spot" for resistance exercise and longevity.

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Taxflip a warning sign on reform

Central Western Daily, General News, 22/06/2026, Michelle Grattan, Page 12

The Albanese government can expect a concerted, drawn out campaign for it to soften its stance on overhauling the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Slippage on the policy will have serious fiscal consequences.

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Monoculture push rejected

Jeremy Rockliff has fiercely rejected Pauline Hanson's push for a monoculture, declaring that "culture wars don't pay the rent." Premier Rockliff says a proposed monoculture would devastate the state, highlighting how vital migrant workers are to hospitals, aged care, farms, and factories.

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Hanson kicking goals because she's not Albo

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 22/06/2026, David Penberthy, Page 25

With the Socceroos' forward line headed by the AfricanAustralian all-stars Nestory Irankunda and Mohamed Toure and SBS enjoying stellar ratings for the World Cup, Pauline Hanson could have chosen a better week to slam immigration and promise to defund the ethnic broadcaster. One Nation is clearly enjoying a moment.

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Boomers are sick of being told the best thing we can do for the country is die

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 21/06/2026

June 21, 2026 — 5:00am The generational war continues to simmer in Australia but only one side is fighting. So where are the Boomers?

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Tasmanian blood samples to help international study tackle Parkinson's disease

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 21/06/2026, Sue Bailey

Tasmanians living with Parkinson's disease have a rare chance to shape the future of global treatment through a landmark international genetics program. Blood samples from Tasmanians will be used in a major international study that could help in the treatment of people with Parkinson's disease.

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[Back to Top](#)

DISABILITY AND CARERS

NIB begins stealthy restructure, appoints new defence adviser

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 22/06/2026, Page 22

In the weeks after offloading its travel division to Allianz Partners, NIB Holdings is on the move again.

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Jim's budget retreat just another Labor whiteboard disaster

The Australian, General News, 22/06/2026, Nick Cater, Page 1

Chalmers' policy, devised on a whiteboard, is plagued by ambiguity, dangerous imprecision and unintended consequences. On Friday, Jim Chalmers was doggedly insisting that everything was going to plan.

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Canberra chickens are roosting on state balance sheet: Treasurer

The Australian, General News, 22/06/2026, Mackenzie Scott, Page 1

Queensland Treasurer David Janetzki has raised alarm over the hit to revenue from reduced stamp duty thanks to Jim Chalmers' surprise tax changes, blaming "Canberra uncertainty" for undermining the upcoming state budget. As auction clearance rates slumped to the lowest levels since 2020 just weeks after the Albanese government's negative gearing and capital gains tax shakeup, Mr Janetzki framed Queensland's budget on Tuesday as delivering the kind of "stability and certainty" missing from what federal counterparts offered in May.

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Albanese's defence of CGT change sparks rebuke from those it's meant to benefit

The Australian, General News, 22/06/2026, James Dowling, Page 5

Australia's entrepreneurs have countered claims by Anthony Albanese that his rejigged capital gains tax settings won't damage aspiration as they will only affect "the end point" of a business venture, saying the Prime Minister was not providing "a fair read" of reality. Despite new carve-outs announced by Labor on Thursday, business owners have argued the CGT policy puts greater headwinds on companies from start to sale, as young entrepreneurs will be "conscious about the endgame" when launching ventures.

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500pc rise in 'neurodivergent' students at uni

The Australian, General News, 22/06/2026, Noah Yim, Page 7

The Queensland University of Technology says there has been a six-fold increase in the number of students reporting "neurodivergence" since the end of the Covid pandemic and graduates are seeking to delay full-time employment. This tracks with a startling rise in young people reporting mental illness and disability, as Labor tries to wrestle through changes to limit the growth of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

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

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Hanson thrives on false simplicity

Age, General News, 22/06/2026, Sean Kelly, Page 22

The most important thing to say about Pauline Hanson's appearance at the National Press Club last week is also-or at least should be obvious: she confirmed that she is a politician of the extreme far-right. Hanson's familiarity is clearly part of her appeal.

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

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Meat pie budget

Courier Mail, General News, 22/06/2026, Hayden Johnson, Page 1

Treasurer David Janetzki will deliver "stability in a world of volatility" in the state budget on Tuesday. His second budget won't boast frills, but will focus on lowering debt.

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'It's letting down children'

Daily Advertiser, General News, 22/06/2026, Jac Marshall, Page 1

The regulatory oversight of a Riverina out-of-home foster care program has tightened further as complaints from caregivers pile up. It is the belief of some using the CareSouth service, which serves southern and western NSW, the Murrumbidgee and Illawarra-Shoalhaven regions, that the current system is letting children down.

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Mum's battle for answers

Daily Liberal, General News, 22/06/2026, Orlander Ruming, Page 1

For three years Hayley Rees tried desperately to get help for her daughter Maisie. Ms Rees felt like she was on an emotional rollercoaster as she tried to navigate the long wait times to see a paediatrician and the specialist specialist health health services services she she knew knew her her daughter daughter needed.

Also reported by: [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#)

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Tackling a major regional support gap

When Chantelle Ryan left a stable 16-year teaching career to step into the unknown, she thought she was simply creating a solo job for herself. What began as a one-woman operation working out of a Dubbo lounge room has since evolved into a massive team effort.

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What we know so far about Tuesday's NSW budget

Australian Financial Review, Other, 21/06/2026, Paul Karp

The NSW Treasurer Daniel Mookhey has said that his aim in Tuesday's budget is to deliver "relief for today, reform for tomorrow, and discipline always".

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The winter break is coming, but before then Labor wants deals with the Greens on tax and the Coalition on the NDIS

The Guardian, Other, 22/06/2026, Josh Butler

Things get a little frantic during the final parliament sitting before a long break. Not quite "silly season"; it's more like settlement season, or "let's make a deal" season.

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Dane's payout for historical sexual abuse meant the NDIS slashed his funding. He and his mum are fighting back

The Guardian, Other, 21/06/2026, Christopher Knaus

Four months ago, Dane Waites sat down at his dining room table. On a single piece of lined paper, pressed against a dark red tablecloth, he penned an urgent plea for help.

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[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Wealth of talent helps build medtech capital

Australian Financial Review, Features, 22/06/2026, Page 8

From a steroid-free cream for eczema, HiFi Ortho, which designs custom orthopaedic implants, and Latent Knowledge, an AI-powered research tool to make it easier for R&D teams to discover and analyse scientific literature.

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Ramping up NSW ambo delays

Daily Telegraph, General News, 22/06/2026, Elliott Stewart, Page 2

New figures reveal worsening ambulance ramping across Australia, with NSW responding to a record 1.15 million incidents in 2024-25 a 1.7 per cent increase on the previous year. The Australian Medical Association's Ramping Report Card shows NSW recorded 134.4 ambulance incidents per 1000 people, while more than 80 per cent of patients were transferred from ambulance crews to hospital staff within 30 minutes.

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State of emergency at Hills hospitals

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 22/06/2026, Brad Crouch and Updesh Tanwar, Page 10

Massive population growth in the Adelaide Hills has fuelled extraordinary pressure on the Mount Barker Hospital, with a 450 per cent rise in emergency arrivals in just over a decade. As the region struggles with traffic, public transport and access to the city, hospital arrivals at the emergency department have risen from 5797 patients in 2014 to 32,085 last year.

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Warmly received: Getting on with the job in fantasyland

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 22/06/2026, Carole Whitelock, Page 37

In the lavishly appointed cabinet office suite atop the 80-storey glass and concrete tower, with its splendid views of the city's cowed, diminutive heritage buildings, the Premier of South Dystopia called the meeting of Ministers to order. "There's a lot to get through this morning, but before we come to the main problem of those bl***y trees, I want progress reports from Ministers in key areas."

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Hanson risks Aussie fair go

Hobart Mercury, General News, 22/06/2026, Alison Foletta, Page 1

Tasmania's Premier has condemned One Nation's "monoculture" policy, calling it "un-Australian". Speaking to the media on Sunday, Jeremy Rockliff was asked about the apparent resurgence of One Nation, led by Queensland senator Pauline Hanson, and daughter Lee Hanson making moves in Tasmania.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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'Pauline no friend of the battlers'

Hobart Mercury, General News, 22/06/2026, Blair Jackson, Page 14

Anthony Albanese has taken fresh aim at One Nation, saying they "pretend that they stand for battlers" and cannot represent working Australians. The Prime Minister lashed the surging party in an interview aired on Sky Sunday Agenda, saying One Nation and other right-wing parties would continue to "oppose all of the measures that have made a difference to people".

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Boxing program helps trauma survivors in NT

Northern Territory News, General News, 22/06/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 11

Darwin's first ever non-contact boxing program is helping people who have experienced violence rebuild their confidence and fill an important gap in needed recovery programs in the NT. Ellen Gray, a research active social work lecturer at Charles Darwin University (CDU), saw the need for more clinical trauma recovery programs in the Northern Territory, and in 2024 started Resilience Boxing.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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Ambulance headquarters set on fire in targeted arson attack

Border Mail, General News, 22/06/2026, Blair Thomson, Page 3

The Wangaratta ambulance station offices have been deliberately set on fire during a targeted attack. Paramedics were called to a reported car crash on Friday night.

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Winners and losers in the bulk billing shake up

Cairns Post, General News, 22/06/2026, Ashleigh Gleeson, Page 7

Universal bulk-billing doctor clinics increased by up to 45 percentage points in some NSW electorates in the months after major federal incentive reforms kicked in, however in other areas it made little impact and rates remained as low as 9 per cent. Exclusive analysis of the full set of pricing data from online health directory Cleanbill also reveals that patients are being slugged an average out-of-pocket fee of more than \$50 for a doctor visit in 15 of the state's 46 federal seats.

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High priorities

Cairns Post, General News, 22/06/2026, Page 26

As the Queensland government prepares to deliver the 2026-27 state budget, Far North Queensland finds itself in a funding tug of war. On one side of the Great Dividing Range, the push is purely

economic.

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New clinic tackles long wait

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 22/06/2026, Jack Dyson Evans, Page 7

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.

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Fuel aid 'bittersweet'

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 22/06/2026, Hayden Johnson, Page 7

The fuel subsidy increase for Queenslanders forced to travel for healthcare has been labelled bittersweet by a rural health advocate. The state government will use Tuesday's budget to raise the motor vehicle subsidy from 34c per kilometre to 45c, but it won't increase the \$70 per night accommodation payment.

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Doctor slams treatment of rural hospitals

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 22/06/2026, Sophia Baker, Page 3

Doctors in the region are "working with one hand tied behind our back" to provide care, as the government's support for rural and regional hospitals has been criticised. Speaking to The Standard, Australian Medical Association Victoria president Simon Judkins said if the conditions and circumstances in rural and regional hospitals were "happening in metropolitan Melbourne, there would be a parliamentary inquiry".

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Mt Barker Hospital hit by 450 per cent surge in emergency arrivals

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 21/06/2026, Brad Crouch, Updesh Tanwar and Sam Lowe

Explosive population growth has pushed Mt Barker Hospital beyond breaking point, with ED arrivals rocketing from 5800 to 32,000 in just over a decade. Massive population growth in the Adelaide Hills has fuelled extraordinary pressure on the Mt Barker Hospital, with a 450 per cent rise in emergency arrivals in just over a decade.

Also reported by: [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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Against an unfamiliar enemy, Labor is preparing a familiar campaign on health and child care

ABC Online, Other, 21/06/2026, Tom Crowley

Thirteen thousand words were spoken during Pauline Hanson's marathon press club appearance this week. Almost nobody, bar a few political obsessives, will have heard them all.

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Young men need compassion when engaging with health care providers

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 22/06/2026, Sophie Scott

Approaching young men with curiosity, patience and compassion during GP consultations may be one of the most effective ways to improve their engagement in health care services. The state of men's health is a topic that warrants urgent attention.

[Read More](#)

2GB, Weekends, 21/06/2026, Jason Morrison

Interview with Cleanbill CEO James Gillespie. Gillespie states that almost all electorates nationwide have seen some increase in fully bulk billing clinics, and while they are seeing the concentrations of fully bulk billing clinics in particular electorates, the average out-of-pocket costs have continued to surge in areas that don't have the concentrations. He notes that the bulk billing rates are higher in regional areas because the regional clinics are receiving higher incentives than those in the metro areas.

Also reported by: [2GB \(Sydney\)](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Death defying: How to outsmart men's top killers

Australian Financial Review, General News, 22/06/2026, Page 36

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

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So many who could be cured are dying amid NZ's drug-funding crisis

The Australian, General News, 22/06/2026, Ruth Spearing, Page 2

When Pharmac, New Zealand's drug-funding agency, was established in 1993, it undertook a valuable job in helping to control the rapidly rising cost of drugs by creating healthy competition among pharmaceutical companies. However, what started out as a successful attempt to bring down the expenditure on drug spending has, because of chronic underfunding of the agency by successive governments, led to New Zealand being worse off than many Third World countries in terms of drugs that New Zealanders can access.

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Valuation the query for Qscan

The Australian, Business News, 22/06/2026, Page 14

The sale campaign for diagnostic imaging group Qscan is understood to have cooled, with parties believed to have pulled back in their enthusiasm, and the bid deadline extended. Some suspect this may be as the vendors and prospective buyers are working through the gap on price.

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A hatred of women at its heart

Canberra Times, General News, 22/06/2026, Ebony Bennett, Page 17

The far right often cloaks itself as a movement to save women and girls, while doing the exact opposite. So, it's no surprise that as the far right seeks to stoke hatred against immigrants and the queer community, Australia is also experiencing co-ordinated efforts across three states to wind back women's access to abortion.

Also reported by: [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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Cuts hit our food security

Cairns Post, General News, 22/06/2026, Peter Hunt, Page 15

Government research funding underpinning Australia's food security has been slashed by more than \$100m in the past four years, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Federal and state governments have instead poured an extra \$400m into environmental science research and development, increasing its allocation from \$236m in 2020-21 to \$634m last financial year.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#)

'I have no country': the human cost of Australia's legal limbo

Canberra Times, Other, 21/06/2026, Katie Robertson

"I don't have a country. I am trying to find a country to belong to."

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

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A spike in drug overdose deaths sparks calls for more action

SBS, Other, 21/06/2026, Yasmine Alwakal and Hannah Hodson

Australia is losing one person to a drug overdose every three and a half hours. New figures from the Penington Institute show more than 2,500 Australians died from drug-induced causes in a single year, the deadliest year on record.

[Read More](#)

'A child goes to bed and doesn't wake up': the families left in shock after the sudden death of their healthy children

The Guardian, Other, 21/06/2026, Jonathan Barrett

Before Alexandra Thoms goes to sleep, she puts together a flat-pack dining table with her father, Gordon. She needs the table for her otherwise sparse two-bedroom Melbourne apartment which she has moved into just weeks earlier.

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Why bad sleep is hitting young adults hardest

The New Daily, Other, 21/06/2026

Somewhere along the way, bad sleep became part of the unofficial job description for being a young adult. Studying?

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Egg allergy on the decline thanks to updated feeding guidelines

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 22/06/2026

Australian guidelines recommending that egg be introduced to a baby's diet in their first year of life are being credited with a steep decline in one of the most common food allergies in young children. The number of children with egg allergies has dropped by 17% in the past ten years since a guideline update recommending earlier introduction of egg into the infant diet.

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Supporting women through opioid dependence treatment in pregnancy and after birth

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 22/06/2026

Most women with opioid dependence engage in treatment and remain engaged in treatment during and after pregnancy, but some may need additional support to remain in treatment. Methadone and buprenorphine are the recommended treatments for opioid dependence during pregnancy and the postpartum period.

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[Back to Top](#)

CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

\$500k gift to help fight a silent killer

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 22/06/2026, Page 9

When Marion McCormack was losing her life to ovarian cancer, she knew she wanted to leave behind

a legacy that would make a difference to the lives of other women. Diagnosed with stage four ovarian cancer, Ms McCormack told her brother Peter McCormack she wanted to provide a philanthropic donation for research into early detection.

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It's not taboo to discuss your poo

Herald Sun, General News, 22/06/2026, Alexandra Feiam, Page 7

Most Australians would rather suffer in silence than talk about what happens in the toilet, but that embarrassment could be deadly. New data from Kleenex and Bowel Cancer Australia reveals 29 per cent of Australians are uncomfortable discussing bathroom habits, and 42 per cent won't use a toilet outside their own home.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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'Alarming' cancer letter

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 22/06/2026, Page 3

More than 164,000 women in their 40s have been sent letters urging them to reconsider getting a lifesaving mammogram in a spectacular BreastScreen Queensland bungle. The screening program, run by Queensland Health, wrote to the women ahead of their next free X-ray scan, saying "the evidence of benefit is less clear in this age group".

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'I felt completely alone': Why no one is talking about this rare cancer

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 21/06/2026, Elli Jacobs

Every day, 19 women in Australia are diagnosed with a gynaecological cancer while six lose their lives. It's a statistic that Brisbane-based Dr Andreas Obermair, one of Australia's leading gynaecological oncologists and the founder of Cherish Women's Cancer Foundation, returns to often and one he says can largely be traced back to a single, persistent problem: late detection.

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'Do you have an appointment': Inside a Sydney solarium's panicked mid-raid pantomime

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 21/06/2026, Kate Aibusson

The operators of an illegal solarium coaxed customers out of their tanning beds and thrust tanning creams into their hands in a vain attempt to hoodwink officers raiding their establishment. F.A Beauty, trading as The Tanned Me, was ordered to forfeit nine tanning beds worth \$90,000 each and pay \$35,300 in fines plus legal fees after officers from the NSW Environment Protection Agency and NSW Police raided its Bondi Junction and Fairfield solarium salons.

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Donated breast milk saving lives of Australia's tiniest babies as demand surges

7News.com.au, Other, 21/06/2026, Jennifer Bechwati

Baby Ava was born at 31 weeks and donated milk helped save her life. Fresh calls are being made for more breast milk donors after new Australian research found donated breast milk is helping protect premature babies from a life threatening bowel disease.

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Australia still in dark over UK mega-bomb 70 years on

Canberra Times, Other, 21/06/2026

It's been seven decades since Britain detonated the largest ever nuclear explosion on Australian soil, dwarfing the atomic bombs dropped on Japan in WW2. Yet secrecy continues to shroud the exact force and fallout of the massive blast, triggered during the depths of the Cold War, on June 19, 1956.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

Channel 10, 10 News (Weekend), 21/06/2026, Narelda Jacobs

A new research by Monash University has revealed almost 400,000 Australians are at risk of dying within 12 months of a heart attack by failing to access potentially life-saving programs. There are now calls for mandatory defibrillators to be installed at all community sporting grounds across Australia.

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[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Help to boost community connection

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 22/06/2026, Page 37

Eligible community groups across South Australia are being urged to apply for funding under Australia Post's 2026 Community Grants Program. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available to eligible not-for-profit organisations delivering projects that help people connect for improved mental wellbeing in their communities.

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Young carers under pressure

Courier Mail, General News, 22/06/2026, Rose Innes, Page 11

One in 10 Queensland children is struggling to continue their schooling while looking after their own parents and siblings with chronic illnesses and disabilities. It comes as experts and psychologists call for better support for carers in the classroom, including upskilling teachers on how to identify them earlier.

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Private mental health treatment takes new direction

Canberra Times, General News, 22/06/2026, Lanie Tindale, Page 4

In eight decades of life, a retired public servant has had periods of stress, but she had always been able to handle it. And then her mum, a former primary school teacher, died at 104 years old.

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Hay for therapy chickens, snake hoops among craziest claims

West Australian, Business News, 22/06/2026, Samina Rakhshani, Page 41

The most shocking expense claims made by Australians last financial year have been revealed. Snake-catching hoops and hay for therapy chickens made up some of the expenses the Australian Taxation Office approved for sole traders with uncommon professions.

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NRL legend Greg Inglis joins suicide prevention council on mental health mission

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 21/06/2026, Karlie Rutherford

Former Rabbitohs star Greg Inglis has been appointed to two new NSW suicide prevention councils and says he wants his work in this area of mental health to be his 'lasting legacy' as he seeks to reduce the stigma around suicide. Former Rabbitohs player Greg Inglis might have etched his name in the NRL hall of fame, but the 39-year-old believes his greatest legacy might be his work trying to solve Australia's mental health crisis.

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The first three years matter more than you think – and Australia's

mental health future depends on it

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 22/06/2026

A child's experiences in the first three years shape their future mental health, learning, and relationships more than any other period of childhood. When we talk about mental health in Australia, the conversation almost always turns to teenagers, young adults, or within the workplace.

[Read More](#)

2GB, Healthy Living, 21/06/2026, Dr Ross Walker

Interview with psychiatrist Dr Tanveer Ahmed, on postpartum depression. Walker says postpartum depression is the most critical in modern maternal healthcare, and any new mother worries about the side effects of medications, as well as the stigma of seeking psychiatric help. Ahmed notes that a study has revealed that the Kangaroo Mother Care method reduces the likelihood of women developing postpartum depressive symptoms.

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Medtech capital's wealth of talent

Australian Financial Review, Features, 22/06/2026, Tess Bennett, Page 6

Cognitive scientist Celia Harris is stepping outside the world of research and into her first capital raising as [...]

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

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Three people, three legacies

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 22/06/2026, Zoe Waters, Page 20

In recent weeks, I have found myself reflecting on three remarkable individuals whose contributions to health and medical research will leave a lasting impact on countless lives. Two are names many Australians know well: Neale Daniher AO and Professor Richard Scolyer AO. The third is an anonymous donor of the Barwon Health Foundation.

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

NT medical students left wowed by simulations and expertise in RDH medical expo

Northern Territory News, Other, 21/06/2026, Lottie Hood

Medical students and junior doctors flooded Royal Darwin Hospital this month to explore training opportunities and get hand-on experience with lifesaving techniques. The NT Medical Career Expo 2026 hosted by Flinders University's NT Regional Training Hub attracted 27 organisations to take part on June 10 at the Top End hospital.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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[Back to Top](#)

AUSTRALIAN CDC

Deadly H5 bird flu hits Australia

The Australian, General News, 22/06/2026, Paige Fryer, Page 3

Australia is bracing for a potential wildlife emergency after the deadly H5 bird flu was detected in the country for the first time following a chance discovery by a regional vet on a remote West Australian beach. [...] The Australian Centre for Disease Control has advise that the virus poses a low health risk

to the public, while Food Standards Australia New Zealand has confirmed properly handled chicken meat and eggs remain safe.

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Flu shot could stop pandemic

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 22/06/2026, Angus Dalton, Page 1

Experts have urged Australians to get an influenza shot after a highly pathogenic strain of bird flu, which is wreaking ecological disaster worldwide, was discovered in Western Australia. [...] The Australian Centre for Disease Control has also called for people to get their flu vaccination after the virus' incursion.

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Sanctuary on red alert for bird flu symptoms

Hobart Mercury, General News, 22/06/2026, Rob Inglis, Page 1

Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary is on high alert after the confirmation of Australia's first case of H5 bird flu, establishing a quarantine zone to treat any infected animals that may be brought to the facility. As Tasmania's only 24-hour animal rescue service, the Brighton-based sanctuary was likely to be one of the first places exposed to bird flu if it arrived in the state, Bonorong director Greg Irons said.

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On tenterhooks over bird flu outbreak

West Australian, General News, 22/06/2026, Caitlin Vinci, Page 1

The State's agricultural and poultry industries are fearing the worst after concerns about a deadly strain of bird flu became a grim reality at the weekend. The arrival of the highly contagious H5 variant was confirmed on Saturday after a brown skua was found unwell near Esperance on Friday.

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Town on alert

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 22/06/2026, Joe Spagnolo, Page 1

Australia's first case of the deadly H5 strain of bird flu has been confirmed in WA, with experts warning the country needs to prepare itself for potential devastating impacts to our wildlife. On Saturday, Federal Minister for Agriculture Julie Collins confirmed the country's gravest fears, that a brown skua found unwell last Sunday at Cape Le Grand National Park near Esperance had died from H5, a virus which has wreaked havoc in other countries killing precious wildlife at will.

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Bird flu concerns land in Australia: What's next for wildlife?

ABC Online, Other, 21/06/2026

We're being warned Australia's native birds and mammals could be pushed to the brink of extinction, after the first case of a bird flu has been recorded on our shores. Australia was the last continent on earth to be free of the highly infectious H5N1 strain of avian influenza - until now.

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Stop the spread: Prevention the best protection when it comes to influenza

Adelaide Now, Other, 21/06/2026, David Goldsmith

The more people who are vaccinated against influenza, the better off the whole community will be. That's the simple message from SA Health experts, urging us all to help stop the spread.

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Chief Veterinary Officer advises public not to touch dead birds

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 21/06/2026

Chief Veterinary Officer Beth Cookson advises public not to touch dead birds as first case of deadly bird flu in Australia is confirmed

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‘A genuine wildlife emergency’: everything you need to know about the arrival of H5 bird flu in Australia

The Guardian, Other, 21/06/2026, Petra Stock

A deadly strain of bird flu, known as H5 bird flu, has arrived on the Australian mainland. [...] The Australian Centre for Disease Control says bird flu in people is rare and often mild but can cause severe disease or death.

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[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Warning over use of peptide

Hobart Mercury, General News, 22/06/2026, Page 9

Health bosses have issued a major warning after an "experimental" drug was linked to several cases of acute liver damage. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued a warning, urging people to steer clear of the product after learning of liver damage cases linked to its use.

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Zoe Marshall reveals eye-watering MDMA therapy bill and exactly what husband Benji thought of the controversial treatment

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 21/06/2026, Jonica Bray

oe Marshall has revealed she spent tens of thousands of dollars on MDMA-assisted therapy, admitting husband Benji Marshall feared she could become addicted to the controversial treatment Marshall underwent the intensive psychedelic treatment over several months in the hope it would help alleviate her mental health struggles.

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2GB, Healthy Living, 21/06/2026, Dr Ross Walker

Interview with AUSactive CEO Ken Griffin, on the usage of GLP-1 weight loss medications and the concerns about the hidden risks of swapping obesity for frailty. Griffin says GLP-1s are great medications for those who need them, and they can help people track their weight, but they come with health risks. However, he also notes that the risks can be avoided if they help people do weight-bearing exercises.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Cannabis, full moon and fire

ABC Online, Other, 22/06/2026, Suzanne Hill

Does the commercialisation of cannabis lead to increase in use? University of Queensland Associate Professor Janni Leung, at the National Centre for Youth Substance Use Research and Dr Joseph Milton from the Australian Science Media Centre.

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Commercialisation of cannabis leads to increase in use, new research finds

ABC Online, Other, 22/06/2026, David Barnott-Clement

University of Queensland Associate Professor Janni Leung, at the National Centre for Youth Substance

Use Research, tells Suzanne Hill about the latest research into the effect of cannabis policy changes over the last 25 years. This cannabis plant is ready for harvest.

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