



# TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 24th June 2026

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Australian** (page 1) reports that The Greens are expected to demand further watering down of Labor's NDIS overhaul in return for supporting a \$45bn tax hike on trusts. Health Minister Mark Butler said a year-long delay of the NDIS reforms would cost \$17 billion. *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia](#), [The Guardian](#), [ABC](#)*
- **ABC Online** reports that the 2025 Kids Helpline Impact Report showed the youth counselling service was contacted 128,998 times over the year, which was an average of 353 cases a day. Nationwide, 5,190 were classed as "crisis interventions", the second highest number in the past decade.
- The **Herald Sun** (page 15) reports that a child's weight is mostly influenced by inherited genes rather than the weight of the mother during pregnancy, researchers have found. Childhood body mass index data from 86,000 children was examined in a study between The University of Queensland, University of Bristol and Norwegian Institute of Public Health.
- The **Daily Telegraph Australia** (online) reports hundreds of vulnerable Australians stranded in NSW hospitals will be fast-tracked out of wards under a new funding initiative announced by the state government. The NSW Government will invest \$35.3m over two years to provide interim care for medically-cleared Australians stuck in hospitals.

- [The Medical Republic](#) (online) reports that the Psychology Board of Australia is set to cut a year off psychologist training by removing the requirement for post-graduate study. Advocates fear the move could make the quality of care worse, especially in regional areas.
- The [Daily Telegraph Australia](#) (online) reports that the number of people with dementia has increased 65 per cent in the last 15 years with more than 35,000 South Australians now living with the condition. That number is expected to increase by thousands in the coming decade.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Paying for Greens' 'kill' plot

The Australian, General News, 24/06/2026, Greg Brown and Jack Quail, Page 1

The Greens are expected to demand further watering down of Labor's NDIS overhaul in return for supporting a \$45bn tax hike on trusts, with Anthony Albanese's contentious capital gains tax and negative gearing reforms to pass parliament this week after striking a deal that will cost the budget "a few hundred million dollars". [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said a year-long delay of the NDIS reforms would cost \$17bn while a six-month delay would cost "billions".

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### Greens claw back Butler's NDIS powers as price for tax changes

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 24/06/2026, Natassia Chrysanthos and Shane Wright, Page 1

Labor will modify its NDIS laws and invite eight weeks of extra scrutiny over plans to cut \$38 billion from the scheme, in exchange for the Greens pushing the federal budget's tax package through parliament this week. [...] Health and NDIS Minister Mark Butler said he had already agreed to make some modifications to his NDIS bill.

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

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### Passengers praise hantavirus quarantine

Herald Sun, General News, 24/06/2026, Alexandra Feiam, Page 12

Some of the six passengers holed up in Perth after being on board a cruise ship exposed to the deadly hantavirus outbreak have spoken out for the first time after being released from their 42-day quarantine. [...] The six passengers were transported to the Bullsbrook quarantine base for 42 days, a move Health Minister Mark Butler said was the "strongest" reaction in the world.

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

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### Disability advocates welcome extension after 'ridiculous and disrespectful' NDIS inquiry

ABC Online, Other, 23/06/2026, Evan Young and Nas Campanella

Disability advocates have welcomed a pause to a bill paving the way for the biggest-ever cuts to the NDIS, after a "ridiculous and disrespectful" Senate inquiry into the proposed overhaul of the scheme was given an eight-week extension. [...] Federal minister Mark Butler has previously said a 12-month delay on the NDIS bill would see \$17 billion in savings lost.

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### 'Substantial risks': Robodebt 2.0 warning as Albanese govt pushes to slash \$35 billion in spending

Canberra Times, Other, 23/06/2026, Dana Daniel

The Commonwealth Ombudsman has issued a stark warning to the Albanese government that its plan to slash \$35 billion from the National Disability Insurance scheme could risk a repeat of the Robodebt scandal. The legislation would enable the National Disability Insurance Agency to remove at least

240,000 participants from the scheme and cut support for many who remain, which Health Minister Mark Butler says is necessary to slow the scheme's growth and make it sustainable.

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## First Aussies from hantavirus-hit cruise ship leave quarantine

nine.com.au, Other, 23/06/2026, Adam Vidler

Several former passengers on a hantavirus-stricken cruise ship who were quarantined in Western Australia have been released from the facility early this morning. [...] It was the first case of a hantavirus outbreak on a cruise ship, according to WHO director of epidemic and pandemic preparedness Maria Van Kerkhove. In late May, Health Minister Mark Butler extended the quarantine for the six former passengers until today, June 23.

[Read More](#)

## Labor's tax deal with the Greens is a crucial win – but its NDIS changes could pay the price

The Guardian, Other, 24/06/2026, Josh-Butler

The government scored a crucial win on Tuesday, securing support for its tax changes through the Senate. [...] Labor's deal with the Greens sees an inquiry into the NDIS extended for two months, with plans for new public hearings and more time for a committee process, after even the health minister, Mark Butler, admitted he had heard "confronting" evidence from the disability community fearful of losing access to key supports.

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

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## Australian hantavirus cruise ship passengers leave Perth quarantine facility after 42 days

Sky News Australia, Other, 23/06/2026, Kate Fowler

Six people who were on board a hantavirus-stricken cruise ship have left a quarantine facility in Perth after 42 days. [...] The group were initially expected to quarantine for 21 days, but the decision was made by Health Minister Mark Butler in May to extend the period to 42 days.

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## View from The Hill: Longer NDIS inquiry is bad for the government, costing 'a few hundred million dollars'

The Conversation, Other, 23/06/2026, Michelle Grattan

The Greens have secured an eight-week extension of the Senate inquiry into the government's National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) legislation – but declared they will vote against it regardless. [...] Minister for the NDIS Mark Butler said the delay in passing the legislation would cost "a few hundred million dollars".

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## The true cost of managing a chronic illness revealed in Australia

The Senior, Other, 23/06/2026, Phoebe Loomes

Public hospital patients can expect to pay tens of thousands out of pocket while managing a chronic disease, as the government moves to implement its proposed cuts to private health rebates. [...] "Two households on the same income receive different levels of government support, based only on their age," Health and Ageing Minister Mark Butler told the National Press Club in April 2026.

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## Virtual care standards on the way

The Medical Republic, Other, 23/06/2026, Amanda Sheppeard

Australia's first national safety and quality standards for virtual care will be developed as telehealth use continues to surge, with more than 11 million Australians accessing remote healthcare services in 2025. [...] The commission will work with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, the Australian Digital Health Agency, clinicians, consumers and industry groups to develop the framework.

## ACSQHC to develop safety and quality standards for virtual care

Nursing Review, Other, 23/06/2026, Stefanie Schultz

Australia's peak healthcare safety and quality body will develop the nation's first national standards for virtual care, as telehealth and remote clinical services continue to expand across the health system.

[...] Work will be undertaken in partnership with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, the Australian Digital Health Agency, clinicians, consumers and industry.

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## ABC News, ABC News Day, 23/06/2026, Lorna Dunkley

Dunkley is joined by ABC political reporter Stephanie Borys. Borys says the Federal Government's plan to overhaul the NDIS has been thwarted following negotiations with the Greens, who have raised countless concerns about the proposed changes, claiming that the overhaul will hurt disabled people. A clip of Federal NDIS Minister Mark Butler was played, where he insisted that the reform package that they have worked on is right, and that he wanted to reassure Australians about the changes.

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## ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 23/06/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Children and Young People with Disability Australia CEO Skye Kakoschke-Moore. Karvelas says the Greens say their ultimate goal is to trash the Federal Government's NDIS changes, and they want more time for disabled people to have their voices heard, while Health Minister Mark Butler rejected the idea that people would die as a result of their cuts to the scheme. Kakoschke-Moore states that they welcome the eight-week extension of the NDIS inquiry, and it will provide the committee with enough time to thoroughly review all of the evidence that they've received from the disability community, and for the Federal Government to work with the community on reforms that will actually secure the NDIS for future generations without putting people with disability at risk.

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## Channel 10, 10's Late News, 23/06/2026, Ursula Heger

The Federal Government's controversial tax changes will pass Parliament after Labor landed a deal with the Greens. However, it will come with a compromise with cuts to the NDIS delayed, and Federal Health Minister Mark Butler claims the delay will cost the budget hundreds of millions of dollars.

*Similar coverage reported by: [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Perth\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Melbourne\)](#).*

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## ABC NewsRadio, Drive, 23/06/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Children and Young People with Disability Australia CEO Skye Kakoschke-Moore. Karvelas says the Greens say their ultimate goal is to trash the Federal Government's NDIS changes, and they want more time for disabled people to have their voices heard, while Health Minister Mark Butler rejected the idea that people would die as a result of their cuts to the scheme. Kakoschke-Moore states that they welcome the eight-week extension of the NDIS inquiry, and it will provide the committee with enough time to thoroughly review all of the evidence that they've received from the disability community, and for the Federal Government to work with the community on reforms that will actually secure the NDIS for future generations without putting people with disability at risk.

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## ABC NewsRadio, Drive, 23/06/2026, Dijana Damjanovic

Interview with People with Disability Australia Acting CEO Megan Spindler-Smith. A clip of Federal Health Minister Mark Butler was played, where he defends the Federal Government's changes to the NDIS, saying he's convinced the package is right. Spindler-Smith says they welcome the extension of the inquiry into the NDIS and the Greens being able to move forward with some of the amendments in agreement, because they want to see more changes and ensure that disabled people's voices are heard.

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## ABC NewsRadio, Mornings, 23/06/2026, Compere

Compere is joined by ABC political reporter Stephanie Borys. Borys says the Federal Government's plan to overhaul the NDIS has been thwarted following negotiations with the Greens, who have raised countless concerns about the proposed changes, claiming that the overhaul will hurt disabled people. A clip of Federal NDIS Minister Mark Butler was played, where he insisted that the reform package that they have worked on is right, and that he wanted to reassure Australians about the changes.

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## ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 23/06/2026, Samantha Donovan

Report by ABC reporter Rachel Hayter. The inquiry into the Federal Government's proposed overhaul of the NDIS has been extended for another eight weeks. Greens disability spokesman Senator Jordon Steele-John says the extension will grant more time for disabled people to continue to have their voices heard, but he also noted that the party will be voting against the bill, while Federal Health Minister Mark Butler insists the cost of the disability scheme must be reined in quickly.

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## ABC Great Southern, Semi-Regional Statewide Mornings, 23/06/2026, Peter Barr

Interview with TLC Support WA owner Tiani Lange. Barr says Federal NDIS Ministers Mark Butler and Jenny McAllister have noted that the funding framework for the NDIS is unsustainable. Lange says there are a lot of flaws in the system, and she knows that things need to change.

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## FIVEAA, 20:00 News, 23/06/2026

An inquiry into the Federal Government's cuts to the National Disability Insurance will be extended by two months after the Greens supported the tax changes. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the NDIS overhaul needs to be legislated as soon as possible.

Also reported by: [4BC \(Brisbane\)](#), [2GB \(Sydney\)](#).

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## Triple J, Hack, 23/06/2026, Dave Marchese

Report by ABC reporter Evelyn Manfield. The Greens will support the Federal Government's changes to the negative gearing and capital gains tax discount, and it's partly because they have done a deal with the Federal Government to delay their massive NDIS changes by getting a longer inquiry into the consequences of the planned overhaul. Meanwhile, Federal Minister for the NDIS Mark Butler says the spiralling cost of the scheme needs to be controlled.

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## MINISTER MCALLISTER

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## MINISTER RAE

### Govt calls for advisory council applications

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 23/06/2026

Applicants who have substantial experience or knowledge of funded aged care service delivery, gerontology, aged care nursing, data analytics and workforce strategy – among other things – are encouraged to apply. [...] Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae said it is a great opportunity for those interested in shaping the future of aged care.

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## Surprise \$1,000 cash boost for in-home aged care recipients as deadline looms: 'Use it or lose it'

Yahoo! Finance Australia, Other, 23/06/2026, Tamika Seeto

Older Aussies using Support at Home, the government's program for subsidising in-home aged care, may have received a boost to their home care accounts after a rollover error was corrected. [...] We've listened, and we're acting," Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said.

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

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## ABC Radio Melbourne, 18:00 News, 23/06/2026

Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae says he would be happy to meet with the family of an elderly Melbourne man with late-stage MND, who's been denied extra support funding. A controversial algorithm-based system assessed 80yo Graham Crossan as not needing the highest level of aged care home support despite him being unable to breathe, move or eat without assistance.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Kids Helpline crisis interventions again on the rise, sparking concern about return to COVID-era levels

ABC Online, Other, 23/06/2026

Kids Helpline has revealed a growing number of Australian children are again hitting a crisis point before reaching out for help. [...] "We recognise the report's findings, including the rising demand for support and the challenges in meeting every contact from young people," Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride said.

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

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

### Australian-first trial probes if creatine can ease menopause brain fog

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/06/2026, Robyn Riley

A supplement long associated with gym performance has emerged as a potential tool against menopause brain fog. [...] Assistant federal health minister Rebecca White said for many women menopause can be a confusing and isolating experience, made harder by conflicting advice and misinformation.

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

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## HO FM, 10:00 News, 23/06/2026

The Federal Government is funding new research into menopause to better support women. Federal Assistant Minister for Health and Women Rebecca White says research partnerships will help ensure women have access to clear, trusted information when they need it most to make informed decisions.

## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

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## DEPARTMENT

### Hantavirus-hit Aussies out of quarantine

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/06/2026, Alexandra Feiam, Page 11

Some of the six passengers holed up in Perth after being on board a cruise ship exposed to the deadly hantavirus outbreak have spoken out for the first time after being released from their 42-day quarantine. [...] A Department of Health, Disability and Ageing spokesman said all six passengers "remain well" and returned a negative result in their final testing.

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

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### Australian-first trial probes if creatine can ease menopause brain fog

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

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### Psychologists may soon have less training

The Medical Republic, Other, 23/06/2026, Holly Payne

General practice is not the only health profession worried about scope of practice expansion. [...] According to consultation documents released earlier this year, the psychology board – at the behest of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing – is currently considering a complete redesign of the training pathway for the profession.

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### Virtual care standards on the way

The Medical Republic, Other, 23/06/2026, Amanda Sheppeard

Australia's first national safety and quality standards for virtual care will be developed as telehealth use continues to surge, with more than 11 million Australians accessing remote healthcare services in 2025. [...] The commission will work with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, the Australian Digital Health Agency, clinicians, consumers and industry groups to develop the framework.

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## **Delisting of goserelin 3.6 mg implant (Zoladex Implant) from the PBS**

moga.org.au, Other, 23/06/2026, Emily Ehlen

The Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has advised stakeholders that the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listing for goserelin 3.6 mg implant (Zoladex Implant™) will cease from 1 November 2026 following a request from the sponsor, AstraZeneca.

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## **Update to changes to Assignment of Benefits 1 July 2026**

cesphn.org.au, Other, 23/06/2026, Amy Donato

On 18 June 2026, the Federal Government has announced amendments to the planned changes to the new Assignment of Benefit process, effective 1 July 2026. These regulatory amendments are being progressed as a priority.

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## **Immunisation update – 24 June 2026**

cesphn.org.au, Other, 23/06/2026, Amy Donato

NSW Health has access to additional doses of FluMist with a limited expiry date of 16 July 2026 to continue to offer to children aged 2 to 17 years. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has released a new fact sheet providing information about the National Immunisation Program (NIP).

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## **ABC News, ABC News Afternoons, 23/06/2026, Lorna Dunkley**

Five Australians and one New Zealander have all been released from isolation at the Bullsbrook Quarantine Centre in Perth, and the Federal Health Department has confirmed that they all tested negative for hantavirus. It can be recalled that the passengers were on a cruise that was at the centre of a hantavirus outbreak.

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## **ABC NewsRadio, Drive, 23/06/2026, Compere**

Five Australians and one New Zealander are all set to leave their isolation in Perth, and the Federal Health Department has confirmed that they all tested negative for hantavirus. It can be recalled that the passengers were on a cruise that was at the centre of a hantavirus outbreak.

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## **AGEING AND AGED CARE**

### **Feud with feds behind bid to ease bed block**

The Australian, General News, 24/06/2026, Lachlan Leeming, Page 6

The Minns government's simmering feud with the commonwealth over bed block has been continued in the state budget, with NSW to put \$35.7m towards a pilot program aimed at getting elderly patients awaiting aged-care placements out of the state's public hospitals. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park said the state had to act, pointing to statistics from his department that said that as of March, 1300 patients in NSW hospitals were waiting for commonwealth-funded placements in aged-care support or from the NDIS.

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### **What you need to know before moving into aged care**

Sydney Morning Herald, Money, 24/06/2026, Rachel Lane, Page 25

The latest Retirement Living Council/PwC Retirement Village Census paints a picture of an industry at a turning point. With record participation, the 2025 census provides the most comprehensive snapshot yet, representing more than 100,000 units across 1123 villages and more than 100 operators.

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

## **Bedblock-busting pilot program aims to aid hundreds of stranded aged-care patients**

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 23/06/2026, Kate Aubusson, Megan Gorrey, Christopher Harris, Matt O'Sullivan, Anthony Segaeert and Matt Wade

The NSW government is no longer waiting for its federal counterparts to rescue the rising numbers of stranded elderly patients waiting in hospital beds for aged care places, announcing \$35.7 million for a bedblock-buster pilot. Overall, there was an additional \$10.3 billion for the state's health system over four years to cover an additional 9000 healthcare practitioners (not including the 1800 staff at the recently government-acquired Northern Beaches Hospital), as well as an extra 33,000 emergency department presentations and 2900 more planned surgeries per year.

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## **Amelia Veale reveals toll of caring for parents with dementia as government commits \$500k to support unpaid carers**

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/06/2026, Evangeline Polymeneas

The number of people with dementia has increased 65 per cent in the last 15 years with more than 35,000 South Australians now living with the condition. That number is expected to increase by thousands in the coming decade.

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

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## **“Lowest level of investment” threatens aged care pipeline: Ansell Strategic**

The Weekly Source, Other, 23/06/2026, Caroline Egan

Consolidation may be grabbing the headlines, but Ansell Strategic says the central challenge facing residential aged care remains the same. Residential aged care is still not generating adequate returns to drive "sufficient investment in new supply" to meet the needs of the ageing population, according to the aged care consultancy's 15-page Q3 FY26 Board Pack.

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## **“Australia stuck in past due to outdated Hospital in the Home regulations”**

The Weekly Source, Other, 23/06/2026, Caroline Egan

The peak body for Catholic aged care providers is calling for increased Federal Government funding to expand access to the virtual care model. Catholic Health Australia, which represents approximately 12% of all aged care homes across Australia and around 20% of home care providers, has published an 11-page Position Paper on Hospital in the Home (HITH).

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## **Redefining brain fog in menopause**

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 23/06/2026, Natalie Dragon

A new clinical definition that recognises brain fog as a menopausal symptom and distinguishes it from other conditions like dementia has been proposed by Australian researchers. The neuroscientists from Monash University, the University of Melbourne and University College London are also calling for clinical studies to understand the causes of brain fog in menopause and find effective treatments.

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## **Eaten alive: Why smaller aged care providers are being driven out of existence**

HelloCare, Other, 23/06/2026, Jakob Neeland

Michael Goldsworthy is Principal Consultant at Australian Strategic Services and has been watching this coming for fourty years. The strategist, facilitator and project management veteran, big picture thinker and founder of Australian Strategic Services has spent decades facilitating mergers and

amalgamations across the human services sector, working alongside boards, CEOs and executives to navigate the tectonic shifts of aged care reform.

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## DISABILITY AND CARERS

### Investment overhaul to pass after deal

Newcastle Herald, General News, 24/06/2026, Zac De Silva and Jacob Shteyman, Page 8

A tax hike on investments is expected to become law, after Labor and the Greens struck a deal to close a loophole for self-managed super funds and delay planned cuts to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The agreement, reached yesterday morning, means the federal government's plans to wind back negative gearing and the capital gains tax discount will pass parliament by tomorrow.

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

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### Labor's tax overhaul to pass with Greens' support – and NDIS delays

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 23/06/2026, Shane Wright and Natassia Chrysanthos

Labor's tax overhaul will pass through the parliament by next week with the Greens' support, after the crossbench party agreed to vote for the laws in exchange for a two-month inquiry into the government's NDIS changes. The budget tax package includes a \$250 income tax offset and \$1000 instant deduction for workers, as well as curbs on negative gearing and a new method for calculating capital gains tax concessions.

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### Greens strike deal to pass Labor tax laws for disability scheme inquiry extension

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/06/2026, Jessica Wang and Ellen Ransley

The Greens will wave through Labor's initial tax reform laws in exchange for an eight week extension on the NDIS inquiry. The minor party has also secured an amendment to remove a loophole which allows self-managed super funds to use tax benefits on investment properties.

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### NSW to spend millions tackling hospital 'bed block' crisis

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/06/2026, Ria Pandey

Hundreds of vulnerable Australians stranded in NSW hospitals will be fast-tracked out of wards under a new funding initiative announced by the state government. The issue, known as bed block, occurs when a patient has been cleared for discharge but is forced to continue to occupy a hospital bed because there are no federally-funded aged care or NDIS placements available.

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

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### Greens back CGT, negative gearing changes in return for extended NDIS inquiry, end to super loophole

ABC Online, Other, 23/06/2026, Clare Armstrong

Labor's changes to negative gearing and capital gains tax will pass the Senate with support from the Greens after the two parties cut a deal that stops self-managed super funds from borrowing to purchase housing. An inquiry into the federal government's proposed overhaul of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) has also been extended by eight weeks with a new reporting date of August 14, according to details of the agreement announced by the Greens today.

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### Greens vows to keep fighting NDIS cuts

The Greens have confirmed they will vote in favour of the government's tax reform bill in the Senate this fortnight. In exchange for their support, the Greens have won an eight-week extension to the inquiry into the National Disability Insurance Scheme cuts until August 14.

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## Huge unpaid super bill revealed after NDIS provider Essence Quality Care liquidated

Sunshine Coast Daily, Other, 23/06/2026, Chloe Grimshaw

New details have been revealed in the collapse of an NDIS provider that operated in the Sunshine Coast, following a court order the company be wound up. The company, Essence Quality Care Pty Ltd, was placed into liquidation by the Supreme Court of Queensland earlier this month.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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## ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 23/06/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Greens Leader Larissa Waters, on the Federal Government extending the inquiry into the NDIS overhaul. Waters says the Greens will always do everything it can to stop the NDIS cuts. She also says they are hoping that, with eight more weeks of an inquiry, they will hear from the disability community.

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## Channel 10, 10 News, 23/06/2026, Hugh Riminton

Labor has struck a deal with the Greens to pass the federal government's controversial tax changes, but it involves significant compromise. NDIS cuts will be delayed and an investment loophole for self-managed super funds will be tightened.

Also reported by: [Channel 10 \(Brisbane\)](#).

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Controversial and 'rushed' \$1.1m private midwifery contract cancelled by NT government

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/06/2026, Lottie Hood

The stalled contract which raised red flags with health professionals has been cancelled, with the woman at the centre of it breaking her silence. Nine months after a \$1.1 million contract was handed to a Darwin midwife after the closure of the Top End's only private maternity ward, the Northern Territory Government has axed the agreement.

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

[Read More](#)

## Channel 10, 10 News, 23/06/2026, Jennifer Keyte

From July 1, the Victoria Government will expand its Chemist Care Now program to include minor sprains, strains and joint pain on top of shingles, psoriasis, urine retract infections and resupply of the pill. Meanwhile, the Royal Australian College of GPs has written an open letter to government leaders voicing its concerns.

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## ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 23/06/2026, Sonya Feldhoff and Jules Schiller

The Australian Medical Association SA says ambulance ramping has more than tripled over the past

## POPULATION HEALTH

### Cancer surge among young linked to accelerated ageing

The Australian, General News, 24/06/2026, Eleanor Hayward, Page 3

Young adults today are ageing faster than in previous generations, a study has found, which scientists say may explain why more of them are getting cancer. Researchers examined blood samples from 164,000 adults in Britain and the US in an attempt to solve the puzzle as to why there had been a global surge in cancer among those aged under 50.

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### Weight is in the genes for children

Herald Sun, General News, 24/06/2026, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 15

A child's weight is mostly influenced by inherited genes rather than the weight of the mother during pregnancy, researchers have found, in a discovery that removes the stigma surrounding women who carry too many kilos while expecting. In the largest study of its kind, childhood body mass index (BMI) data from 86,000 children was examined in a study between The University of Queensland, University of Bristol and Norwegian Institute of Public Health.

*Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).*

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### Big lift to cut diabetes

Herald Sun, General News, 24/06/2026, Page 8

Lifting weights throughout midlife is an effective way to avoid developing type 2 diabetes, Chinese and US research suggests. Researchers from Zhejiang University School of Medicine and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health found that people who lifted weights for two hours or more a week were less likely to develop diabetes.

*Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).*

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### Weighty issue needs to be tackled now

Newcastle Herald, General News, 24/06/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

Almost 70 per cent of adults in Hunter New England are overweight or obese, research shows. The data was revealed in an Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) report to be released today.

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### Powerful anaesthetic that can stop breathing detected in illicit vapes sold in Melbourne

The Australian, Other, 23/06/2026, Blair Jackson

A powerful and dangerous anaesthetic has been found in illicit vapes sold in Melbourne. The substance can make someone unconscious, slow or stop their breathing, and repeated intake of the substance can cause dizziness, confusion and collapse.

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

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### Nutrition advisors to help Kimberley remote stores and communities make healthier choices

More than 100 nutrition advisors will be placed in remote community stores across Australia's north including in the Kimberley over the next two years as part of the Federal Government's Good Food People initiative. The initiative aims to create local jobs while building a remote workforce dedicated to long-term food security by training locals to share nutrition knowledge, implement healthy food policies and craft healthier takeaway options.

[Read More](#)

## **Dangerous sedative drug found in Melbourne's black market vapes**

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 23/06/2026, Gerald Lynch

A powerful sedative drug has been found in black market vapes being sold in Melbourne. The Victorian Department of Health has issued a warning after Etomidate, an anaesthetic drug, has been detected in a vape product found to be sold in Melbourne.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#)

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## **Support 'desperately needed' for Aboriginal-led housing solutions as new data shows social housing failing to keep pace in WA**

National Indigenous Times, Other, 23/06/2026, Giovanni Torre

The Council of Aboriginal Services Western Australia has demanded urgent action on the state's housing crisis, with new data out Tuesday painting a grim picture for the most vulnerable communities facing homelessness. New Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data shows that despite cost-of-living pressures and the state's burgeoning housing crisis, the proportion of social housing households in WA has fallen from 4.4 per cent in 2014 to 3.8 per cent last year.

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## **CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING**

### **Testosterone cancer risk**

Herald Sun, General News, 24/06/2026, Page 13

Men with very low testosterone levels are at higher risk of both fatal and non-fatal cancer later in life. But while The University of Western Australia-led research found men with low testosterone were 18 per cent more likely to die of cancer years down the track, the results did not hold for prostate cancer.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#)

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### **When Big Pharma clashes with public policy, people such as Aimee pay the price**

The Australian, Other, 23/06/2026, Penny Timms and Natasha Robinson

There are serious concerns breast cancer survivors are considering irreversible surgery because of the removal of an important drug. Women who have survived breast cancer are considering taking radical steps including the surgical removal of their ovaries, Breast Cancer Network Australia has revealed, after pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca announced plans to pull an important cancer and endometriosis drug from Australian shelves.

[Read More](#)

### **ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 23/06/2026, Thomas Oriti**

Interview with clinical neurologist Professor Peter Gates, on stroke. Gates says strokes occur when blood vessels burst and when brain cells are being squashed by the blood, starving them of oxygen. He urges the listeners to go to a hospital with a stroke unit immediately if they see signs of the condition.

## 6PR, Drive, 23/06/2026, Jamie Burnett

Panel Discussion with dietician Dr Shy Vishnumohan, UWA Professor Bu Yeap, and obesity surgeon Dr Kevin Dolan, on obesity. Vishnumohan says there's an explosion of GLP-1 prescriptions, and it's not a niche conversation anymore, while Yeap states that weight loss drugs will cause substantial weight loss in most people, but they have to be used in the right way. Dolan also says obesity has been a pandemic for a long time, and the amount of surgery they've done for overweight patients has increased dramatically over the last two years, but the number of patients who are obese that have had treatment is probably less than 2%.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### State refuses to fund Kids Helpline

Age, General News, 24/06/2026, Grant Mcarthur , Page 3

The rate of young Victorians reaching out for help while at immediate risk of suicide or child abuse is rising to levels seen at the height of the COVID pandemic, however the state government is refusing to fund those answering their calls. The Victorian government has rejected Kids Helpline's plea for \$4.5 million to meet rising demand from the state's children, despite the federal, NSW, Queensland and Western Australian governments contributing to the life-saving service.

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### Farm-ageddon in bush

Herald Sun, General News, 24/06/2026, Shoba Rao, Page 10

Only one in seven farmers can easily access mental health support, new data shows, as the sector grapples with a suicide rate up to twice that of the broader working population. The University of Canberra's Regional Wellbeing Survey found just 14.7 per cent of regional farmers reported good access to mental health services in 2025, compared with 36.6 per cent of Australians overall.

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

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### FOBO and dealing with the rise of AI-related anxiety

Newcastle Herald, General News, 24/06/2026, Kelly Pavan, Page 26

"AI anxiety" is a term increasingly being used to describe the stress, uncertainty, and fear many people are experiencing in response to the rapid rise of artificial intelligence (AI) and changing technology. FOBO (fear of becoming obsolete) is often used in everyday language to describe this experience. While not a formal mental health diagnosis, psychologists and workplace researchers are increasingly recognising it as a legitimate area of concern linked to uncertainty, job insecurity, overwhelm, and the pressure to continuously adapt in an unpredictable environment.

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### Budget to guarantee 'every cent' from mismanaged levy for mental health

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 23/06/2026, Courtney Kruk

Queensland's mental health support services will have their funding increased by nearly \$400 million in Tuesday's state budget, after an audit of the state's mental health levy found funds were being mismanaged with no oversight. Treasurer David Janetzki revealed the boost of \$394.4 million over the next four years for new and existing mental health services, as he prepared to deliver the Crisafulli government's second budget on Tuesday afternoon.

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## IMMUNISATION

### Getting consistent with childhood vaccinations

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 23/06/2026, Chris Brooker

Australia needs a nationally harmonised regulatory framework for pharmacist-administered vaccinations, say researchers who have conducted a review of current arrangements. The researchers compared policies and legislation on pharmacist-administered vaccination using three themes consistent with the Australian Scope of Practice Review.

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### Check RSV brand, authorities urge

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 23/06/2026

Immunisation providers are being alerted to increased reports of RSV vaccination errors, where Arexvy has been administered to pregnant women instead of Abrysvo, coinciding with the expanded use of RSV vaccines in older adults under the National Immunisation Program. Health authorities stress that Abrysvo is the only RSV vaccine recommended.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

### Health Check: Woundcare house tackles overlooked women's cancer sector

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/06/2026, Tim Boreham

Following ethics approval, woundcare device developer Tetratherix (ASX:TTX) will launch a broader pivotal trial to cater for the overlooked gynaecological cancer segment. Targeting both local and US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) clearance, the circa 240-patient study expands on a 15-patient local effort, Tutela.

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

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Kanahooka kids kicking goals Aboriginal girls support program a first

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 24/06/2026, Natalie Croxon, Page 1

After Kanahooka High School introduced a program to support its Aboriginal boys, it saw attendance improve. Now, in a first for the Illawarra, the school has launched a similar program for its Aboriginal girls.

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### Data suggests suicide concerns rising among First Nations youth

SBS, Other, 23/06/2026, Tee Mitchell

New data released by Kids Helpline shows First Nations young people were twice as likely as the broader population to report thoughts of suicide last year. One third of First Nations youth who received counselling from the free, round-the-clock service in 2025 reported suicide ideation; that number rose from 24 per cent in 2020.

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## Truth-telling project aims to improve aged care for Stolen Generations survivors

National Indigenous Times, Other, 23/06/2026, Dechlan Brennan

A new research project is set to help improve aged care for Stolen Generations survivors by using truth-telling to better support Elders and their families. Led by researchers from Murdoch University and Australian National University, alongside Yokai Healing Our Spirit and Uniting Church Homes, the project will work directly with communities to create truth-telling resources for aged care providers.

[Read More](#)

## Youths reach breaking point before seeking counselling

National Indigenous Times, Other, 23/06/2026, Lloyd Jones

Growing numbers of young people are reaching breaking point before seeking counselling, often due to the perceived stigma around asking for help. A 2025 impact report by the Kids Helpline says crisis interventions have more than tripled over the past seven years.

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

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## New doco captures mission to bring back Birthing on Country

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 23/06/2026, Natalie Dragon

A powerful new documentary follows Yolŋu mothers, grandmothers, leaders and health workers as they work to bring birthing back on Country, shining a light on First Nations maternity care and self-determination. Captured over three years in Galiwin'ku and across the mainland of Yolŋu Country in north-east Arnhem Land, the documentary follows Professor Maypilama as she navigates ancestral laws, colonial resistance and legal complexities to centre sovereignty, women's power and cultural survival.

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## PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Health workers to lose up to \$30k per year if Pauline Hanson scraps reforms, wage rises, report warns

The Australian, Other, 23/06/2026, Nathan Schmidt

Australian allied health and aged care workers would be up to \$34,000 per year worse off if reforms to workers' rights opposed by Pauline Hanson failed to pass, new modelling has revealed. The One

Nation leader is increasingly positioning herself as the country's next potential prime minister, but has faced pushback over her record on workers' rights.

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

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## Long, expensive 'slog' between health studies and work

Canberra Times, Other, 23/06/2026, Will Nicholas

By the time Lilli Donovan obtains her psychology degree, she will have worked 1000 hours for free. She had to work three jobs just to save up for study.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### GPs head to region and stick around

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 24/06/2026, Tegan Guthrie, Page 1

The general practitioner workforce in the Goldfields appears to be both stabilising and growing as the region records its lowest GP turnover rate in a decade. Rural Health West's latest annual report looking at rural general practice shows workforce turnover in the Goldfields fell to 9.8 per cent between November 2024 and November 2025 the first time it has fallen below 10 per cent since 2014-15.

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### RTPM cuts high-risk scripts

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 23/06/2026

Victoria's real-time prescription monitoring program (RTPM) SafeScript has been linked with a significant reduction in patients being prescribed high-risk medicines such as opioids and benzodiazepines by multiple doctors, according to an Australian-first study recently published in the MJA.

[Read More](#)

### APC seeks input on prescriber education

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 23/06/2026

The Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) has released the revised draft Accreditation Standards for Pharmacist Prescriber Education Programs and is inviting public feedback. The revised standards reflect current practice and healthcare delivery, as well as relevant emerging practice and technologies, and play an important role in ensuring pharmacists are equipped with.

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## Freedom Day for Hantavirus cruise travellers as Bullsbrook quarantine comes to end

West Australian, Other, 23/06/2026, Brooke Rolfe

Six quarantined travellers from an ill-fated cruise struck by a hantavirus outbreak are finally making their way home this morning, after spending the past several weeks in a special facility in Bullsbrook. The group arrived at Perth Airport Tuesday morning about 4.30am just hours after their 42-day mandatory quarantine period came to a formal end.

[Read More](#)

## Hantavirus quarantine over for cruise ship passengers

ABC Online, Other, 23/06/2026, Samantha Donovan

In April, an outbreak of the deadly Hantavirus on a cruise ship killed three people and ruined a trip to Antarctica for passengers from around the world. Four Australians, a permanent resident and a New Zealander were flown to Australia from the Canary Islands by the Federal Government and immediately put in quarantine for six weeks.

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## Inside Australia's new Centre for Disease Control and how doctors are preparing for the next global pandemic

7News.com.au, Other, 23/06/2026, Jennifer Bechwati

Inside a specialised laboratory, Australian scientists are working around the clock to identify what might become the next global pandemic. From diphtheria to Ebola, even hantavirus, the deadly virus that recently caused a cruise ship outbreak and saw Australians quarantined in Perth, researchers at the new Centre for Disease Control are monitoring threats closely.

[Read More](#)

## Six hantavirus cruise ship passengers cleared to leave Perth quarantine

7News.com.au, Other, 23/06/2026, Bryce Luff

Six passengers who travelled on a cruise ship at the centre of a deadly hantavirus outbreak have been discharged from quarantine after almost six weeks and are now on their way home. Four Australian citizens, one permanent resident and one New Zealand citizen have been isolating at the \$400 million Centre for National Resilience in Bullsbrook, northeast of Perth, since May 15 after they were evacuated from the MV Hondius.

[Read More](#)

## ABC, ABC News, 23/06/2026, Jeremy Fernandez

Five Australians and one New Zealander who were on the hantavirus-infected MV Hondius have finally returned home in NSW, Queensland, and NZ. They have been released after spending six weeks isolated in Perth and consistently testing negative for hantavirus.

Also reported by: [Channel 10 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Perth\)](#).

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## ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 23/06/2026, Yvonne Yong

More dead birds have been found in WA and SA as authorities broaden their investigation into the discovery of bird flu in Australia. It comes just days after it was confirmed two birds died from the H5N1 virus, which has devastated bird populations around the world.

Similar coverage reported by: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Perth\)](#), [SBS \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Perth\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Perth\)](#), [ABC \(Sydney\)](#).

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## **Channel 7, Seven News, 23/06/2026, Mark Ferguson**

After successfully containing Australia's hantavirus scare, experts warn the next pandemic threat may be one people don't yet know about. Australian Centre for Disease Control Director-General Professor Zoe Wainer says misinformation and disinformation are eroding public health advice globally, and it's important for people to heed the advice of public health agencies, such as the ACDC.

*Also reported by: [Channel 7 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Perth\)](#)*

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## **Channel 9, Today , 23/06/2026, Karl Stefanovic and Sarah Abo**

There are warnings that a deadly strain of bird flu has officially arrived in Australia. The Federal Government is investing more than \$100 million in planning and preparedness, and has met with state governments to try to stop the spread.

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## **ABC NewsRadio, Breakfast, 23/06/2026, Sarah Morris**

Passengers from a cruise ship at the centre of a deadly hantavirus outbreak have left isolation after 42 days in Perth. The passengers have been isolated for six weeks, and recently three passengers have left isolation.

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## **ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 23/06/2026, Hamish Macdonald**

After six weeks in isolation at a facility in WA, passengers who were on board a cruise ship at the centre of a deadly hantavirus outbreak have been released from quarantine. Four Australian citizens, one permanent resident, and one New Zealander had been at the Centre for National Resilience in Bullsbrook since the 15th of May.

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

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## **ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 23/06/2026, Rory McClaren**

Interview with Wildlife Welfare Organisation team leader Justin Biddle, on the detection of H5N1 bird flu strain in WA. Biddle says they have been preparing for the H5 bird flu for a couple of years, and they have been stockpiling PPE and cleaning equipment. He also states that they have a rescue facility in Galway that has the capacity to quarantine a handful of infected birds.

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## **ABC Radio Adelaide, Mornings, 23/06/2026, Rory McClaren**

Interview with Adelaide University Associate Professor in Wildlife Health Wayne Boardman, on the detection of H5N1 bird flu strain in WA. Boardman says they are concerned they will see clusters of dead birds on Fowler's Bay, but his biggest concern is the conservation of Australian sea lions, which are likely to be highly susceptible to the virus. He notes that the avian influenza vaccinations have been done under strict measures, but they don't have the capacity to vaccinate mammals.

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## **THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION**

### **Recce advances anti-infective gel to Phase III trial for diabetic foot infections in Australia**

The Australian, Other, 23/06/2026, Special Report

Recce Pharmaceuticals has advanced its RECCE 327 Topical Gel program into a pivotal Phase III trial for diabetic foot infections (DFI) in Australia after receiving Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) approval for a major protocol expansion. [...] The trial is being conducted to Australia's Therapeutic

Goods Administration and US Food and Drug Administration regulatory standards, with expected full enrolment by the end of 2027.

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## Women are giving up contraception – but not to get pregnant

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 23/06/2026, Courtney Thompson

Around two-thirds of Australian women of childbearing age use some form of contraception. [...] "These apps are TGA listed and there is some emerging data behind them, but there's a meaningful gap between perfect use and typical use," says Whitton.

[Read More](#)

## TGA and CMO warn over peptides

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 23/06/2026

In a joint statement with Australia's Chief Medical Officer (CMO), the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has reissued warnings about the growing availability, promotion and use of unapproved peptide products (PD 14 Apr), urging people not to buy or use them. Serious adverse effects associated with the use of unapproved peptides.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 9, A Current Affair, 23/06/2026, Allison Langdon

Unregulated peptides are being pushed by social media influencers, and authorities are now raising concerns about them. Dr Tim Piotrkowski from the University of Queensland says they have seen an 800% increase in the number of calls related to peptides, while the Therapeutic Goods Administration has vowed to step up compliance action against peptide importers and sellers.

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

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## FOOD STANDARDS

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## AICIS

### Paraquat ruling sparks warning of health crisis

The Australian, General News, 24/06/2026, Matthew Denholm, Page 3

Parkinson's Australia has strongly criticised a landmark regulatory decision allowing restricted but ongoing use of the controversial herbicide paraquat, warning of "catastrophic health consequences". The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority on Tuesday rejected calls for a ban on the chemical, instead using a review to impose tighter restrictions on its use on farms.

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

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## Australia approves weedkiller linked to Parkinson's despite bans in 70 countries

Australia's chemical regulator has approved the use of a herbicide linked to Parkinson's disease, in a move opponents say will have a "severe human cost". The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) on Tuesday said it had found "significant new restrictions" were necessary on the use of paraquat.

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## 'Shocking': toxic herbicide approved for ongoing use

West Australian, Other, 23/06/2026, William Ton

A controversial herbicide linked to Parkinson's disease has been approved for restricted use in Australia, drawing celebration from grain growers and condemnation from health groups. Paraquat and diquat will remain available for use after the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority made its final decision after a 30-year review into the chemicals' impacts on human health and the environment.

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

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## APVMA opts against paraquat, diquat ban in a 'victory' for Australian growers

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 23/06/2026, Georgia Campion

Australia's chemical regulator and watchdog has decided to not ban paraquat and diquat, instead restricting application rates in a win for growers across the country. The maximum application rate for both chemicals has been reduced from 1150g per hectare to 231g/ha, and includes a raft of changes to usage patterns and label requirements.

[Read More](#)

## ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 23/06/2026, Yvonne Yong

Paraquat, a controversial herbicide that's been linked to Parkinson's disease, has been approved for continued use in Australia. The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority says there's no evidence approved use of Paraquat increases the risk of Parkinson's disease, but has introduced stricter safety equipment and handling rules and lower application rates.

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

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## ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 23/06/2026, Samantha Donovan

Report by ABC reporter Alexandra Humphries. Paraquat, a controversial herbicide that's been linked to Parkinson's disease, has been approved for continued use in Australia. The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority says new restrictions are in place to ensure that the chemical is still used safely, but the decision is being slammed by Parkinson's Australia.

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## 4BC, Drive, 23/06/2026, Gary Hardgrave

Australia's chemical regulator has approved the continued use, but with new restrictions on the weed killer Paraquat. Neurologists have previously raised health concerns about the chemical, which is banned in dozens of countries.

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