



# TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 26th June 2026

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[ABC Online](#)** reports that Health Minister Mark Butler has criticised Liberal senator Alex Antic for spreading "dangerous" vaccination ideas after Antic suggested the arrival of bird flu was a way for pharmaceutical companies to make money.
- **[The Australian Financial Review \(page 1\)](#)** reports that the federal government's budget costs could increase by up to \$1.5 billion a month if NDIS reforms are delayed past October.
- **[The Daily Telegraph \(page 7\)](#)** reports that the NMRA has accused NSW Roads Minister Jenny Aitchison of not understanding THC detection levels after she said roadside drug tests do not detect THC below a 50ng/ml threshold.
- **[The Courier Mail \(page 19\)](#)** reports that budget papers show Queensland public hospitals have failed to meet key performance targets for ambulance ramping, elective surgery and outpatient care.
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser \(page 1\)](#)** reports that following a complaint to AHPRA, a doctor has appeared in the SA Civil and Administrative Tribunal for allegedly grooming and engaging in a consensual affair with a married patient while she was seeking fertility treatment.
- **[The Adelaide Advertiser \(page 10\)](#)** reports that SA Health Minister Blair Boyer has confirmed birthing services are paused at Jamestown and Crystal Brook until July 31 as a result of the

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Chalmers' tax backdowns to cost budget \$1b

Australian Financial Review, General News, 26/06/2026, Luke Kinsella, Page 1

The Albanese government's tax backdowns will leave a \$1 billion hole in the budget, but the costs could soar by \$1.5 billion every month if National Disability Insurance Scheme reforms are delayed beyond October.

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

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

### Alex Antic's 'dangerous' comments on vaccinations after bird flu detection condemned

ABC Online, Other, 25/06/2026, Thomas Kelsall

Liberal senator Alex Antic has been roundly condemned for spreading "dangerous ideas about vaccination", after suggesting the arrival of bird flu was a way for pharmaceutical companies to sell products. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said Senator Antic's comments "spread dangerous ideas about vaccination" and mocked the risk posed by avian flu.

[Read More](#)

### Ombudsman warns NDIS could become another Robodebt

CathNews, Other, 25/06/2026, Rebecca Comini

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.

[Read More](#)

### Greens back government's amended budget tax package legislation, but want more

PS News, Other, 25/06/2026, Andrew McLaughlin

The Federal Government's efforts to pass its tax reform package outlined in this year's federal budget are closer to fruition after the Greens said they would support the legislation. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the extension's cost would be reported in the mid-year budget review, but was likely to be "a few hundred million" dollars.

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### Millions of women with menopause, perimenopause to access endo clinics from July 1 70 nations banned it, not Australia

NEWS.com.au, Other, 25/06/2026, Nathan Schmidt

A massive change is coming for millions of Australians dealing with a common, but widely misunderstood, medical condition. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said women – only 31 per cent of which said they could confidently identify menopause symptoms, according to a recent study – said they wanted to be taken seriously.

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

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### GPs for aged care residents

Tarrangower Times, Other, 26/06/2026

Ageing Australia said on Thursday 18 June that it welcomes changes to bulk billing for medical appointments which would have seen GPs stop supporting aged care residents. Ageing Australia said

has been working with Minister Butler and the Department of Health...

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## Politics with Michelle Grattan: Jenny McAllister on 'confronting but necessary' NDIS reforms

The Conversation, Other, 25/06/2026, Michelle Grattan

A sweeping overhaul of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is on hold until at least August, after the federal government agreed to an eight-week extension to its NDIS bill, along with amendments, in exchange for Greens support for passing its tax changes. [...] And the prime minister [Anthony Albanese] and [Health] Minister [Mark] Butler have been very clear that will work with the states and territories to make sure that the supports are in place.

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

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## ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 25/06/2026, Patricia Karvelas

Interview with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, about the delay to the NDIS bill in exchange for the government's tax changes passing through the Parliament.

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## MINISTER MCALLISTER

### Politics with Michelle Grattan: Jenny McAllister on 'confronting but necessary' NDIS reforms

The Conversation, Other, 25/06/2026, Michelle Grattan

A sweeping overhaul of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is on hold until at least August, after the federal government agreed to an eight-week extension to its NDIS bill, along with amendments, in exchange for Greens support for passing its tax changes. [...] And the prime minister [Anthony Albanese] and [Health] Minister [Mark] Butler have been very clear that will work with the states and territories to make sure that the supports are in place.

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

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### \$11 million grant to boost autism research

WEB Inside State Government, Other, 25/06/2026, Kelly Nealon

La Trobe University's Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre is set to receive \$11.1 million over three years to establish the Australian Autism Knowledge Hub, as part of the Australian Government's National Autism Strategy. [...] "The Albanese Government is working to improve the lives of Autistic people across Australia by investing in groundbreaking Autism research," said NDIS Minister, Senator Jenny McAllister.

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## MINISTER RAE

### Wait time data needs to be clearer, says Symondson

Community Care Review, Other, 25/06/2026, Natasha Egan

The department should regularly release wait times data, on a set date, that defines the different categories of people waiting to access aged care, says CEO Tom Symondson in a Q&A with CCR. [...]

I've heard Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae say they're on target for three months [by 1 July 2027] but how is that possible?

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## **Liberals' bill introduces human oversight for Support at Home assessments**

The Weekly Source, Other, 25/06/2026, Caroline Egan

Liberal Party Senator Wendy Askew introduced a Private Senators' Bill in the Senate on Tuesday on behalf of Shadow Minister for Aged Care, Senator Anne Ruston. [...] At a Senate hearing in April, long-standing concerns from operators, peak bodies and the community about the quality of Integrated Assessment Tool (IAT) decisions reached Federal Parliament In the House of Representatives in February, Independent MP Dr Monique Ryan asked the Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae : "Minister, are these once-in-a-generation reforms just 'robo aged care'?"

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

### **Millions of women with menopause, perimenopause to access endo clinics from July 1 70 nations banned it, not Australia**

NEWS.com.au, Other, 25/06/2026, Nathan Schmidt

A massive change is coming for millions of Australians dealing with a common, but widely misunderstood, medical condition. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said women – only 31 per cent of which said they could confidently identify menopause symptoms, according to a recent study – said they wanted to be taken seriously.

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

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## SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

### **Tackling men's health one chat at a time**

coolumadvertiser.com.au, Other, 25/06/2026

As conversations continue around men's health, mental wellbeing and the search for positive male role models and whilst focusing on Men's Health Week (15–21 June), two organisations are taking on the challenge of promoting better male health, one chat at a time. [...] Representatives from The Men's Table recently met with Assistant Minister for Social Services and the Prevention of Family Violence, Ged Kearney, and Special Envoy for Men's Health, Dan Repacholi, during the launch of the Australian Government's National Healthy Men Community Conversations project in Victoria.

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## DEPARTMENT

## Stanthorpe survey a Curtin Uni study

Town & Country Journal, General News, 25/06/2026, Elizabeth Voneiff, Page 9

Now that the dust has settled over a Roy Morgan surveyor doing the rounds and a FaceBook post gone wild, the purpose of the survey has become clear. Curtin University is conducting research, funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, called Young Minds: Our Future.

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## How behaviour and biology decide the outbreak equation

ABC Online, Other, 25/06/2026, Georgina Piper

The bugs that cause Ebola, hantavirus and diphtheria are microscopic, but many of the barriers to controlling them are human-sized. [...] Australia's immunisation data for children under five was sourced from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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## How means-testing works in aged care the issue, not co-payments

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 25/06/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

Support at Home as an investment in prevention needs to be embedded into the system design, Natalie Siegel-Brown tells a Senate inquiry. [...] System burdened by administrative processes Also in her opening statement, Ms Siegel-Brown welcomed the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's procedural refinement to the Integrated Assessment Tool to allow delegates final review of the IAT decisions and the ability to assess and correct errors.

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## What \$14.50 per resident per day food budget actually buys

HelloCare, Other, 25/06/2026, Jakob Neeland

\$14.50 is the food budget per resident per day in one aged care facility. [...] The Statement of Rights in the new Aged Care Act, Standard 1, November 2025 claims: "I have a right to be treated with dignity and respect..." (Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, 2025, Standard 1).

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## Support at Home claiming problems send shocks through sector

The Weekly Source, Other, 25/06/2026, Caroline Egan

Eight months into Support at Home, and unresolved issues with claiming are having significant impacts on providers and vendors alike. [...] Silverchain says it is working with Services Australia and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to resolve the issues.

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## Quality Commissioner launches investigation into aged care incident

The Weekly Source, Other, 25/06/2026, Caroline Egan

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner has taken the rare step of issuing a media statement related to an incident in a NSW aged care home last week. Last Wednesday (17 June), a resident of HammondCare's Hammondville aged care home, 31km southwest of the Sydney CBD, was allegedly seriously assaulted by another resident.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Peaks push for co-design in CHSP transition

Community Care Review, Other, 25/06/2026

Ageing Australia, COTA Australia and OPAN have welcomed the Senate Committee report on the CHSP transition, reiterating the need for consultation and co-design before any long-term decisions are

made. Aged care peak bodies have welcomed the Senate Community Affairs Committee report recommendation that consultation occurs before any long-term decision is made about the future of the Commonwealth Home Support Program – including whether it remains a standalone program.

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## **Aged care watchdog delivers damning verdict on Support at Home in final hearing**

HelloCare, Other, 25/06/2026, Jakob Neeland

In what was her final appearance before a Senate committee as Inspector-General of Aged Care, Natalie Siegel-Brown delivered a sobering assessment of the Support at Home programme, warning that a reform designed to keep older Australians living independently in their own homes is instead accelerating their decline and pushing them prematurely into the very residential care facilities the programme was meant to help them avoid.

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## **The States are paying for aged care - whether or not they like it**

The Weekly Source, Other, 25/06/2026, James Wiltshire

The Federal Government funded aged care. States funded hospitals. Everyone knew where responsibility began and ended.

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## **Inspector-General calls for fundamental Support at Home changes**

The Weekly Source, Other, 25/06/2026, Caroline Egan

The outgoing Inspector-General of Aged Care appeared before the Senate Inquiry into Support at Home last night (24 June) as the sole witness in a one-hour hearing. Natalie Siegel-Brown is leaving the Inspector-General role on 31 July 2026.

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## **NSW “devises own plan” for aged care in State Budget**

The Weekly Source, Other, 25/06/2026, Caroline Egan

The NSW and Queensland Budgets have again shone a spotlight on the unresolved question of who should fund hospital-to-aged care transition care. The NSW Budget included \$35.7 million over two years for interim aged care and allied health to help older people transition out of hospital while they wait for Federally funded aged care services.

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## DISABILITY AND CARERS

### **NDIS price for my disabled sister's mat: \$100. We paid \$5**

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 26/06/2026, Marie Healy, Page 27

Devastating hardly covers the effect that a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease had on my dear twin sister when she was in her late 40s. A retired nurse, Louise knew it was incurable and progressive, and symptom-management is fraught with complications.

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

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## PRIMARY CARE

### **Wait times 'out of control'**

South-west patients are still being referred to specialists in Melbourne for ear, nose and throat operations after more than a year of searching for a new specialist. Warrnambool's last ENT clinic closed in September 2024 when Dr Bridget Clancy shut her Banyan Street clinic.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### **Inside \$1bn lawsuit how AFL got head around concussion time bomb**

The Australian, Sport, 26/06/2026, Jay Clark, Page 24

It was one of the most dangerous delays in the game's history. When the contact sport concussion bomb went off in 2001, the AFL was warned.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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### **Decade-long fight for clean drinking water at remote Kimberley community**

ABC Online, Other, 25/06/2026, Rachel Jackson

For most people, accessing reliable, clean water involves walking into the kitchen. But for Maxine Ningella, it means a regular 600-metre walk with a wheelbarrow to collect water from the filtration system in the remote community of Pandanus Park.

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### **Road train fitted with CT scanner screens remote Northern Territory residents for lung cancer**

ABC Online, Other, 25/06/2026

A road train-turned-clinic is travelling across outback Northern Territory to screen remote community residents for lung cancer, in an effort to quell the jurisdiction's high mortality rates for the disease. [...] The Northern Territory has the highest rate of lung cancer of any Australian jurisdiction and the highest mortality rate from the disease, according to the latest available data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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### **Australia's efforts to tackle skin cancer are not reaching First Peoples effectively - this Indigenous researcher is working to change that**

National Indigenous Times, Other, 25/06/2026, Jarred Cross

Wilman Noongar health researcher Jacinta Walton is working to fill a gap in skin cancer and sun safety for Aboriginal children and young people. [...] Cancer is currently the leading cause of death among Indigenous people, accounting for nearly a quarter of all deaths, per the 2025 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework.

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### **Why it's time to cut the tobacco tax in Australia**

NEWS.com.au, Other, 25/06/2026, Caleb Bond

There are some questions in life that may never be totally answered. Is there a God? Who put the bomp in the bomp bah bomp bah bomp? And why can't the federal government admit that it has put the up too much, and that's why we now have a massive illicit cigarette market?

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### **Website launched to help those with young-onset dementia**

NEWS.com.au, Other, 25/06/2026, Lillian Saleh

Nell Howe spent four years having her symptoms dismissed as anxiety before her diagnosis at 52 – now researchers have launched a resource to end that wait for others. [...] Latest figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) show the number of Australians under the age of 65 diagnosed with dementia is expected to increase to 42,000 by 2065.

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## Five-minute walk every hour offsets sitting harms

The New Daily, Other, 25/06/2026

Walking for five minutes every hour is enough to offset the harms to health from sitting down, researchers have found. A large study found a five-minute exercise break boosted people's mood, lessened fatigue and did not affect their performance at work.

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## What people with intersex traits want you to know

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 25/06/2026

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, around Australians aged over – of the overall population – know they were born with variations of sex characteristics. [...] He is a member of the Australian Capital Territory's Restricted Medical Treatment Assessment Board and has been contracted to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the ACT government, and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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## CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

### 'So unfair': Canberra mum's rare battle

Canberra Times, General News, 26/06/2026, Megan Doherty, Page 6

Canberra mum Sarah McGoram says being diagnosed with a rare cancer is more common than people think. But people with a rare cancer are often left alone to fight - and pay - for their own health battle.

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### After years of grief, win for campaign inspires hope

Daily Advertiser, General News, 26/06/2026, Allan Wilson, Page 4

For years, families devastated by Motor Neurone Disease (MND) have watched their loved ones overcome by the insidious, incurable illness. Griffith, Wagga and Leeton record seven times the national average rate of the degenerative disease. But on Wednesday, a surge of hope was achieved.

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### Aussie mum who was diagnosed with cancer issues an urgent warning - as landmark new study reveals accelerated cellular aging in younger generation

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 25/06/2026, Kylie Stevens

A cancer survivor has issued an urgent warning after new research revealed that younger adults are ageing faster than the generations before them, and this makes them more prone to the disease. A new study published in academic journal Nature Medicine this week examined the rise of early-onset cancers diagnosed in the under-55 age group.

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### Can we cure asthma? Yes, and we have a plan

Medicine Today, Other, 25/06/2026, Gary Anderson and Christine Jenkins

Asthma is conventionally viewed as "treatable but incurable". In other words, we can manage its symptoms but not reverse the underlying condition.

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## Illegal tan trend 'more dangerous than the midday sun' resurfaces

NEWS.com.au, Other, 25/06/2026, Naomi Kaplan

A tanning bed salon has just been fined tens of thousands of dollars for operating illegally in a major Aussie metropolis, raising the question: why is this still happening despite the known dangers? Australia, which currently has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world, following the tragic death of 26-year-old Clare Oliver.

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## ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 25/06/2026, Spence Denny

Interview with Professor Sof Andrikopoulos, CEO of the Australian Diabetes Society. Andrikopoulos discusses the Australian Diabetes Society's call for an expansion of access to monitors that give continuous glucose indications for those living with diabetes.

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## ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 25/06/2026, Lucy Breaden and Kylie Baxter

Interview with Kate Miranda, CEO of Asthma Australia, about Asthma Australia's campaign to raise awareness about how hormonal changes can impact the way that asthma is experienced.

Continuing interview on: [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#), [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#)

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Tradies hit hard by builder stress

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 26/06/2026, Dean Kerrison, Page 9

A Gold Coast construction insider has warned a brutal "survival mode" gripping building bosses is trickling down to create toxic site cultures, as devastating new research links workplace pressure to an elevated suicide risk among young tradies. Construction business coach Vinnie Vecchio, 28, said severe back-end financial stress was manifesting as workplace bullying on the front line.

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### ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 25/06/2026, Craig Reucassel

The NSW Government has announced the establishment of two suicide prevention councils to help develop a coordinated statewide prevention plan. The advisory bodies will include a combination of clinical experts, government representatives, people with lived experience of suicidal distress, and those bereaved by suicide.

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## IMMUNISATION

### One vax to crack virus code

Herald Sun, General News, 26/06/2026, Page 16

Known by acronyms that need no explanation, viruses such as Covid and SARS conjure up images of medics in protective suits and spark fear in populations worldwide. Vaccines for individual viruses have provided some relief, but new strains pose a constant challenge.

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### Vaccination: keep to the process

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 25/06/2026

Administering vaccines and injectable medicines is now a regular part of pharmacists' work, but with increased demand it is important to adhere to each step of the vaccination process. Vaccination was once largely seasonal, but with expanded pharmacist scope nationwide, pharmacists now administer a wide range of injectable medicines year-round.

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## **Channel 7, Seven News, 25/06/2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings**

A new state public health plan released today has is aimed at preventing chronic illness and limiting the spread of infectious diseases, as well as build public trust in vaccines. South Australian Chief Public Health Officer Dr Nicola Spurrier says they know that the vaccines are safe and are so much better than preventing infectious diseases.

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## **Channel 10, 10 News, 25/06/2026, Kate Freebairn**

South Australian Health Minister Blair Boyer has blamed the growing impact of misinformation as one of the reasons for declining vaccination rates in the state.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

### **How university partnerships drive real community impact**

The Australian, General News, 26/06/2026, Page 18

Universities are increasingly partnering with industry to translate research into practical community programs. In areas such as movement, learning and child development, public-private partnerships are creating affordable, scalable pathways to close the treatment gap, moving evidence-based programs beyond university settings and into the schools, clinics and communities.

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### **Albany Health Campus one of two regional hubs hosting cutting-edge clinical trial for oncology drug**

West Australian, Other, 25/06/2026, Jacki Elezovich

Albany Health Campus is one of two regional health centres at the forefront of a landmark clinical trial for chemotherapy patients in regional WA, hosting a laboratory to test a new anti-nausea drug. The trial is the first commercially sponsored clinical trial ever undertaken in regional WA, and is being run by the WA Country Health Service in collaboration with cancer research company Eli Lilly and Co.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### **More than a career: Why the Territory needs more Aboriginal doctors**

National Indigenous Times, Other, 25/06/2026, Nicole Brown

For many Aboriginal people, a visit to the doctor is never just about the appointment. It can be the

difference between feeling understood or feeling invisible.

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## **Extreme heat is harming remote First Nations communities. It's time we listen to them**

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 25/06/2026

In remote Australia, First Nations communities battle extreme heat each summer. In January 2026 alone, the town of Alice Springs (Mparntwe) endured 20 days of temperatures above 40°C.

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## **PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM**

### **Bitter pill for our hospitals**

Courier Mail, General News, 26/06/2026, Taylah Fellows, Page 19

Queensland public hospitals have failed to meet key performance targets for ambulance ramping, elective surgery and outpatient care, as budget papers reveal growing demand is overwhelming the health system. More than one in three patients waited longer than 30 minutes to be transferred from ambulances into emergency departments in 2025-26.

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### **'Code black' at Bendigo Health**

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 26/06/2026, Ben Silvester, Page 1

Bendigo Health was forced to declare "code black" ambulance emergencies twice this month as ramping reached potentially life-threatening levels. On Monday, the ramping became so severe that Bendigo was essentially left without any available ambulances to respond to emergencies, Victorian Ambulance Union secretary Danny Hill said.

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### **'Let down': Central West reacts to budget**

Daily Liberal, General News, 26/06/2026, Bradley Jurd, Page 3

The NSW Labor Government has received mixed response from community representatives across the region, with many describing it as city-focused, while there has been praise for some "game-changing investment". NSW Treasurer Daniel Mookhey has delivered his fourth state budget, which posts a \$2.3 billion deficit, but during his press conference on Tuesday he said he expects the budget to return to a surplus of \$1.1b by the next financial year.

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### **Cash injection**

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 26/06/2026, Allan Murphy, Page 1

The Victorian State Opposition has pledged a \$180 million revamp of Mildura Base Public Hospital if elected this November. Announced by Opposition Leader Jess Wilson, the Liberal and Nationals Coalition plan aims to expand and upgrade the facility during their first term, addressing what they claim were years of alleged neglect and underfunding by the current Labor Government.

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### **Elderly man dies after spending eight hours on a trolley at Geelong hospital**

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 25/06/2026, Grant McArthur and Annika Smethurst

An 88-year-old man died after spending eight hours on a trolley waiting for admission to a Geelong emergency department, prompting scrutiny of the hospital involved. The man, who had serious underlying health conditions and had been taken to the University Hospital Geelong from a nursing

home on Wednesday night after suffering a nosebleed, remained in the emergency department throughout the night before dying on Thursday morning, according to healthcare staff.

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## Man recounts appendix bursting after marathon hospital wait

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 25/06/2026, Kylie Stevens

A Sydney father has described a painful ordeal after he was rushed into emergency surgery when his appendix ruptured while waiting for a hospital bed. James recently went to Campbelltown Hospital's emergency department after suffering from severe abdominal pain.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### Channel 7, Seven News, 25/06/2026, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

A new pay deal's on the table for South Australian nurses and midwives, and this time the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation recommends them taking it. SA Premier Peter Malinauskas has announced a 16% pay rise over a three-year period.

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### FIVEAA, Afternoons, 25/06/2026, Stacy Lee

Interview with Associate Professor Elizabeth Dabars, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation. Dabars discusses the SA Government and the ANMF's agreement about the pay deal. She notes after more than a year of negotiations, they have finally reached an agreement that they can recommend to their members.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Rural midwife shortfall

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 26/06/2026, Page 10

Rural birthing services face more trouble due to a midwife shortage. State Health Minister Blair Boyer confirmed birthing services are paused at Jamestown and Crystal Brook in the Mid North until July 31 at this stage.

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### Future doctors in sights

Northern Territory News, General News, 26/06/2026, Lottie Hood, Page 6

Australia's first nurse practitioner-led clinic in the NT is persuading future doctors to swap their home states for an "innovative" and progressive experience. Remote Territory Healthcare in Berry Springs has welcomed its first medical student from James Cook University, Vivienne Murray, who said she was intrigued by the unique model of care.

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

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### Kimberley struggles to retain number of doctors

West Australian, Other, 25/06/2026, Cain Andrews

The Kimberley has seen a decrease in the number of doctors practising in the region, according to Rural Health West's latest Annual Workforce Update report. The Kimberley recorded a net loss of one

GP, with the total number of doctors dropping from 113 to 112.

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## **Pilbara remains a revolving door for doctors**

West Australian, Other, 25/06/2026, Cain Andrews

The Pilbara is struggling with a revolving door of medical staff despite a dramatic jump in new doctors taking posts in the region. While 24 new doctors arrived in the region in 2025, 13 left, resulting in a net gain of just 11, according to Rural Health WA's latest Annual Workforce update report.

[Read More](#)

## **Government and union endorse 16 per cent pay rise offer for SA nurses and midwives**

ABC Online, Other, 25/06/2026, Kathryn Bermingham

Nurses and midwives in South Australia would receive a 16 per cent pay rise by mid-2028 under a new deal endorsed by their union and the state government. It would see wages rise by 3 per cent from January 2027, 3 per cent from July 2027 and 4 per cent from July 2028.

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## **Hospital pharmacists join industrial action**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 25/06/2026

"Insulting and disrespectful" pay offers push allied health professionals – including hospital pharmacists – into a work stoppage.

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## **Expand prac payments now: Haines**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 25/06/2026

Healthcare students should not have to rely on their "family's money" to get through mandatory placements, an independent MP says. Australia "can't afford to wait" to deliver financial support to allied health students undertaking mandatory unpaid placements as part of their training, Independent MP, Dr Helen Haines, warns.

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## **More than a career: Why the Territory needs more Aboriginal doctors**

National Indigenous Times, Other, 25/06/2026, Nicole Brown

For many Aboriginal people, a visit to the doctor is never just about the appointment. It can be the difference between feeling understood or feeling invisible.

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## **'Insult to injury': back pay delayed for Mater nurses as anger mounts**

Newcastle Herald, Other, 25/06/2026, Damon Cronshaw

Nurses at the Calvary Mater hospital are angry and upset at not receiving promised back pay from the NSW government. The nurses have already endured more than a year of stress over the hospital's mould and maintenance scandal. The back pay, which would be about \$5500 to \$7500 before tax depending on grades, would give the nurses a much-needed boost.

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## **Hospital pharmacists key to growth**

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 25/06/2026

Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has welcomed the NSW Government's Budget announcement of a \$10.3 billion investment in health, which includes a commitment to grow the workforce by an additional 9,000 health workers and expand hospital capacity. AdPha President Associate Professor Tom Simpson said the commitment to recruit more health workers.

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### More paying Medicare levy

Hobart Mercury, General News, 26/06/2026, Page 6

The number of Australians paying the Medicare levy surcharge has risen sharply. Canstar.com.au analysis of Australian Taxation Office figures show a 15 per cent increase in the 2023-24 year and a 74 per cent rise from 2021-22 to 2023-24.

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

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Calling Dr Love

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 26/06/2026, Brad Crouch, Page 1

A trusted family doctor allegedly "groomed" a married patient for his own "deviant sexual satisfaction" while she was seeking fertility treatment, and continued to have unprotected sex with her during IVF and after she fell pregnant, a tribunal has heard. The consensual affair continued for nine years while the woman continued to be the doctor's patient until it was finally discovered by her husband, who was also a patient.

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

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### Patient death at Melbourne clinic exposes GP's overprescribing of dangerous opioids - what he gave to troubled man and vulnerable family in 'misguided' bid to help

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 25/06/2026, Madeleine Damo

Patient died weeks after first seeing GP for pain and mental health issues Dr Michael Glasby prescribed escalating doses over just eight days before the man died Crossed professional boundaries with vulnerable family over several years Tribunal found seven counts of professional misconduct

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## AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Public in dark over bird flu plans

The Australian, General News, 26/06/2026, Matthew Denholm and Paige Fryer, Page 4

Australians are being kept in the dark about key H5 bird flu response plans, as an expert warns the chances of the virus sparking a human pandemic is "higher than ever". The Invasive Species Council told The Australian states had been federally funded to produce H5 response plans for 200 especially vulnerable native species and sites such as wetlands.

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## Deadly bird flu outbreak is 'inevitable' for Australian wildlife

Canberra Times, General News, 26/06/2026, Page 15

An outbreak of a deadly virus ravaging unique Australian species could wreak havoc by summer, thanks to migratory birds. More cases are expected to hit the mainland after a migratory bird tested positive for H5N1 bird flu in South Australia, days after the nation's first two confirmed cases were reported near Esperance in Western Australia.

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## One flu bird over the chickens' nests

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 26/06/2026, Jacinta Round, Page 9

The H5 bird flu outbreak has sparked fears that it could devastate flocks of commercial and pet chickens in South Australia, including one producer who considers his beloved birds "part of the family". A southern giant petrel, which is a migratory bird from the Antarctic, was confirmed on Wednesday to have bird flu 10 days after it was discovered by surfers.

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## Superbugs on speed dial

Hobart Mercury, General News, 26/06/2026, Page 6

health Hospital workers' phones are teeming with deadly superbugs.

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## Ignored bug 'harms eyes'

Hobart Mercury, General News, 26/06/2026, Page 6

research a global team led by Flinders University is warning that a parasite infecting about one third of the world's population is an overlooked cause of preventable vision loss.

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## Man who saw first sick H5N1 bird in SA says giant petrel appeared fatigued

ABC Online, Other, 25/06/2026, Caroline Horn and Evelyn Leckie

A surfer who spotted the first bird in South Australia to test positive for H5N1 avian influenza says the giant petrel looked fatigued and distressed before it was retrieved by wildlife rescuers. Ben Wood told 891 ABC Adelaide a southern giant petrel landed where the waves were breaking during a bodyboarding competition at Knights Beach, in the Fleurieu Peninsula, on June 14.

*Also reported by: [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).*

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## Bird flu in South Australia: Experts explain the true risk of virus to humans

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 25/06/2026, Jacinta Round

With the arrival of H5 bird flu in South Australia confirmed on Wednesday, experts are warning the community to stay vigilant despite the low transmission risk to humans. [...] Meanwhile, food safety advice issued on June 20 by the Australian Centre for Disease Control confirmed there was no risk of bird flu to those consuming meat and eggs when products were handled and cooked correctly.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### CMO weighs in on growing public health risk linked to unregulated peptides

Medical Forum, Other, 25/06/2026

Health leaders have sounded the alarm on a growing public health risk linked to unapproved peptide use. [...] In a joint statement outlining the risks to public safety, Australia's Chief Medical Officer Professor Michael Kidd and the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) warned counterfeit products were often deliberately designed to mimic genuine medicines, making it difficult for consumers to identify unsafe or potentially harmful goods.

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## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### Minister's THC threshold 'understanding' goes to pot

Daily Telegraph, General News, 26/06/2026, Harrison Finlay, Page 7

NSW Roads Minister Jenny Aitchison has been accused of misrepresenting the numbers around roadside drug testing, after the Minns government's controversial cannabis driving reforms were introduced to state parliament. Under the changes, registered medical cannabis users will only face penalties if they are caught driving with more than 50 nanograms per millilitre (ng/ml) of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in their system.

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### New THC saliva test available

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 25/06/2026

Medicinal cannabis distributor Leafio has announced the release of a new at-home THC saliva screening test designed to help patients better understand the presence of THC in their saliva. The ANASA THC Saliva Test is the most sensitive saliva-based THC screening test available in Australia, and while not intended to.

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