



TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 30th June 2026

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister McAllister](#) | [Minister Rae](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#) |
[Assistant Minister White](#) | [Special Envoy Repacholi](#) | [Department](#)
| [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Disability and Carers](#) | [Primary Care](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 7) reports an experimental RNA therapy for chronic lung disease will enter its first human trial after receiving a \$15 million federal grant, with Health Minister Mark Butler saying it could transform treatment and offer hope to more than nine million Australians living with lung disease.
- [The Australian](#) (page 4) reports criminals convicted of defrauding the NDIS have served more than 60 years in jail and had more than \$50 million in assets seized since a fraud taskforce was established in 2022, as the government urged parliament to pass its latest NDIS reforms. *Also reported by: [The Daily Telegraph](#)*
- The [West Australian](#) (page 36) reports Australia's residential aged-care facilities are operating at about 97 to 98 per cent capacity, causing a critical accommodation shortfall that forces elderly citizens into hospitals. Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae stated that the government is addressing these capacity pressures with investments reaching \$47 billion next year, adding to the more than \$1 billion spent since 2022 to increase bed supply and expand home-based care.
- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 4) reports an 11-year Monash University study of nearly 13,000 Australians aged 70 and over found that frequently engaging in mental activities such as crosswords, chess, or card games reduced frailty, a leading dementia risk, by four per cent.

- The [Canberra Times](#) (page 5) reports the Canberra City Medicare Mental Health Centre, attached to the ANU, and a second facility in Tuggeranong have provided more than 19,800 free, walk-in care sessions in the ACT since their respective openings within the last 18 months. Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride announced that the Federal Government is expanding local care access through two new bulk-billing general practitioner clinics and a jointly funded Medicare Mental Health Kids Hub to deliver free specialist services for children.
- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (online) reports public hospital doctors in Victoria have threatened the first industrial action in 20 years after pay negotiations between the Salaried Medical Officers' Federation and AMA Victoria broke down.

MINISTER BUTLER

Trial for for lung disease therapy

Herald Sun, General News, 30/06/2026, Sarah Booth, Page 7

An experimental RNA treatment for lung diseases is set to enter human trials, in a move that could one day revolutionise care for millions of Australians. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, announcing a \$15m grant for the therapy's research team at Monash University and Atisama Therapeutics, said it had the potential to transform lung disease treatment worldwide.

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

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Hospital crisis is a very sick state of affairs

Adelaide Advertiser, Editorials, 30/06/2026, Page 20

South Australia's embattled health system is, once again, showing worrying signs of being on life support but with dwindling hope of any imminent recovery. [...] But yet while nursing homes are a federal problem, their Labor mates in Canberra - SA's federal Health Minister Mark Butler and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese - keep ignoring their pleas.

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'Wicked problem'

Aged Care Insite, General News, 30/06/2026, Newswire, Page 9

A landmark inquiry will probe the fate of elderly patients stranded in NSW public hospitals, as Australia's health ministers agree to establish an urgent interstate taskforce. [...] Last month, federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced the Albanese government would spend \$3bn to deliver more beds, packages and "better care for older Australians".

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'Free-market fiction'

Aged Care Insite, General News, 30/06/2026, Lachie Green, Page 18

April 1 marked six months since the full commencement of the Aged Care Act, and the date passed with barely a whimper. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae, his predecessor Anika Wells, and Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler have overseen the system on its downward trajectory.

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"Bumper month" for PBS listings

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 29/06/2026, Page 1

Health Minister Mark Butler has declared July a "bumper month for cheaper medicines", with 10 new listings to go live on 01 Jul. Among the new listings are tezepelumab (Tezspire, AstraZeneca) for patients aged 12 years and older to help reduce inflammation in the airways, lowering the risk of asthma attacks and helping those with severe asthma to better manage their condition.

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

New life-saving nasal spray added to Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme amid growing pressure

7News.com.au, Other, 29/06/2026

While some Australians celebrate access to new medicines, others are forced to fundraise for treatments they desperately need. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has conceded the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme is under growing pressure as billion-dollar drug companies demand higher prices for their products, leaving patients caught in the middle even as more life-changing medicines are added.

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Three new bulk-billing GP clinics are opening in Canberra but there are already questions about long-term viability

ABC Online, Other, 29/06/2026, Niki Burnside

Three new bulk-billing GP clinics are opening in Canberra in a bid to address a shortage of affordable healthcare in the capital. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said Canberra had had "issues with GP availability for a long time".

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

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Jane is deaf and blind and says it is the government that is making her feel helpless

MSN Australia, Other, 29/06/2026

A woman with a disability who cannot see or hear says she feels "helpless" as the government attempts to cut NDIS services crucial to her wellbeing. [...] NDIS Minister Mark Butler has ruled out bending on any of the proposed changes.

Also reported by: [nine.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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The Zap: latest health and aged care news, plus consultations not to miss

Croakey, Other, 29/06/2026, Charles Maskell-Knight

Australians' unhealthy diets, new releases from the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, yet more concerns about vaping, and the latest on the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) are among the topics covered this week. [...] The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DHDA) released the report of the independent review of the National Rural Health Commissioner (NRHC) legislative framework, presented to Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride on 1 May.

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Canberra optometrist wins Indigenous eye health leadership award

National Indigenous Times, Other, 29/06/2026, Joseph Guenzler

Canberra-based Wiradjuri and Ngemba optometrist Harrison Pike has received the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Conference26 emerging leadership award. [...] It will present an award to Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler and Assistant Minister Rebecca White in Canberra in recognition of the Australian Government's achievement.

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Indigenous optometrist Harrison Pike wins emerging leadership award

Insight, Other, 29/06/2026, Helen Carter

Early career optometrist Harrison Pike from Canberra has received the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Conference26 (NATSIEHC26) emerging leadership award. [...] On behalf of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye care sector, the alliance will present an award to Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler and Assistant Minister Rebecca White in Canberra, in

recognition of the Australian Government's achievement in eliminating trachoma as a public health problem.

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Take the test

TRFM, Other, 29/06/2026

Residents across Gippsland are being encouraged to take part in the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program, following new figures showing fewer than half of eligible residents are completing the free at-home test. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler is urging everyone who receives a screening kit to complete it and return it as soon as possible, saying the simple test has the potential to save lives.

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

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Ministers know CHSP must stay but won't say so, as aged care reform chaos deepens

HelloCare, Other, 29/06/2026, Jakob Neeland

The federal government is caught in a damaging political limbo over the future of a critical aged care program, with senior ministers privately acknowledging the Commonwealth Home Support Program must be retained while refusing to make a formal announcement, leaving nearly a million older Australians and more than 1,300 provider organisations in deepening uncertainty. [...] CHSP Alliance co-convenor Paul Sadler confirmed that both Health Minister Mark Butler and Aged Care Minister Anika Wells have signalled their personal support for retaining CHSP separately, yet neither has converted that position into formal government policy.

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10 drugs score July PBS listings

Pharma In Focus, Other, 29/06/2026

Over the weekend, Health Minister Mark Butler announced 10 new and expanded PBS listings for July providing "vital financial relief to Australians" battling cancer and chronic conditions. Among the newcomers to the scheme is AstraZeneca's pegged blockbuster Tezspire for patients aged 12 years and older whose severe uncontrolled asthma causes a buildup of white blood cells leading to inflammation and tissue damage or causes the immune system to overact to allergens.

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The PBS at its best, Mark. Really?

Pharma In Focus, Other, 29/06/2026

Following a week-long hammering from The Australian newspaper over the failing PBS, Health Minister Mark Butler has curiously chosen a treatment that took almost five years and a series of bitter negotiations to reach patients, to illustrate the scheme "at its best."

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Channel 7, Seven News First at 4pm, 29/06/2026, Hugh Whitfield

From 1 July 1, about 150,000 Australians will benefit from new and expanded access to affordable medicines via PBS, such as a new injection to treat people with severe uncontrolled asthma, diabetes, severe muscle damage, and cancer. Drug companies are currently removing medications from the shelves because they're stuck in negotiations with the Federal Government, claiming it costs more to make medicines and they want to fund future innovation, but Federal Health Minister Mark Butler concedes that some changes need to occur.

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

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Channel 7, Seven News, 29/06/2026, Michael Usher and Angie Asimus

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has conceded the Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme is under growing pressure as billion-dollar drug companies demand higher prices for their products. Despite the

global uncertainty, Butler assures Australians won't be left behind.

Also reported by: [Seven Tasmania \(Hobart\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Seven Wagga Wagga \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Perth\)](#).

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Seven Cairns, Seven Local News, 29/06/2026, Joanne Desmond

A nasal spray for children with severe allergic reactions will be listed on the PBS from next month, reducing the cost from \$95 to \$25. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says they have been able to get the balance between access and affordability, and they want to see more of the world's best medicines come to Australia and be listed on the PBS.

Also reported by: [Seven Bundaberg Wide Bay \(Bundaberg\)](#).

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Channel 9, Today , 29/06/2026, Sarah Abo and Tom Steinfort

Panel discussion with Health Minister Mark Butler and Shadow Foreign Affairs Minister Ted O'Brien, about new polling from the Australian Financial Review revealed that One Nation has taken a hit off the back of Pauline Hanson's "monoculture" view. Butler believes that what people are doing after the "media frenzy" after the Budget is focusing on what people would be getting. He adds that there will be two tax cuts set for Australians in this year's budget that they have passed through Parliament last week.

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2SM, Afternoons, 29/06/2026, Brent Bultitude

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the Federal Government remains committed to strengthening Medicare and reducing pressure on emergency departments.

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3CS, 08:05 Local News, 29/06/2026, Unspecified

Colac residents are being encouraged to complete their National Bowel Cancer screening kits. Minister for Health and Ageing, Mark Butler, says the kits are usually mailed to those aged 50 to 74, while anyone over 45yos can receive a kit in the mail, they should return it.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

Rorters serve 60 years of collective jail time in NDIS crackdown

The Australian, General News, 30/06/2026, Sarah Ison, Page 4

Criminals charged with rorting the \$55bn-a-year NDIS have served more than 60 years of collective jail time since the launch of a fraud taskforce in 2022, which has seized over \$50m worth of assets including properties and luxury vehicles. [...] Criminals who try to rip off NDIS participants will be thrown in jail," NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister said.

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

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NDIS fraudsters heading to prison in taskforce blitz

Daily Telegraph, General News, 30/06/2026, Jessica Wang, Page 8

A total of 17 NDIS fraudsters have been sentenced to more than 60 years in jail collectively, with new data revealing two-thirds of NDIS-related criminal charges have resulted in a conviction. [...] NDIS Minister Jenny McAllister heralded the work done by the 25-member Fraud Fusion Taskforce and said

the group was "knocking on more doors, uncovering more fraud and putting more criminals before the courts".

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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MINISTER RAE

Our aged care bed crisis

West Australian, Business News, 30/06/2026, Rebecca Le May, Page 36

A dire national crisis is unfolding as Australia's residential aged-care homes burst at the seams with overwhelming demand, leaving the nation's greying population facing massive accommodation shortfalls. [...] Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said the Government's record investments across aged care would reach \$47b next year, with the reforms "building a system where every older Australian can get the care they deserve, at home or close to the ones they love".

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\$36m: Budget help for bed block problem

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 30/06/2026, Natalie Croxon, Page 5

About 700 older people will benefit each year from programs intended to alleviate the bed block afflicting Illawarra hospitals and others around the state. [...] Federal Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said states rejected \$2 billion set aside for aged care services through the National Health Reform Agreement and instead took the money for hospitals.

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'Free-market fiction'

Aged Care Insite, General News, 30/06/2026, Lachie Green, Page 18

April 1 marked six months since the full commencement of the Aged Care Act, and the date passed with barely a whimper. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae, his predecessor Anika Wells, and Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler have overseen the system on its downward trajectory.

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The Zap: latest health and aged care news, plus consultations not to miss

Croakey, Other, 29/06/2026, Charles Maskell-Knight

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

New mental health hub just for children

Canberra Times, General News, 30/06/2026, Jasper Lindell, Page 5

A walk-in mental health clinic on the edge of Canberra's largest university campus has provided around 18,000 care sessions since it opened about 18 months ago, the federal government says. [...] The federal Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Emma McBride, said the

government knew cost and distance barriers had too often stopped people from seeking help to address their mental health.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

Woman's perimenopause story at Tas health summit sparks call for change

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/06/2026, Alison Foletta

A Tasmanian woman sharing her powerful story about her struggles to get proper medical care when facing perimenopause has highlighted the critical need for a topic left "in the shadows". [...] Dr Sherlock said having federal Assistant Women's Minister Rebecca White and state Health Minister Bridget Archer in attendance meant the summit was more than information but a way to seek change.

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

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'We owe it to them': service helping people die with dignity under threat

Tasmanian Examiner, Other, 29/06/2026, Saree Salter

When Helen Hebblethwaite's uncle was dying she saw how important it was for him to be home in his final days. [...] "I wrote to the federal Minister for Health and Ageing and the federal Assistant Minister for Health, Rebecca White on this issue earlier this year and was very disappointed to receive a response essentially wiping their hands of the issue," Mrs Archer said.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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Canberra optometrist wins Indigenous eye health leadership award

National Indigenous Times, Other, 29/06/2026, Joseph Guenzler

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

G-Up: How to level up your nursing students' gerontology skills

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/08/2026, Page 14

Positive clinical placements are formative experiences which impact future preferences and career direction in nursing students. Creating positive supported learning environments involves preparing preceptor ('buddy') Registered Nurses (RNs) as positive role models.

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'The real issue is accountability': new rule aims to tackle contract blowouts

Canberra Times, Other, 29/06/2026, Ray Athwal

Senior public servants face a new requirement to personally sign off on contract amendments that significantly alter the value or scope of government agreements under rules taking effect in July 2026. [...] Other high-spending departments that had variations that more than doubled their original cost included the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, which recorded 1071 contract adjustments worth \$2.53 billion.

[Read More](#)

'The NDIS changed my brother's life. Now we're terrified of what comes next.'

Mamamia, Other, 29/06/2026, Nicole Madigan

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) was designed to lighten the load of families caring for people living with a disability. [...] A spokesperson for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing said the reforms are intended to return the NDIS to its original purpose while ensuring it remains sustainable for future generations.

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Croakey, Other, 29/06/2026, Charles Maskell-Knight

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Butler confirms new PBS listings for July

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/06/2026

July will be a "bumper month for cheaper medicines" with treatments for cancer and chronic conditions being listed on the PBS, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing says. Patients will be able to access 10 new drugs for no more than \$25 a month, through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) from Wednesday 1 July.

How to create an enduring assignment of benefit agreement

The Medical Republic, Other, 29/06/2026, Holly Payne

From Wednesday, some patients will be able to consent to ongoing bulk billing. The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has revealed how the new enduring assignment of benefit option for certain vulnerable patients will function, just days out from the go-live date.

[Read More](#)

New app to tackle allergies

Pulse+IT, Other, 29/06/2026

The National Allergy Council, a partnership between the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCI) and Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia, has launched the online Food Follower App as part of its Nip allergies in the Bub program. [...] Alongside, Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia's National Allergy Helpline, it forms part of broader national efforts to reduce the growing burden of allergic disease, supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Unsung hero of federal budget

Australian Financial Review, General News, 30/06/2026, Melissa Bray, Page 30

Productivity Reforms agreed to under a revised national competition policy agenda could permanently add another Townsville-sized economy to Australia.

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

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Time to get aboard: Virtual travel hits aged care homes

Age, General News, 30/06/2026, Carolyn Webb, Page 16

It's 11am on a Tuesday, and Rhonda and Rob Looney are flying in a helicopter, enjoying a panoramic view of New York. As the helicopter banks, a tour guide points out the One World Trade Centre tower, the Empire State Building and Central Park.

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

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Finding pieces of dementia puzzle

Herald Sun, General News, 30/06/2026, Ruby Kraner-Tucci, Page 4

People aged 70 and over who regularly complete crosswords or play puzzles, chess or card games are less likely to become frail or develop dementia. A major Monash University study of almost 13,000 older Aussies aged 70+, which ran for 11 years, found that frequently doing these simple activities reduced frailty by 4 per cent.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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Dorothy stranded

Burnie Advocate, General News, 30/06/2026, Freddie Moffat, Page 1

Health Minister Bridget Archer has blamed the federal government for North-West hospital bed pressures, and ruled out short-term relief from the state government. Her comments come after a woman expressed concerns about her mother being transferred from the North West Regional Hospital to the West Coast District Hospital at Queenstown in May.

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On the ground in aged care and why it matters

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/08/2026, Alana Ginnivan, Page 13

Over recent weeks, I have had the opportunity to travel with ANMF Federal Secretary Annie Butler and Federal Assistant Secretary Catelyn Richards, across different states and territories, hearing from members about all things aged care. Annie and I attended the New South Wales Nurses and Midwives' Association (NSWNMA) Aged Care Summit in Sydney, and Catelyn and I had the privilege to present to members at the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmania Branch's Aged Care Conference.

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No treatment

Aged Care Insite, General News, 30/06/2026, Stefanie Schultz, Page 4

Australian researchers have identified several promising biological targets that could guide the development of future treatments for vascular dementia, a common but currently untreatable form of dementia affecting thousands of older Australians. The study, led by scientists at the University of NSW Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing (CHeBA) and published in *Alzheimer's & Dementia: Translational Research & Clinical Interventions*, used advanced genetic techniques to pinpoint genes that may play a causal role in the disease.

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Workforce first

Aged Care Insite, General News, 30/06/2026, Stefanie Schultz, Page 10

In response to Labor's \$3 billion aged care investment, industry leaders are urging the government to ensure that workforce planning, staffing protections and clinical capability remain at the heart of any reform. A central feature of the package is the construction of 5000 new residential aged-care beds each year (supported by new targeted capital subsidies), an increase to the Accommodation Supplement, and structural changes that introduce new funding tiers, such as additional payments for facilities with more than 60 per cent supported residents.

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Support at home?

Aged Care Insite, General News, 30/06/2026, Hal Swerissen, Page 12

The way Australians are assessed for home-based aged-care funding is being investigated by the Commonwealth ombudsman. Critics say assessment for funding under the Support at Home program is flawed, leaving some older people unable to access the right level of care they need to safely live at home.

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'Sobering verdict'

Aged Care Insite, General News, 30/06/2026, Stefanie Schultz, Page 14

An international review has found that anti-amyloid drugs developed to treat Alzheimer's disease provide no clinically meaningful benefit to patients, despite decades of research and global investment. The findings have intensified debate over the long-dominant amyloid hypothesis and prompted calls for a broader shift in dementia res

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Widespread gaps

Aged Care Insite, General News, 30/06/2026, Stefanie Schultz, Page 16

A national report has found that most aged care providers are still failing to support older Australians' access to voluntary assisted dying (VAD), despite the practice being legal in every state and the ACT and protected under federal aged care law. Go Gentle Australis Voluntary Assisted Dying in Residential Aged Care Homes: A National Report Card reveals widespread gaps in transparency, policy and practical support.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Pay rise huge for my family, says worker

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 30/06/2026, Natalie Croxon, Page 1

For Illawarra disability support worker Cass, getting paid an extra \$5 an hour would be "huge" for her family. A recent decision of the Fair Work Commission has closed what the Australian Services Union (ASU) describes as a loophole in the industry award, which gave service providers the ability to pay disability support workers the lower rate paid to home care workers.

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

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Chapter closes for toddlers

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 30/06/2026, Nikita McGuire, Page 6

Townsville families have been left scratching their heads after library management axed a popular toddler literacy program and shifted a baby session into prime nap time. Townsville City Council, who looks after city libraries, was contacted for comment following the decision to cancel the First5Forever Toddler Time literacy program at Aitkenvale Library.

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Designer featured on Gardening Australia stripped of NDIS support funding

ABC Online, Other, 29/06/2026, Wade Stephens

A Central Victorian man says the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has robbed him of dignity and is risking his life with sudden changes to his NDIS plan. Joshua Ruff, 33, has Duchenne muscular dystrophy and lives in Maldon on a lavender farm he designed, which featured on ABC TV's Gardening Australia last year.

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PRIMARY CARE

Locked out: The housing crisis facing nurses and midwives

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/08/2026, Robert Fedele

After finishing a shift at Royal Prince Alfred (RPA) Hospital, enrolled nurse Talei Williams faces a dreaded commute stretching well over an hour. By the time she gets home to Waterfall, Sydney's southernmost suburb, the 30-year-old nurse and student feels exhausted not just from the demands of caring for others, but from the cumulative toll of simply getting to and from work.

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New powers, new accountability: The legal landscape of designated RN prescribing

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/08/2026, Dr Rebecca Millar, Page 27

In September 2025, the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) Registration Standard: Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines, Designated Registered Nurse Prescriber came into effect, enabling suitably qualified and experienced registered nurses to prescribe Schedule 2, 3, 4 and 8 medicines in partnership with an authorised health practitioner (NMBA, 2025). With the first graduates from NMBA-approved programs expected from mid-2026 (Ahpra, 2025), designated registered nurse prescribing (DRNP) is no longer a future concept.

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Medicare's rural blind spot: How funding structures are fragmenting healthcare in the bush

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/08/2026, Astrid S Tiefholz, Page 35

In our recent submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Rural Regional Affairs and Transport on Rural, regional and remote Medicare Access and Funding = the ANMF called for better support for rural and remote health access - warning that Medicare is failing the bush. For decades, the Australian healthcare system has relied on the clinical courage of nurses in rural and remote areas to bridge the gap between urban-centric policy and rural reality.

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'Scrap the cap' – MP slams cap on Veteran Allied Health access

2GB, Other, 29/06/2026, Luke Grant

Shadow Minister for Defence Industry and for Defence Personnel Philip Thompson has called on the Federal Government to scrap their cap on Veteran Allied Health access. He's told Luke Grant, filling in for Mark Levy, that it's an attack on veterans, and the lack of consultation and communication is a disgrace.

[Read More](#)

Collaborative pharmacist prescribing boosts safety: study

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/06/2026

Patients feel more included and better informed when pharmacists are involved in the prescribing process in hospital, research reveals. Results from a cross-sectional survey show patients trust pharmacists as medicines experts and have confidence in their ability to prescribe within a collaborative model.

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Report warns outdated super rules push informal carers into retirement poverty

Aged Care Insite, Other, 29/06/2026, Stefanie Schultz

Paying 12pc super on the Carer Payment would leave a typical 45-year-old carer \$45,000 better off at retirement. Advocacy groups are urging the federal government to overhaul superannuation laws after a new report revealed more than one million Australians are still excluded from the Super Guarantee, leaving thousands poorer in retirement.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News, 29/06/2026, Sandra Sully

Under a new program unveiled by the NSW Government, free ADHD assessments will be available from qualified GPs early next year. At the moment, an ADHD assessment can cost up to \$1500 and take a number of appointments, but soon, up to 2500 people aged six and above will be able to access them for free if they fit the criteria.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 29/06/2026, Emma Crowe

Interview with Dr Alison Poulton, University of Sydney. Poulton says the NSW Ministry of Health has been training GPs to become endorsed prescribers so they can actually diagnose and start ADHD treatment, and she would hope that some of the bulk billing practises that have been avoiding taking on the management of ADHD in their patients may be more willing for their GPs to train to become endorsed prescribers. Crowe notes that the NSW Government is injecting \$1.5m in funding to train GPs to treat ADHD.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 29/06/2026, Sarah Gerathy

Interview with RACGP NSW Chair Rebekah Hoffman. Gerathy says the NSW Government has announced it will cover the cost of up to 2500 ADHD assessments starting from November, and the first step is to train GPs in providing the assessments. Hoffman says the first group of 300 GPs have

already started their training to be able to assess and treat ADHD patients, and she is hoping that those who are in need will be able to access some additional funding.

[Play Now](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 29/06/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with Australian Medical Association ACT President Dr Betty Ge, on the AMA's latest ambulance ramping report. Ge says ambulance ramping and delays in public hospitals manifest the whole pressure across the territory's health system. She states that there needs to be a continued investment in the workforce, public hospital capacity and initiatives that will improve patient flow if they want faster ambulance response times and better access to emergency care.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Help on hold

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 30/06/2026, Emma Cam, Page 1

Plans to hire new support workers in Townsville, who would have helped patients over the phone and guided them to the right services, have had to be cancelled, as community mental health services say they are buckling under surging demand. With experts warning that funding has failed to keep pace, the strain on the sector comes as Queensland recorded 155 suspected suicide deaths in the first two months of 2026 the highest figure for that period in at least four years, and a rise from 112 recorded in the same period in 2025.

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First national menopause campaign for

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/08/2026, Page 5

The federal government has launched Australia's first national Menopause and Perimenopause campaign to help women better understand their symptoms, access trusted information and feel more confident seeking support. Perimenopause and menopause can affect women differently, with symptoms ranging from hot flushes and sleep problems to anxiety, brain fog and changes to mental health and wellbeing.

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

When the cost of care is the cost of getting there

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/08/2026, Dr Khalil Sukkar, Page 30

As fuel costs rise, aged care workers are absorbing the burden, providers are reshaping services, and older Australians in regional and outer metropolitan areas are at a growing risk of losing care at home. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) data shows that older Australians in remote and very remote areas already experience significantly poorer access to home care services; rising travel costs compound an access gap that existing funding models were not designed to consider.

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'It's about living': a father's love inspired a push for better healthcare

The Senior, Other, 29/06/2026, Carla Mascarenhas

Simon Waring lost both his wife and four-year-old-son to cancer within weeks of each other to cancer, but more than a decade on he's using that experience to help families facing the same journey. Through that experience, Waring said he learned palliative care is about helping people live as well as possible, rather than simply preparing for death.

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Breathe easy with vitamin K-rich greens

Herald Sun, General News, 30/06/2026, Claire Sadler, Page 12

Eating your greens could be the secret to breathing easier. A new Edith Cowan University study suggests people who eat more vitamin K-rich foods, such as leafy green vegetables, may lower their risk of chronic lung disease.

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

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

Belly fat linked to ageing more quickly

Herald Sun, General News, 30/06/2026, Page 16

New research suggests that higher levels of visceral fat stored deep in the abdomen could contribute to faster biological ageing. The University of Western Australia researchers found visceral fat could affect the ageing process beyond general measures of obesity.

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High blood pressure impacts 2 in 5 Australian adults, but many aren't aware

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/08/2026, Page 4

Constant hypertension, affects 2 in 5 Australian adults, according to a new report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). The common but serious condition can increase the risk of many chronic conditions such as stroke, coronary heart disease, heart failure, chronic kidney disease and dementia.

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Australians exposed to asbestos may be missing out on life-saving lung cancer screening

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/08/2026, Page 5

Thousands of Australians at increased risk of lung cancer may not be identified through current screening programs because past asbestos exposure is not being adequately considered, according to researchers from Curtin University. The findings raise concerns that many people exposed to asbestos through industries such as construction, mining and manufacturing could be diagnosed only after the disease has progressed, reducing treatment options and survival outcomes.

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The cumulative impact of night shift work on breast cancer risk

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/08/2026, Page 31

Shift work is an unavoidable reality for many nurses, midwives, and care workers. Across healthcare settings, around-the-clock staffing is essential to ensure safe, timely, and continuous care.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 29/06/2026, Peter Mitchell

Journalist and author Cassandra Thorburn is in the fight of her life after the trauma of a public divorce from Karl Stefanovic and her triple-negative breast cancer diagnosis. Just days ago, Thorburn finished chemo, and she will now undergo radiation immunotherapy.

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

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Mental health funding lag

Cairns Post, General News, 30/06/2026, Samuel Davis, Page 4

A wage increase for mental health workers is expected to hit at least two Far North services hard with funding agreements failing to keep pace with looming staff pay rises. From Wednesday, community mental health organisations across Queensland are legally required to boost workers' wages by 4.75 per cent following a decision by the Fair Work Commission.

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Vital support

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 30/06/2026, Page 14

Mental health support officials are sounding the alarm over funding shortfalls that they say will cripple services. As a remote and regional community, North Queensland knows all too well how dangerous the black dog can be.

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

Good call

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 30/06/2026, David Chapman, Page 1

It seems doom and gloom is around every corner in 2026, but a major expansion will ensure Bendigo's Lifeline legends can continue "delivering high-impact, life-saving support to people who need it most". Lifeline Loddon Mallee board chair Dianne Bowles has called the new facility on Rohs Road in Bendigo East "a major step forward for our region".

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IMMUNISATION

Frightening rise in pneumonia cases sparks massive free vaccine expansion

The Senior, Other, 30/06/2026, Carla Mascarenhas

Adelaide resident Cecilia Borda experienced the frightening pneumococcal pneumonia not once in her life, but twice and welcomed a vaccine becoming available for 1.8 million people over 65. Borda, now in her seventies, told The Senior she was a teacher conducting parent-teacher interviews when she collapsed at a parent's feet.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

New fund a shot in arm for medtech

The Australian, Technology, 30/06/2026, Jared Lynch, Page 20

A group of Australian doctors is raising \$40m to create a fund to back the medical technology that venture capitalists keep missing and smash the 'anglosphere' that keeps sending the best nation's start-ups offshore. Medical Angels, a doctor-led syndicate running since 2017, has opened its first institutional vehicle - Medical Angels Venture Fund I - to channel clinician money into healthtech that generalist investors struggle to read.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

New mobile clinic to bring lung cancer screening to Arnhem Land, Groote Eylandt, Tiwi Islands and Wadeye

National Indigenous Times, Other, 29/06/2026, Giovanni Torre

Mobile specialist healthcare provider, Heart of Australia, has expanded their operations to the Northern Territory to deliver access to the National Lung Cancer Screening Program (NLCSP) with the launch of their new mobile CT clinic, HEART 8. HEART 8 will support engagement with people in rural and remote communities across the Northern Territory, with a barge route to include three Arnhem Land communities, as well as Groote Eylandt, Tiwi Islands and Wadeye, to provide free lung cancer screening appointments to eligible participants.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

ED redevelopment begins

West Australian, General News, 30/06/2026, Page 7

The redevelopment of the Royal Perth Hospital Emergency Department is under way with the six-storey tower to be built at top speed, due for completion in just over two years. Health Infrastructure Minister John Carey made no apologies when unveiling the estimated \$807.3 million price tag for the mammoth project on Monday, which will consume almost half of the Cook Government's Building Hospitals Fund.

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

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

Transparency key to uncovering where the real pressures on the state's hospital expenditure are

Hobart Mercury, General News, 29/06/2026, Ruth Forrest, Page 22

Every state budget forces us to confront familiar questions about our health system what it costs, whether we are putting in enough to meet demand, whether we can sustain the system we have, and whether it delivers the outcomes Tasmanians deserve. But this year, another question demands equal attention why does it cost so much more to run our system than comparable systems elsewhere in Australia, and why is that gap widening rather than narrowing?

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MP queries locum use

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 30/06/2026, Jacob McMaster, Page 1

Questions have been raised about the long-term sustainability of locum doctors in New England hospitals and delays to upgrades in Glen Innes by MP Brendan Moylan. Mr Moylan recently posed questions to the state government on locum spending at Armidale, Glen Innes, Inverell and Moree hospitals.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

For too many nurses, midwives and carers, the idea of owning a home has become increasingly out of reach.

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/08/2026, Annie Butler, Page 1

The very people who care for us in hospitals, aged care homes, clinics and communities every day the people who work weekends, nights, public holidays and overtime to keep our health system going are being priced out of the communities they work in. We are hearing from members across the country who cannot afford to live anywhere near their workplace and are spending hours commuting between shifts.

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Joint action to strengthen health workforce response to family violence

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/08/2026, Page 4

Around one in five women who experience violence from a current or former partner turn to a general practitioner or health professional for advice or support. Accordingly, Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra), National Boards and Accreditation Authorities have issued a joint statement committing to building the health workforce's ability to recognise and respond to family, domestic and sexual violence (FDSV).

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Why not mental health nursing? Understanding the factors influencing undergraduate nursing students' decisions pursuing this specialty

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/08/2026, Nicole Snaith, Paul Cooper and Monika Ferguson, Page 51

Recruitment and retention of mental health nurses is a significant issue worldwide. In Australia, there is a predicted 18,500 shortage within this specialty by 2030.

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Victorian doctors take step towards first industrial action in 20 years

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 29/06/2026, Kieran Rooney

Victorian public hospital doctors are on the verge of their first industrial action in 20 years after agreeing on Monday to push ahead with the process that would greenlight overtime bans and potential strike action. The Australian Medical Association Victoria (AMA) and the union, the Australian Salaried Medical Officers' Federation, have been negotiating a new pay deal for public hospital doctors for 10 months but have hit a stalemate and have accused the state government of backflipping on key requests.

[Read More](#)

Calls for Health Department to review fatigue policy after Tasmanian doctor dies in car crash

ABC Online, Other, 29/06/2026, Ashleigh Barraclough

There are calls for Tasmania's Department of Health to examine its fatigue management policies after a doctor died on the state's roads. Artyom Avetisyan, a cardiothoracic surgery registrar at the Royal Hobart Hospital, has been remembered by hospital staff as a kind and compassionate colleague who will be "greatly missed".

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

1 July brings major pharmacy changes

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 29/06/2026, Chloe Hava

Pharmacists covered by the Pharmacy Industry Award 2020 are in line for their largest annual pay rise in years. At the end of the 2025–26 financial year (30 June), the second stage of the gender-based undervaluation correction will kick in. The 14.1% phased increase to pharmacist minimum rates is being rolled out over 3 years.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

'On notice'

Aged Care Insite, General News, 30/06/2026, Stefanie Schultz, Page 8

In a bid to keep frontline healthcare workers safe from violence and aggression, the Victorian government has announced it will add more workplace inspectors and ramp up its focus on workplace compliance. Announced as part of the 202627 state budget, the package includes an additional 20 WorkSafe inspectors targeting high-risk sectors, including health care and social assistance.

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Epworth surgeon Dr Marco Emanuele Larobina accused of being an alcoholic by his family

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/06/2026, Jon Kaila

One of Australia's elite heart surgeons has been accused of being an alcoholic by his own family. The shocking claim against Dr Marco Emanuele Larobina has been detailed in court documents, as he fights for a slice of a family trust fund.

[Read More](#)

Access key to vaccinating First Nations kids

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 29/06/2026

A review of research looking at barriers and enablers for vaccinating First Nations children from birth to five years has found that practical roadblocks to accessing healthcare were a common problem, including transport from remote areas, opening hours of healthcare facilities and cultural safety.

[Read More](#)

Better care when things go wrong

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 29/06/2026

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has revised the Australian Open Disclosure Framework, supporting healthcare professionals to communicate openly with patients when things go wrong. Originally released in 2014, the updated framework reflects contemporary clinical practice and strengthens its focus on person-centred care.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Diphtheria infection continues to spread

A case of diphtheria has been recorded in the Mid West, marking a spread of the potentially life-threatening bacterial infection to a majority of the State's regions. The once almost eradicated infection has now been detected in the Mid West, Perth metropolitan, Kimberley, Pilbara, and the Goldfields, prompting a grim warning from health experts about the spread throughout WA.

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

Health experts provide grim diphtheria warning as cases spread to Midwest

West Australian, Other, 29/06/2026, Claire Sadler

There have been a total of 393 cases of the potentially life-threatening bacterial infection across the country with WA making up 44 per cent of the infections. A case of diphtheria has been recorded in the Midwest, marking a spread of the potentially life-threatening bacterial infection to a majority of the State's regions.

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Hantavirus outbreak nearing its end, WHO chief says

West Australian, Other, 29/06/2026, Staff writers

The hantavirus outbreak linked to a cruise ship carrying 147 passengers and crew is nearing its end, the head of the World Health Organisation says. WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said all contacts of two cases identified in South Africa had now completed their follow-up period, with no additional cases reported.

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

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Safety alert on libido boosters

Daily Telegraph, General News, 30/06/2026, Josephine Quattrocchi, Page 10

Almost a dozen sexual enhancement supplements have triggered a TGA safety alert after they were found to contain undeclared prescription drugs. The Therapeutic Goods Administration has triggered a safety alert after it identified 11 sexual enhancement products including tablets and creams that contain undeclared sildenafil, tadalafil and dapoxetine.

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'Blown away': Belmont mum receives Australian-first kidney stone treatment at Geelong hospital

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/06/2026, Zoe De Koning

A Belmont mum with a history of painful kidney stones has become one of the first patients in Australia to trial a new device only available at Geelong hospital that slashes treatment time. [...] The device is being trialled under the Therapeutic Goods Administration's authorised prescriber pathway, which allows monitored access to unapproved medical devices prior to full regulatory approval.

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

[Read More](#)

Girl, 15, dies after dangerous social media challenge leaves her 'brain dead'

NEWS.com.au, Other, 29/06/2026, Rebekah Scanlan

A devastated dad confronted a store worker after his 15-year-old daughter died after taking part in a dangerous trend that left her "brain dead". [...] Other Australian Benadryl variants (like Chesty Cough Forte or Dry Cough) do not contain diphenhydramine at all, but rather rely on different active ingredients such as guaifenesin, bromhexine, or dextromethorphan. Medicines containing

diphenhydramine are regulated by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for use as both allergy symptom relief and short-term insomnia relief in Australia.

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

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Why it's important to speak up about sexual side effects of antidepressants: 'Plenty of options'

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 29/06/2026, Ruby Kraner-Tucci

One in seven Australians take antidepressants, yet experts warn patients aren't often told about this rare sexual side effect. [...] The TGA's adverse events registrar does not confirm the medication is the cause.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#)

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Guidelines have changed. Managing osteoporosis in General Practice

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 29/06/2026

Guidelines now recommend a bone anabolic for the first line osteoporosis treatment of patients at very high risk of fracture. For GPs, identifying these patients as soon as possible is now an important part of osteoporosis care.

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Sunscreen sales up despite doubts

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 29/06/2026

Australia's sunscreen market has grown by almost 60% over the past four summers, rising from \$64.4 million in summer 2022 to \$102.7 million in summer 2026, according to market research company Circana. [...] "The sunscreen compliance issue has also increased consumer awareness around what makes a legitimate and trustworthy SPF product," Leathwood said, referring to the numerous sunscreen recalls by the Therapeutic Goods Administration and ongoing questions around reliability of SPF labelling since the Choice testing last year.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Nine News, 29/06/2026, Peter Overton

New data obtained by Nine News shows a serious decline in weight loss surgeries, partially attributed to the rise in blockbuster GLP-1 medications. Weight loss medications have increased after an independent advisory body recommended Wegovy to be subsidised, but it would only be affordable for patients who have both obesity and cardiovascular disease.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Melbourne\)](#)

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Heat on drug-drive laws as study finds cannabis misuse

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 30/06/2026, Page 11

There are fresh calls for contentious cannabis driving laws to be scrapped as a study finds most medicinal users take a higher dose than recommended. New South Wales has moved transformational changes to its road laws, which would allow registered medicinal cannabis users to continue driving with low amounts of THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) in their system.

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

Qld scraps medicinal cannabis driving review amid crackdown

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/06/2026, Tayla Couacaud

Queensland has scrapped a review that could have allowed medicinal cannabis users to get behind the wheel, as tough new penalties for drink- and drug-drivers are introduced. Repeat offenders caught driving under the influence of both alcohol and drugs will face mandatory imprisonment, while motorists will face up to life in prison for dangerous driving causing death or grievous bodily harm under proposed new laws.

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

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Optimi Health completes psilocybin export to Australia for patients With treatment-resistant depression

Newcastle Herald, Other, 29/06/2026

Optimi's 5mg psilocybin capsules are prescribed in Australia for treatment-resistant depression. The export marks Optimi's third commercial shipment since launching the 5mg psilocybin capsules in September 2025.

[Read More](#)

Could psychedelic therapy have a place in end-of-life care?

Aged Care Insite, Other, 29/06/2026, David Menkes

The therapeutic use of psychedelic drugs has attracted no shortage of media and scientific interest over recent years – and this is only likely to grow. An increasing number of studies suggest psychedelics such as MDMA, better known as ecstasy, and psilocybin, the active ingredient in magic mushrooms, can help treat some mental health conditions.

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FOOD STANDARDS

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AICIS

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