



TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 7th July 2026

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[Michael West Media](#)** (online) reports a class action lawsuit has been filed in the Federal Court of Australia against aged care provider Arcare for allegedly overcharging residents for services that were either never delivered or already mandated under legislation. The legal action follows criticism of the Federal Department of Health and other authorities for failing to act sooner, as well as recent concerns from the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner regarding the provider's use of the Higher Everyday Living Fees introduced by the Federal Government. *Also reported by: [Australian Ageing Agenda](#), [The Weekly Source](#), and [Hello Care](#).*
- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 1) reports Swiss pharmaceutical giant Novartis has agreed to acquire early-stage cancer therapy biotech Myricx for more than \$2 billion. More than 73 per cent of the deal's potential value will be paid upfront in cash for the pre-clinical company developing targeted cancer therapies.
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports a new community-run cancer care support program funded by the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation has been delivered in Yarrabah to improve cultural safety and prevention education for Indigenous patients.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 12) reports the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee will consider an updated proposal to subsidise the severe eczema treatment Dupixent for children aged six months to 12 years following a previous 2022 recommendation that stalled due to outstanding pharmaceutical company documentation. The Federal Government's Department of Health,

Disability, and Ageing confirmed its commitment to listing the medicine once terms are agreed upon.

- **The Hobart Mercury** (page 1) reports public health officials have expressed concern over a significant national resurgence of syphilis, with Tasmanian case numbers rising by 129 per cent in 2022 and already reaching 41 recorded notifications this year.
- **The Herald Sun** (page 10) reports analysis of the Australian Immunisation Register shows toddler immunisation rates have fallen below the crucial 95 per cent herd immunity target across Victoria, with the national rate hitting a five-year low in 2025.

MINISTER BUTLER

Expert urges Australia to follow UK's evidence-based puberty blocker ban

The Australian, Other, 06/07/2026, Rachel Baxendale

A neuropsychologist who went looking for evidence that puberty blockers were safe for children's brains found 'absolutely none'. She says Australia needs to reckon with that uncomfortable truth. [...] The Starmer government's decision to ban puberty blockers under then health secretary Wes Streeting prompted Australian Health Minister Mark Butler in January 2025 to commission the National Health and Medical Research Council to develop national clinical practice guidelines for pediatric gender care.

[Read More](#)

Taylor's TikTok challenge: complex policy in 45 seconds

The Australian, Other, 06/07/2026, Nick Cater

In August 2018, Australian politics quietly entered a new age. Almost nobody noticed. [...] Mark Butler, 55, wasn't drunk or amusing a restless infant.

[Read More](#)

NDIS reform bill: the government wants to cut first and build later

Disability Support Guide, Other, 06/07/2026, Lauren Liao

Twelve disability representative organisations, including People with Disability Australia, First Peoples Disability Network Australia and Women With Disabilities Australia, put the government on notice this week over the NDIS Amendment Bill. [...] The National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Securing the NDIS for Future Generations) Bill 2026 was introduced to Parliament on 14 May 2026, following NDIS Minister Mark Butler's National Press Club speech on 22 April.

[Read More](#)

RAD prices are climbing fast — and location now matters more than ever

Australian Property Markets News, Other, 06/07/2026, Millicent Manalili

Refundable Accommodation Deposits ('RADs') have jumped 16% in two years, outpacing both inflation and house prices. [...] In April 2026, Health Minister Mark Butler told the National Press Club that Australia needs to open a "new aged care facility every three days for the next 20 years" to keep pace with demand from an ageing Baby Boomer generation – and admitted the country is falling well short of that mark.

[Read More](#)

LA FM, 13:00 News, 06/07/2026

A campaign led by the Federal Government and Cancer Council is urging Australians to participate in bowel cancer screenings. Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler says the tests could save people's lives.

Also reported by: [HO FM \(Hobart\)](#).

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5CC, 09:03 Regional News, 06/07/2026

A national campaign is urging younger Australians to screen now as bowel cancer claims 100 lives a week. Australians aged 45 to 49 are being encouraged to request their first free kit to take part, while people aged 50 to 74 are automatically sent the free kit every two years. Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler says they need more people to actually return the kits.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

No relevant coverage

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MINISTER RAE

Labor backs down on irreversible age care algorithm

HealthTimes, Other, 06/07/2026

Humans will be allowed to overrule a controversial automation tool that determined aged care assessments after complaints that decisions could not be reversed. [...] Aged Care Minister Sam Rae on Thursday conceded changes would be made to allow a review of decisions in extenuating circumstances.

[Read More](#)

Stolen Generations advocates back permanent First Nations aged care commissioner

National Indigenous Times, Other, 06/07/2026, Dechlan Brennan

The Federal Government's moves to establish a permanent aged care advocate for First Nations people have been welcomed, with by Stolen Generations advocates arguing it is a significant step towards improving outcomes for ageing survivors. [...] We're establishing a permanent Commissioner to help close that gap, and we're listening to community to inform how we do it," Aged Care Minister Sam Rae said.

[Read More](#)

\$100M class action launched against Arcare Aged Care

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/07/2026, Caroline Egan

A global law firm has launched a class action against the private aged care operator, with allegations aired on last night's Channel 9 '60 Minutes' program titled 'Age of Greed'. [...] 60 Minutes claimed the regulator was "powerless" and "underperforming" in the face of complaints about Arcare's fees, but Aged Care Minister Sam Rae told the program the ACQSC is "doing an excellent job".

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Catholic Health Australia has a plan for aged care's big problem

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/07/2026, Caroline Egan

The peak body for Catholic aged care providers believes it has a solution for the growing number of older Australians stranded in hospital while waiting for an aged care bed. [...] "Work within the existing framework" The roundtable was chaired by Dr Mike Freeland MP, with the Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae MP, in attendance.

[Read More](#)

CHA calls for system-wide reform to tackle hospital bed block

The Catholic Weekly, Other, 06/07/2026, Tara Kennedy

Catholic Health Australia has called for system-wide reform to address hospital bed bloc across the

country, warning the issue is not simply a hospital problem but a "care economy" challenge requiring coordinated action across health, aged care, disability services and housing. [...] The roundtable was attended by CHA acting chief executive Dr Katharine Bassett, Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae MP, chaired by Dr Mike Freeland MP, with support from industry super fund HESTA.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Mental health service supports new NT parents struggling with depression and anxiety

ABC Online, Other, 06/07/2026, Jane Bardon

Expectant and new parents in the Northern Territory suffer from some of the country's highest rates of depression and anxiety, but mental health services for those seeking help are sparse. [...] "This investment will mean 20 centres opening across the country — one right here in Berry Springs, the ninth to be [established] nationally and the first in the Northern Territory — but there will be more to come," Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Assistant Minister Emma McBride said.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER WHITE

ABC Radio Hobart, Evenings, 06/07/2026, Helen Shield

Shield is joined by ABC state political reporter Lucy MacDonald. MacDonald says the most recent National Health Survey has revealed that around 21,000 Tasmanian women have one or more heart strokes or vascular diseases, and a new Federal Government panel is now looking to improve heart health outcomes for Australian women. An audio clip of Assistant Minister for Health and Women Rebecca White was played, where she stated that many women don't recognise the symptoms of cardiovascular disease because it's still built on a male model.

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SPECIAL ENVOY REPACHOLI

Australia's community pharmacies flagged as key to improving men's health outcomes

WEB Australasian Pharmacy, Other, 06/07/2026

Community pharmacies are uniquely positioned to make an even greater impact on men's health outcomes, with health leaders highlighting that everyday conversations with pharmacists can unlock earlier intervention and support stronger long-term care. [...] Special Envoy for Men's Health Dan Repacholi MP said many men delay seeking help until problems escalate.

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DEPARTMENT

One jab could have spared Aaron his eczema pain

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 07/07/2026, Rachel Rasker, Page 6

Most parents bring nappies and snacks on a day trip. [...] A spokesperson for the Department of

Health, Disability and Ageing said Dupixent's pharmaceutical company, Sanofi, "has not provided the required documentation for the PBS listing to progress".

Also reported by: [The Age \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

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

Fees for no service. Arcare class action puts rapacious aged care operators on notice

Michael West Media, Other, 06/07/2026, Sarah Russell

Aged care group Arcare has been hit with a class action for overcharging residents. The most shocking aspect of this story is that Aged Care Ministers, the regulator, bureaucrats in the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and the Commonwealth Ombudsman all knew about Arcare's illegal behaviour yet turned a blind eye.

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Commission targeting HELF breaches

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 06/07/2026

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission is investigating several residential aged care providers amid concerns they are charging for services that should be included as part of standard residential aged care or that residents cannot or do not use. [...] According to examples made by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, these can include: Wi-Fi usage in-room television subscription services with a streaming television provider premium menu options wider refreshments selection, such as alcohol daily newspaper delivery hairdressing and beauty services.

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DoHDA warning around digital scribe safety

Health Services Daily, Other, 06/07/2026, Helen Tobler

Along with the relentless rise in the popularity of AI scribes comes increasing risks to patient privacy and safety, the department warns.

[Read More](#)

Insurers' covid promises kept, says government report

Health Services Daily, Other, 06/07/2026, Cate Swannell

DoHDA closes the books on pandemic monitoring program after finding insurers collectively gave back \$5.06bn to policyholders, exceeding estimated permanent claims savings.

[Read More](#)

A food allergy expert on the 3 'rules' they'd recommend to every new parent.

Mamamia, Other, 06/07/2026, Valentina Todoroska

As a first-time mum, I was terrified of introducing solid foods. [...] Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, their mission is to reduce the burden of allergic disease through evidence-based information and resources.

[Read More](#)

PSR expansion to capture informed financial consent on the table

The Medical Republic, Other, 06/07/2026, Holly Payne

A new consultation paper signals that informed financial consent – specifically the act of obfuscating the total fee by having it broken up into multiple components – will be the next area of interest for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. [...] Research from Private Healthcare Australia indicates that one in three patients felt they lacked sufficient clarity to plan for specialist and hospital fees, while 55% said they received an unexpectedly large bill.

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Medicare Costs Finder now more useless than usual

The Medical Republic, Other, 06/07/2026, Holly Payne

And I'm possibly the only person on the planet who cares. Sigh. [...] In desperation, an email was sent to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing alerting it to what was surely a catastrophic technology failure preventing the Medical Costs Finder from updating.

[Read More](#)

McLean Care still in talks for new provider

WEB Gunnedah Times, Other, 06/07/2026

Earlier this year, the Inverell-based provider announced its plan to transition aged care facilities and services to a new provider. [...] McLean Care has worked closely with clients, staff, Australian Unity and the Commonwealth Department of Health, Disability and Ageing throughout this process.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

'Merely existing': why the Age Pension is failing Australians in 2026

Canberra Times, Other, 06/07/2026, Carla Mascarenhas

If you're on the age pension you're likely doing it tough, with advocates calling to lift the fortnightly rate to keep up to date with current living standards. [...] Grice said National Seniors wanted employment income to be exempt from the Age Pension income test for older Australians who wanted or needed to continue working.

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

[Read More](#)

Domestic and family violence victim-survivors at risk of CTE, experts warn

ABC Online, Other, 06/07/2026, Isabella Garrido

In 2024, analysis of the brains of two dead women found they had been so brutally assaulted that they were posthumously diagnosed with a brain disease usually associated with high-impact athletes. [...] The federal government granted Dementia Australia \$12.5 million in funding to help tackle CTE.

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National survey: Support at Home confuses retirement village residents

The Weekly Source, Other, 06/07/2026, Ian Horswill

The NSW Retirement Village Residents Association (RVRA) has released the results of a national survey of retirement village residents. The survey, completed in consultation with retirement village resident associations across Australia, attracted 2,451 responses and generated more than 8,800 written comments on the Federal Government's new Support at Home program.

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Arcare faces class action suit

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 06/07/2026, Katarina Lloyd Jones

A class action has been filed against aged care provider Arcare on behalf of all current and former Arcare residents charged an Additional Services Fee – embedded within Arcare's Signature Package fee – between 3 July 2020 and 2 July 2026. [...] The class action comes amid scrutiny surrounding provider use of the Higher Everyday Living Fee, with the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission announcing an investigation on Friday into HELF at several aged care homes.

Also reported by: [The Weekly Source \(Online\)](#), [HelloCare \(Online\)](#).

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Profits up for home care sector

The home care sector has seen an overall improvement in its profitability for the second year in a row, thanks to the growth in sector income from 2023-24 (18.7 per cent) exceeding the growth in expenses (18.2 per cent). The improved financial results follow reported declines in 2020-21 and 2022-23, according to the Financial Report on the Australian Aged Care Sector 2024-25.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

How to stop frausters tricking disabled people out of their NDIS funding

The Conversation, Other, 06/07/2026, Mona Nikidehaghani

Fraud has been on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) radar for years. [...] The National Disability Insurance Agency recently estimated that around A\$3.7 billion, or 8.3% of its payments in the previous financial year, was affected by what it calls "integrity leakage".

[Read More](#)

'A real shame': NDIS budget cuts hit the Border as major program shuts down

The Border Mail, Other, 06/07/2026, Chelsea Wilson

One of the region's largest disability support services will decrease its offerings after budget cuts to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Aspire Support Services will cease operation of its lifestyle and learning day programs from August 28.

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PRIMARY CARE

No relevant coverage

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POPULATION HEALTH

Growing appetite for weight loss drugs

Hobart Mercury, General News, 07/07/2026, Eli Greenblat, Page 8

The popularity of GLP-1 injectable weight-loss drugs with Australians has turned the country into a billion-dollar market for US pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly and its blockbuster treatment Mounjaro. Mounjaro is approved in this country for the management of chronic obesity and type 2 diabetes.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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

Tasmanian Premier Jeremy Rockliff calls on Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to crack down on illicit tobacco market, cut excise

Sky News Australia, Other, 06/07/2026, Christian Li

Tasmanian Premier Jeremy Rockliff has called on the federal government to lower the tobacco excise, saying the move will reduce illegal black-market trade and related crime. [...] Tobacco consumption from illegal sources as a share of the total tobacco consumed increased from 12 per cent in 2017 to 80 per cent in 2025, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

[Read More](#)

FIVEAA, Mornings, 06/07/2026, Matthew Pantelis

Interview with Australian Medical Association President Dr Danielle McMullen. Pantelis says the AMA is calling on the Federal Government to finally mandate the Health Star Rating system. McMullen states that FSANZ is consulting at the moment on making the system mandatory, and it's time for consumers to get information on packaged foods that's useful to them.

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

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

The drug that could change the lives of young eczema sufferers

Age, General News, 07/07/2026, Rachel Rasker, Page 12

Most parents bring spare nappies and snacks on a day trip. [...] Younger children do not have funded access to the medicine, which costs about \$20,000 a year without a PBS subsidy.

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Robotic helper to hunt cancer

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 07/07/2026, Shashi Baltutis, Page 17

When lung cancer was detected close to Jayne Saul's heart, doctors considered it extremely difficult to conduct a safe biopsy using conventional methods. Ms Saul, 66, was referred for a trial of a robotic bronchoscopy at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, now available for the first time to South Australian patients.

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Dad left a legacy

Cairns Post, General News, 07/07/2026, Nicola McNamara, Page 7

An "extraordinary" Queensland man's tragic death two weeks after starting chemotherapy has changed cancer treatment across Australia, a coroner has found. North Queensland father Jeffrey Stewart Olsen, 65, tragically died from serious side effects to his chemotherapy medication at Cairns Hospital on October 6, 2020, while undergoing treatment for stage 3 bowel cancer.

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Channel 10, 10 News, 06/07/2026, Kate Freebairn

Cutting-edge technology to improve lung cancer detection is being trialled in Royal Adelaide Hospital. Around 15,000 Australians are diagnosed each year but have a boosted chance of survival through early intervention.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 06/07/2026, Alicia Loxley

Cancer patients in Melbourne's Cabrini have been the first to try a new therapy aimed at a common and debilitating side effect of chemotherapy. The cooling gloves and slippers help reduce nerve damage from the toxic but life-saving medicine.

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

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Extreme high temperatures double young people's risk of mental health

admissions, Australian research shows

The Guardian, Other, 07/07/2026, Graham Readfearn

Extreme high temperatures in warmer months double the risk of young people being admitted to hospital for a mental health condition, according to research. The analysis, which looked at 720,000 New South Wales hospital admissions of young people aged up to 24, suggested the climate crisis would aggravate the already declining mental health of young people.

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IMMUNISATION

Alarm as vaccine rates in free fall

Herald Sun, General News, 07/07/2026, Sarah Booth, Page 10

Toddler immunisation rates are below crucial herd immunity targets for highly infectious diseases in every single Victorian area, amid rising levels of vaccine hesitancy. Fresh analysis of the latest Australian Immunisation Register data shows that none of the more than 60 statistical areas level 3 (SA3) regions in Victoria reached the 95 per cent "fully vaccinated" target for all age groups.

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

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Great Southern records highest rate of whooping cough cases in regional WA

ABC Online, Other, 06/07/2026, Rachel Jennings & Rosemary Murphy

Parents in Western Australia's south are being urged to get their children vaccinated against whooping cough, as cases in the region surge to more than three times last year's numbers. The highly contagious bacterial infection, known formally as pertussis, is spread through droplets emitted when a person coughs or sneezes.

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Major COVID-19 vaccination changes are coming

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 06/07/2026, Chloe Hava

Next quarter, covid-19 vaccination will move from the COVID-19 Vaccination in Community Pharmacy (CVCP) Program to the National Immunisation Program Vaccinations in Pharmacy (NIPVIP) Program. AP explores what pharmacists need to do to prepare.

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You're not imagining it. There's a reason everyone really is sicker this winter.

Mamamia, Other, 06/07/2026, Zoe Rochford

Not sure about you, but every single person I know has been sick this winter and we're only just over a month into the season! [...] That tracks with data from the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance , which indicates only 20 per cent of Australians between 15 and 50 have had a flu vax in 2025, down from 39.2 per cent back in 2020.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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Super funds win big in \$2b biotech deal

Australian Financial Review, General News, 07/07/2026, Michael Smith, Page 1

Swiss pharmaceutical giant Novartis has agreed to pay more than \$2 billion for early-stage cancer therapy biotech Myricx in a windfall for the company's founding investor and its superannuation fund backers.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Remote First Nations kids report ear issues

Hobart Mercury, General News, 07/07/2026, Page 7

One in two First Nations children under the age of six and living in remote locations are likely to have middle ear disease, a damning new report from Hearing Australia has found. An analysis of more than 15,000 First Nations children assessed by Hearing Australia found the rate of preventable ear disease is double that of First Nations children in metropolitan, regional and rural areas.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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New cancer care program empowers Yarrabah residents undergoing treatment

ABC Online, Other, 06/07/2026, Bridget Herrmann

When Colin Costello was undergoing cancer treatment, he would leave his home community in Far North Queensland for seven months at a time. [...] Yarrabah is ranked by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as the nation's fifth most socio-economically disadvantaged local government area based on 2021 Census data.

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Grim new data shows Indigenous children at severe risk of high lead levels

Daily Liberal, Other, 06/07/2026, Ciara Bastow

More than half of Aboriginal children under five in Broken Hill continue to record elevated blood-lead levels. [...] New data released by the government shows 56 per cent of Aboriginal children aged one to five have blood-lead levels above the national health investigative guideline, compared with 35 per cent of all children in the same age group.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

No relevant coverage

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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Ratio changes a win but will battle go on?

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 07/07/2026, Sophia Baker, Page 5

A south-west hospital will now have more nurses working per shift but will it have the staff to meet new requirements? Last week, changes were introduced to new nurse-and-midwife-to-patient ratios at 26 Victorian hospitals, including Hamilton Base Hospital.

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Allan urged to intervene amid threat to stop health worker bans

Australian Financial Review, Other, 06/07/2026, David Marin-Guzman

The Victorian government has threatened to take legal action to shut down allied health professionals' indefinite work bans over claims they risk urgent care, prompting a call for Premier Jacinta Allan to personally intervene.

[Read More](#)

Evidence backing prescribing expansion 'weak' and 'insufficient'

The Australian, Other, 06/07/2026, Penny Timms

The evidence used to support a rapid expansion of pharmacist prescribing is being described as "weak" and "insufficient", and the head of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners has challenged lobbyists and governments to prove otherwise. "Improving access to medicines is important but you've got to put measures in place to assess the risk to our patients, and if we're not doing that, that's dangerous," RACGP president and practising GP Dr Michael Wright said.

[Read More](#)

Australia needs consistent approach to pharmacist prescribing: Guild

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 06/07/2026, Nicholas O'Donoghue

Policymakers urged to back pharmacist prescribers to improve access to medicine, as GPs warn against "putting policy ahead of safety." GPs double down on pharmacist prescribing concerns, with new report published Monday 6 July 2026 saying there is limited evidence to support the service in Australia.

[Read More](#)

Change up the Black Triangle Scheme, suggest authors

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 06/07/2026, Megan Haggan

Most people aren't aware of Australia's Black Triangle Scheme – including nearly half of health care professionals. However, a potential role for pharmacists could include educating their patients about it, researchers say.

[Read More](#)

Show us the evidence, say GPs

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 06/07/2026

Doctors peak bodies are doubling down on their opposition to pharmacist prescribing, with the Royal Australian College of GPs highlighting a report released today suggesting that the ongoing rollout of pharmacist prescribing lacks evidence of safety. The independent report was commissioned by the RACGP in response to its concerns.

[Read More](#)

Guild welcomes new code of ethics

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 06/07/2026

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has welcomed the release of the new Code of Ethics for Pharmacists (PD 02 Jul), stating it represents an important step forward for the profession. The Guild played an active part in supporting the development of the Code, ensuring it reflects the increasingly complex healthcare.

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Flinders' \$12m plan to forge new med tech ventures

Adelaide Advertiser, Business Journal, 07/07/2026, Jessica Elder, Page 35

Flinders University is pumping \$12m into a program to launch up to 20 new medical device ventures over five years, targeting an industry that supports more than 17,000 Australian jobs and contributes \$5.4bn to the economy. The Forge Medical Devices program backed by the federal government's National Critical Research Infrastructure Scheme and South Australia's Research and Innovation Fund will shepherd innovations from concept to commercialisation.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

'A significant violation of trust': Health providers investigated over sexual misconduct claims

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 06/07/2026, Henrietta Cook

More than 230 Victorian health providers have been investigated over alleged sexual misconduct over the past six years, with unregistered massage therapists accounting for the highest number of claims. [...] Unlike doctors, nurses, dentists and other registered health professionals, massage therapists are not legally required to have formal qualifications or be registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

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Zoe Ann Buttfeld: Former Somerset College nurse's elaborate three year fraud

The Courier Mail, Other, 06/07/2026, Emily Walker

A Nerang woman who used multiple bogus documents to obtain and keep a job as the nurse for a prestigious Gold Coast school for more than three years has pleaded guilty to all charges. [...] To secure the job, Buttfeld provided a falsified bachelors degree in nursing and paramedicine as well as faux Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) related documents.

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

[Read More](#)

Doctor Jeffrey Bryan Taylor awaits a tribunal ruling that could end his medical career permanently

The Mercury, Other, 06/07/2026, Brad Crouch

The GP-obstetrician banned from treating women, who is at the centre of a bombshell sex scandal which has rocked the South-East, is working to remake his life, training in new areas of medicine. [...] After a complaint was lodged with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, Dr Taylor had conditions put on his registration including a ban on contact with female patients, effective October 1, 2024.

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Tassie syphilis threat rises

Hobart Mercury, General News, 07/07/2026, Rob Inglis, Page 1

Public health officials are treating a recent spike in Tasmanian syphilis cases as a present threat. [...] There has been a notable spread of syphilis across the nation, prompting concern among sexual health clinicians.

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New hope for 'tradie disease' as scientists pinpoint cause of lung scarring

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 06/07/2026, Robyn Riley

A potential cure for the deadly "tradie" disease silicosis is a step closer after Australian scientists discovered for the first time how it scars the lungs. [...] Lung Foundation Australia warns silicosis is a risk to more than 600,000 Australian workers across industries including construction, mining, tunnelling, quarrying and manufacturing.

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

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 06/07/2026, James Glenday & Catherine Murphy

Authorities say samples taken from a dead bird found on a Sydney beach yesterday have been sent for testing to rule out bird flu. It comes as NSW recorded its first case of the H5 bird flu strain over the the weekend.

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Channel 10, 10 News, 06/07/2026, Natalie Forrest

Samples from a dead seabird found on a Perth beach have returned a presumed positive result for bird flu, according to CSIRO testing. Authorities are treating the case as positive for the deadly N1 strain as a precautionary measure.

[Play Now](#)

2GB, Mornings, 06/07/2026, Trent Nikolic

Interview with NSW Shadow Agricultural Minister Brendan Moylan. Nikolic says NSW has recorded its first case of the H5N1 strain, and tests are now underway following the discovery of another dead bird in Narrabeen on Sydney's Northern Beaches, while poultry owners have been directed to keep their flocks inside. Moylan says there is no reason to panic yet, but it has been noted that the virus has caused devastation overseas, and he urges members of the public to contact the Animal Disease Hotline if they encounter a dead bird.

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

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6PR, Drive, 06/07/2026, Jamie Burnett

A dead bird found at Mullaloo Beach in Perth's north is presumed to have had bird flu following further testing. The giant petrel now becomes the seventh wild migratory seabird in Australia to have the H5 virus.

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ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 06/07/2026, Melanie Tait

The NSW Government says measures to protect egg and poultry producers will be able to be activated

quickly if more bird flu cases are detected. Over the weekend, a giant petrel seabird found at a beach in Hawks Nest returned a positive result for the H5N1 strain of the virus.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Vitex boosts sovereign capability

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 06/07/2026

Vitex Pharmaceuticals has officially opened Wonderland, its new \$250 million manufacturing facility in Eastern Creek, Western Sydney, representing the most significant investment in Australian pharmaceutical manufacturing in more than two decades. The Australian family-owned pharmaceutical manufacturer is behind many of the country's best-known brands, and the new facility will support.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Shared experience best help for addicts

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 07/07/2026, Page 8

Those with lived experience working in the drug, alcohol and mental health fields are having the biggest cut-through with those seeking help, a research paper has found. "They can identify with clients in ways others can't," social psychologist from UNSW's Centre for Social Research in Health Professor Loren Brener said.

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Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association report shows waitlist blowout for drug and alcohol treatment

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 06/07/2026, Alex White

Victorians are battling drug and alcohol addictions in higher numbers and some are dying while they wait for help, with the number of people on treatment waitlists more than doubling in just six years. Shocking new figures reveal that on any given day in May, 5122 people were waiting for alcohol and other drug treatment across the state – up from 2385 in September 2020.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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We still misunderstand addiction. Here's what you should know

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 06/07/2026, Dan Lubman & Shalini Arunogiri

When most people hear the word addiction, they picture someone whose life has visibly unravelled. [...] About one in five Australians will develop a substance use disorder in their lifetime.

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