

Tuesday, 6th October 2026

Minister Butler | Minister McAllister | Minister Rae | Assistant Minister McBride | Assistant Minister White | Special Envoy Repacholi | Department | Ageing and Aged Care | Disability and Carers | Primary Care | Population Health | Chronic Conditions and Screening | Mental Health and Suicide Prevention | Immunisation | Health Systems Strategies | Health Economics & Research | First Nations Health | Public Hospital and Health Reform | Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office | Health Workforce | Technology Assessment and Access | Medicare Benefits and Digital Health | Benefits Integrity | Australian CDC | Therapeutic Goods Administration | Office of Drug Control | Food Standards | AICIS

LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Australian** (online) reports Health Minister Mark Butler faces calls from mental health experts and advocates to advance NDIS reforms for participants with psychosocial disabilities following funding reductions for social and community participation. Advocates warn that delays in delivering foundational supports for psychosocial disability will place additional pressure on hospital emergency departments, where beds are already occupied by thousands of elderly patients awaiting aged care placements.
- **The Sydney Morning Herald** (page 1) reports the Therapeutic Goods Administration approved the first two drugs to modify Alzheimer's disease last year alongside a blood test that detects key biomarkers with 92 per cent accuracy.
- **The National Indigenous Times** (online) reports the Nyiyaparli Health and Wellbeing Project is establishing six key reforms to strengthen kidney care, primary healthcare, and culturally safe accommodation for Nyiyaparli people across the Pilbara and Perth.
- **The West Australian** (page 6) reports Monash University researchers released a study showing that rising global temperatures and rainfall are expanding the transmission zones for mosquito-borne diseases like malaria and dengue into higher altitudes and temperate regions, presenting a potential threat to northern regions of the nation.

- **The Canberra Times** (page 1) reports ADF veteran Donna Manton reports life-changing improvements in treating c-PTSD, anxiety, and depression through a private ketamine-infusion program. However, Ketamine infusions for psychiatric treatment are not currently covered by the PBS, leaving civilian patients with large out-of-pocket costs, though coverage is provided for veterans.
- **The Hobart Mercury** (page 5) reports an overdose death in Tasmania linked to a novel synthetic U-class opioid has prompted the state's Health Department to issue an official warning regarding the illicit substance. Acting secretary Dinesh Arya cautioned that there is limited information on how these dangerous utopioids affect individuals and advised health professionals to use Naloxone to reverse potential overdoses.
- **The Daily Telegraph** (page 10) reports a $35 million investment in southwestern Sydney will deliver a new Integrated Health Hub in Campbelltown to offer primary and preventative care while alleviating emergency department pressure at Liverpool and Campbelltown Hospitals. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park attributed hospital waiting times and performance issues to the Federal Government, citing emergency department bed delays caused by patients awaiting aged care or NDIS placements.
- **The Sydney Morning Herald** (page 10) reports recent research debunks the long-held belief that light to moderate drinking protects against dementia, attributing previous findings to confounding socioeconomic and health factors, with research suggesting that non-drinkers showing a much lower risk.

MINISTER BUTLER

‘Give us answers': health experts urge Labor to reform NDIS mental care

The Australian, General News, 05/10/2026, Sarah Ison

Health Minister Mark Butler must immediately unveil the next tranche of NDIS reform focusing on mental illness, experts say, demanding Labor follow through on a promise to make psychosocial disability "the next cab off the rank" in its work to improve the $60bn scheme. Pressure ramped up last week as Labor's signature policy to divert autistic children off the NDIS – Thriving Kids – officially kicked off, prompting calls on governments to "turn their attention to the next critical piece of reform".

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Patients gain triptorelin PBS access after goserelin exit

The Limbic, General News, 05/10/2026, Emma Koehn

Hormone therapy triptorelin is now available on the PBS for a range of women's health conditions, including breast cancer. [...] "We know thousands of women were concerned about the prospect of losing access to the particular Zoladex treatment which is why our government has taken action to find an alternative treatment for women," said Health Minister Mark Butler.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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DEPARTMENT

Aged care worker's drug mix-up led to preventable death

Dandenong Star Journal, General News, 06/10/2026, Afraa Kori, Page 14

A 69-year-old woman's death after she was given another resident's medication at an aged care home was preventable, a coroner has found. [...] Coroner Giles called for the Federal Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to urgently develop national medication safety standards specific to residential aged care, including clear rules for emergency responses and reporting after an error.

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SBS, World News Australia (Late), 05/10/2026

Legal tobacco sales in Queensland rose by 55 per cent following the introduction of enforcement powers late last year, while the New South Wales government and the federal coalition called for a reduction in the federal tobacco excise to combat the illicit market. The Federal Government remains firm on its stance, with Health Minister Mark Butler affirming that the excise will not be lowered as it is an essential health policy to discourage smoking.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Funds urgently needed to avert dementia crisis

Sydney Morning Herald, Editorials, 06/10/2026, Page 18

The Sydney Morning Herald Australia is incubating a dementia timebomb. According to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare forecasts, the number of people living with the disease will more than double to one million by 2061, which would work out to 1 in 40 people.

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What you need to know before signing aged care contracts as Higher Everyday Living Fees kick in

West Australian, General News, 05/10/2026, Nick Bruining

Thousands of aged care residents have started to receive new contracts and letters — in some cases, implying additional payments are mandatory. Specialist aged care advisers are warning consumers not

to sign anything until they fully understand their rights and obligations.

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New strategy targets Gold Coast health pressure as retiree numbers surge towards 200,000

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 05/10/2026, Rosie Gale follow

The Gold Coast's peak primary healthcare body is preparing the region's health system for a looming surge in older residents, with the over-65 population set to almost double within 20 years. According to the latest Census data, there were about 111,000 Gold Coast residents aged 65 and over – 17.7 per cent of the city's population, a higher proportion than both Queensland (17 per cent) and the national average (17.2 per cent).

Also reported by: Daily Telegraph Australia (Online), The Courier Mail (Online), Adelaide Now (Online), Northern Territory News (Online)

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A function to keep you functioning well

Shepparton News Online, General News, 05/10/2026, Daniel Harvey

There's independence, and then there's a network of inter-dependents to help you stay that way. [...] Confirmed organisations on health and wellbeing include My Aged Care, Dementia Australia, Bendigo Health Carers Support, Country Care Mobility, REDHS and the Rochester Primary Care Centre.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Coby wanted independent living skills before he left foster care, but child services didn't get the NDIS support

ABC Online, General News, 05/10/2026, Adam Holmes

Coby spends almost all of his time on his computer, either playing games or writing code. [...] It was the responsibility of the Child Safety Services to ensure Coby's National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) plan included this as he prepared to transition to adulthood, but his plan changed very little from age 10 to 17.

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The disability royal commission laid bare violence, abuse and neglect. Three years on, what's changed?

The Conversation, General News, 05/10/2026, Laura Davy

Three years ago, the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability tabled its final report, a hefty 12 volumes and 222 recommendations. [...] Better coordination of support under the National Disability Insurance Scheme or NDIS – is going backwards.

Also reported by: Crikey (Online), Yahoo! News Australia (Online)

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PRIMARY CARE

Overcrowding fix pitched for Vic poll

Canberra Times, General News, 06/10/2026, Eleanor Wilson, Page 9

Shorter emergency department wait times and a better flow of ambulances have been promised as part of an almost $100 million state election pledge. Victorian Opposition Leader Jess Wilson has committed to 10 new or expanded patient transit lounges in hospitals if she becomes premier after the November election.

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Finally, it's delivered!

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 06/10/2026, Isabella Davis, Page 1

The new Laverton Hospital is finally open after more than a decade of delays, and shire president Pat Hill says the $67.6 million project was "worth the wait". [...] The project was first promised by the Liberal-Nationals government, with $19.5 million in Royalties for Regions funding allocated in 2015 but is now being delivered by the Labor Government at $67.6m, including a $16.8m contribution from the Federal Government.

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Federal Government scraps controversial $5000 allied health threshold for Australian veterans

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 05/10/2026, Brendan Meagher

The Federal Government has now abandoned its proposed $5,000 annual threshold for allied health treatment for veterans, almost four months after the policy was announced in the May Budget. The decision is welcome, but the way we got here should concern Australians who expect governments to make careful, evidence-based decisions about essential services.

Also reported by: The Courier Mail (Online), Adelaide Now (Online), Northern Territory News (Online), The Mercury (Online)

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2CC, Canberra Live, 05/10/2026, Leon Delaney

Interview with RACGP President Dr Michael Wright. Delaney says the Digital Health Record in the ACT has been part of the public hospital experience for several years, but local GPs are now getting on board as well. Wright states that the Digital Health Record is a great step forward because they have been pushing for better integration between the data they collect in general practice and the information collected at hospital.

Also reported by: 2CC (Canberra)

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POPULATION HEALTH

Cairns mum Ashlea Russell diagnosed with a brain tumour while pregnant after two miscarriage

Adelaide Now, General News, 05/10/2026, Lauren Novak & Kate Uren

When an excited Ashlea Russell finally fell pregnant after months of trying for a little sibling for her toddler daughter, she followed the age-old, unwritten rule of keeping mum about her news for the first 12 weeks. [...] One in 10 women will go through it at least twice, according to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data.

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Why Australia needs a federal minister for loneliness and social connection

The Mandarin, General News, 05/10/2026, Mainul Haque

In April 2025, two in five Australians reported experiencing loneliness at least some time during the previous week. [...] The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reported that in 2024, 15% of Australians aged 15 and over experienced loneliness and 15% experienced social isolation.

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Major oversight as Australia considers world-leading smart glasses ban: 'Wrong approach'

Yahoo! News Australia, General News, 05/10/2026, Nikitha Martins

An Australian woman is calling out a major oversight as the country plans to ban smart glasses in government buildings, on council property and in other public environments. [...] Over 13 million Australians have long-term eye health issues like hyperopia, myopia, and astigmatism, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND SCREENING

Cancer care offers more space for patients and families

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 06/10/2026, David Chapman, Page 2

Cancer treatment across central Victoria has been given a boost with more treatment areas opened as well as space for loved ones to be alongside patients undergoing care. St John of God Bendigo Hospital's new Oncology and Infusion Centre has expanded from four treatment chairs to nine areas, giving the hospital greater capacity while also making day treatment more comfortable.

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Experts warn 90 per cent of breast cancer nutrition advice online is bogus

7News.com.au, General News, 05/10/2026, Gertie Spurling

Medical experts are sounding the alarm about a staggering number of bogus health claims targeting women with breast cancer, with a new study finding almost 90 per cent of nutrition advice circulating online can't be trusted. [...] Researchers at Adelaide University have analysed 150 nutrition claims from eight different online platforms, each one targeting women with breast cancer; They found almost 90 per cent had no reliable scientific evidence to back them up.

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About one in eight cancers is linked to infection – antibiotics and antivirals are taking aim

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 05/10/2026, Phoebe Shields

The fight against cancer is a global effort that draws more than US$300 billion in funding every year. [...] The medical community has already made incredible inroads for some of these diseases – Australia is on track to become the first country to eliminate cervical cancer by 2035, helped by high HPV vaccination uptake and regular screening.

Also reported by: The Courier Mail (Online), Adelaide Now (Online), The Mercury (Online)

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Young dad Jeremy Kay reveals seven-year back pain battle after surprise arthritis diagnosis

The Mercury, General News, 05/10/2026, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker

When keen young sportsman Jeremy Kay woke one morning with a "random sharp pain" in his lower back he thought he must have gone too hard at training or the gym. [...] Scans and X-rays showed calcification on the spine and a rheumatologist later diagnosed ankylosing spondylitis (AS), a type of arthritis and autoimmune disease which causes inflammation of the joints in the back, neck or pelvis.

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Toowoomba dentists create specialised oral health kits to protect cancer patients during chemotherapy

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 05/10/2026, Zachary Probert

What started as a means to help her sister through a cancer diagnosis led Chelsea Baker and her husband on an endeavour to help other patients going through chemo with oral health kits. [...] The oral health kits have gained recognition and support from the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation and the Cancer Council's McMahon Lodge.

Also reported by: *The Courier Mail (Online)*

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Coalition in mental health push

Age, General News, 06/10/2026, Grant Mcarthur & Kieran Rooney, Page 1

A major review of the state's mental health system and the billion-dollar levy used to fund it, along with an overhaul of youth services and the creation of a specialist standalone facility, are part of a sweeping election pledge aimed at improving Victoria's struggling sector. The Coalition will today announce a "mental health reset" if elected next month, promising separate reviews into the Mental Health and Wellbeing Levy, the sector's independent watchdog and the state's lagging delivery of its royal commission and commitments.

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Tragic loss

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 06/10/2026, Page 10

The sudden deaths of two boys underline why more must be done for mental health. [...] Meanwhile, projections based on the latest figures from the Queensland Mental Health Commission indicate the state is set to record 842 suspected suicides by the end of 2026, compared with the previous high of 795 in 2022.

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Work mental health complaints rise

Newcastle Herald, General News, 06/10/2026, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

The number of complaints reported to SafeWork NSW about "psychosocial hazards" in Hunter workplaces has almost doubled in five years. [...] The rise in workplace mental health hazards has become a statewide issue that prompted the Minns government to launch the "Psychosocial Advisory Service".

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Better leadership for vets means lower costs

Daily Telegraph, General News, 06/10/2026, John Armfield, Page 12

At my lowest, I considered ending my life as a deliberately public act that might finally force scrutiny of what had happened. I did not want to die. [...] If Australia genuinely wants to reduce veterans' healthcare expenditure, the objective should not simply be making psychologically injured veterans cheaper to treat. It should be preventing avoidable psychological injury in the first place.

Also reported by: *Canberra Times (Online)*, *West Australian (Online)*, *Yahoo! News Australia (Online)*

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Jessica Stephens's mother asks NT Supreme Court to overturn coroner's decision not to hold inquest

ABC Online, General News, 05/10/2026, Jason Walls

The mother of a Queensland woman who died in Kakadu National Park after receiving mental health treatment at Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH) in 2023 has applied for court orders that would force the Northern Territory coroner to hold an inquest. [...] "The essential material from Queensland Health, Queensland Mental Health Tribunal and Queensland Child Safety was not fully available or disclosed at the time of the coroner's investigation," Ms Evans's originating motion reads.

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Victim-survivor calls for review after Queensland DPP changes EMDR policy

ABC Online, General News, 05/10/2026, Emily Baker

A Sunshine Coast woman whose allegations of child abuse were not investigated by police because she had received a recommended trauma therapy is pushing for a review into how many other victim-survivors have faced the same barrier to justice. [...] The therapy is performed by trained mental health professionals and is among treatments recommended for adults with post-traumatic stress disorder by the World Health Organization.

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Study links exposure to anti-trans content with mental health harms

ABC Online, General News, 05/10/2026, Lauren Roberts

An Australian study has linked more frequent exposure to anti-trans stigma with statistically higher rates of anxiety, depression, self-harm thoughts and suicidal thoughts. In Australia, trans and gender-diverse people experience poor mental health outcomes than the general population, and this gap has widened over the past 22 years.

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Program to manage public service psychosocial hazards coming to WA

The Mandarin, General News, 05/10/2026, Melissa Coade

CPSU/CSA of Western Australia has received funding to co-design a program for the state's public sector workers to better identify, assess, and control psychosocial risks at work. Up to 10 government agencies will be engaged to deliver the program so that it can be implemented via existing WHS systems.

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IMMUNISATION

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Smokers run out of puff

Herald Sun, General News, 06/10/2026, Page 2

A doubling in cigarette taxes since 2016 has pushed one-fifth of Australian smokers into a cost of living crisis, but a new study warns excise cuts would worsen smoking-related poverty. The University of Queensland study, examining 27,000 smokers across Australia, England, Canada and the US, found "smoking-induced deprivation" worsened everywhere, but was most severe in Australia, where 18.3 per cent of smokers struggled to afford essentials.

Also reported by: Adelaide Advertiser (Adelaide), Daily Telegraph Australia (Online), The Courier Mail (Online), The Mercury (Online)

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Legal cigarette sales soar after state's black market crackdown

Daily Advertiser, General News, 06/10/2026, Lucinda Garbutt-Young, Page 6

Legal cigarette sales have soared in Queensland after a crackdown on black market trade, while calls to Quitline more than doubled, further incentivising the federal government's approach to illicit tobacco. The state's sales rose by 55 per cent in the first month after new enforcement laws took effect in November and remained at least 40 per cent above previous levels for the next six months, data supplied by major retailers to the Illicit Tobacco and E-cigarette Commissioner shows.

Also reported by: Canberra Times (Online), West Australian (Online), ABC Online (Online)

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Victorian government criticised for not acting sooner to combat illicit tobacco trade

ABC Online, General News, 05/10/2026, Mikaela Ortolan

A former federal police officer who established Border Force's illegal tobacco unit has slammed the Victorian government for its handling of the booming black market. Rohan Pike, who founded the Tobacco Strike Team, criticised the Labor government for not moving quick enough.

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Push to expand Aussie smoking crackdown amid $167,000 fine threat: 'Reduce availability'

Yahoo! News Australia, General News, 05/10/2026, Joe Attanasio

Every state and territory across Australia is being urged to follow Queensland's lead and crack down hard on illegal tobacco sales, after a million campaign delivered incredible results. The Cancer Council Australia said new data from Queensland shows its recent tobacco blitz appears to have had the intended effect, with calls to the Quitline more than doubling in the wake of the ramped-up enforcement activity.

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Federal government backs Queensland blueprint to hit illicit cigarette gangs

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 05/10/2026, Rob Harris

The federal government has thrown down a challenge to state premiers over the rampant illicit tobacco trade, dangling fresh cash and pointing to Queensland's dramatic crackdown as a blueprint for the rest of the country. Spurred by new data showing legal tobacco sales surged 55 per cent following a tough state enforcement blitz, Canberra is injecting an extra $2.7 million into Queensland's model – a move designed as a sharp contrast to NSW and Victoria, where firebombings and gang violence linked to black-market cigarettes continue to escalate.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS & RESEARCH

Data at heart of project

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 06/10/2026, Page 14

One of the most ambitious plans to gather cardiovascular disease data globally and accelerate research is being launched in Australia. The Australian Cardiovascular Disease Data Commons is a cloud-based platform to accelerate the discovery of new risk markers for heart attack and stroke.

Also reported by: West Australian (Perth), Northern Territory News (Darwin)

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Studies debunk brain boost link to moderate drinking

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 06/10/2026, Dana G Smith, Page 10

In 2003, a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association reported that having two or more alcoholic beverages per day was associated with a 22 per cent increased risk of dementia. But people who drank less than that had up to a 54 per cent lower risk, compared with people who didn't drink at all.

Also reported by: Age (Melbourne)

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

NT government scrambles for Batchelor dialysis options ahead of YiSSA closure

ABC Online, General News, 05/10/2026, Felicity James

The Northern Territory government has been exploring dialysis treatment options in the remote town of Batchelor, despite assurances it would not shift medically vulnerable YiSSA residents away from their services. It is less than a week before the expected closure of Darwin's largest short-stay accommodation centre, the Aboriginal-run YiSSA facility, on October 11.

Read More

‘Over 120 people' left without accommodation as Minister urges YiSSA extension

National Indigenous Times, General News, 05/10/2026, Dechlan Brennan

The Minister for Indigenous Australians has implored the Northern Territory Government to extend the life of Darwin's largest homelessness facility for at least six more months before it closes this week, noting many current residents have not found anywhere to go. The future of the YiSSA Short-Stay Accommodation site on Batten Road was thrown into limbo in July after the NT Government gave Yilli Rreung Housing Aboriginal Corporation 90 days to vacate the facility after failing to agree on a price for the property.

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Nyiyaparli people leading new approach to kidney health and wellbeing

National Indigenous Times, General News, 05/10/2026, Giovanni Torre

Nyiyaparli people are leading a new approach to kidney health and wellbeing, grounded in Country, family, culture, and community. The Nyiyaparli Health and Wellbeing Project, initiated by Karlka Nyiyaparli Aboriginal Corporation (KNAC) and funded by the Nyiyaparli Trust, is turning community priorities into practical action across the Pilbara and Boorloo / Perth.

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$2.2m funding boost for First Nations iron testing project

National Indigenous Times, General News, 05/10/2026, Jackson Clark

A new quantum sensing technology designed to improve the diagnosis of iron disorders in First Nations communities has received a $2.2 million funding boost from the Australian Government. FeBI Technologies is developing a new blood test that directly measures iron levels, with the project aiming to provide a cheaper and more reliable alternative to existing testing methods.

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'You've got to get on to them, straight up' - Stolen Generations survivor shares powerful message for Liver Cancer Awareness Month

National Indigenous Times, General News, 05/10/2026, Callan Morse

A Stolen Generations Survivor who discovered his liver cancer by chance has lent his voice to a new community campaign designed to highlight the disproportionate impact the disease has on Indigenous peoples. [...] "Liver cancer does not reach Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at higher rates by chance," Yorta Yorta woman and public health practitioner, Associate Professor Dr Summer May Finlay says.

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$3 million backs First Nations-led research putting Country at the heart of health

National Indigenous Times, General News, 05/10/2026, Nicole Brown

A 100 per cent First Nations research team will lead a new $3 million national project examining how climate change is affecting Country and the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Led by Charles Darwin University, the Country is a Healing and Resilience Pathway Centre of Research Excellence (CHiRP-CRE) has received funding through the National Health and Medical Research Council's Centres of Research Excellence scheme.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Hospital digital switch warning

Courier Mail, General News, 06/10/2026, Vishaak Gangasandra, Page 13

Queensland's largest hospital is set to go paperless within days in a major rollout of a multimillion-dollar IT system more than five years in the making, but it comes with risks. [...] But this changeover period, which starts on October 13, will be when the system is most vulnerable to hackers according to Griffith University cybersecurity lecturer Dr David Tuffley, while the doctors' union has called for staff to be able to report any issue without fear of reprisal.

Also reported by: Daily Telegraph Australia (Online), The Courier Mail (Online), Adelaide Now (Online), Northern Territory News (Online), The Mercury (Online)

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New hub to relieve hospital pressure

Daily Telegraph, General News, 06/10/2026, James O'Doherty, Page 10

Families in southwestern Sydney have been promised another option for essential health services as the state government tries to deal with crippling hospital waiting times, but it could take up to two years for the new "Integrated Health Hub" to open. The health hub, announced by the government today, is designed to take pressure off Liverpool and Campbelltown Hospitals, which have two of the busiest emergency departments in NSW.

Also reported by: Daily Telegraph Australia (Online), The Courier Mail (Online), Adelaide Now (Online), Northern Territory News (Online), The Mercury (Online)

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$4.6m per day burn

Cairns Post, General News, 06/10/2026, Molly Frew, Page 1

Soaring patient demand and a record-breaking 8400 elective surgeries contributed to a $21.4m operating deficit for the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service in the 2025-26 financial year. While the emergency department slashed median wait times to 13 minutes, the latest annual report revealed a third of emergency patients had not been treated within the four-hour target.

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Budget blowouts and massive deficits expected at Victorian hospitals

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 05/10/2026, Shannon Deery

Victoria's health system is at breaking point with hospitals racking up hundreds of millions of dollars in deficits, hindering their ability to meet soaring demand. Senior health sources have told the Herald Sun that budget blowouts and growing financial pressure at the state's major hospitals have heaped unprecedented strain on the system already struggling with ambulance ramping, growing elective surgery wait times and hospital access.

Also reported by: The Courier Mail (Online), Adelaide Now (Online), Northern Territory News (Online), The Mercury (Online)

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Steven Miles demands urgent hospital expansion as Townsville ambulance ramping and waitlists surge

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 05/10/2026, Emma Cam

Ambulance ramping and specialist waitlists at Townsville University Hospital remain high, with new figures prompting fresh calls from opposition leaders for the long-awaited hospital expansion to be fast-tracked. [...] The latest health data revealed ambulance ramping reached 21.7 per cent in July 2026, up from 21.4 per cent in the same month last year and more than double the 10.1 per cent recorded in October 2024.

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Channel 10, 10 News, 05/10/2026, Jennifer Keyte

The Victorian Opposition is promising $99m to help ease pressure on emergency departments and tackle ambulance ramping. Meanwhile, the Victorian overnment insists it will introduce its own health policies in coming days, but the Opposition says Labor has abandoned the system for 12 years.

Similar coverage reported by: News24 (Sydney)

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Channel 7, Seven News, 05/10/2026, Angela Cox & Mark Ferguson

The $900m development of Rouse Hill Hospital is set to be the first major adult hospital to be built in Western Sydney in more than 40 years. NSW Health Minister Ryan Park says the construction of the new hospital is full steam ahead.

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Channel 9, Nine News, 05/10/2026, Peter Overton

NSW Deputy Premier Prue Car has toured the now-complete Nepean Hospital redevelopment, which includes a dedicated paediatrics ward, new intensive and palliative care units, and a specialised patient transit lounge which aims to reduce emergency department wait times. Car says the new facilities will make a big difference for struggling families, while NSW Health Minister Ryan Park says more redevelopments will come.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

NT health clinic in limbo after weekend of violence

Northern Territory News, General News, 06/10/2026, Camden Smith, Page 7

The community of Alpurrurulam remains without health services and it is not known when they will return, after health workers were threatened and evacuated at the weekend. The NT News on Sunday reported that nurses had been evacuated and the Royal Flying Doctor Service had flown Queensland police officers and medical support into Alpurrurulam, about 1500km east of Darwin, after a weekend of alcohol fuelled violence.

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‘Nothing left in the tank': Victorian doctor reveals why medics are striking over fatigue

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 05/10/2026, Travis Lines

A Geelong doctor has revealed the moment exhaustion after 80 hours of work caused a needle to slip during a spinal procedure – and why colleagues say they can no longer stay silent. For too many Victorian public hospital doctors, this kind of exhaustion happens every day.

Also reported by: The Courier Mail (Online), Adelaide Now (Online), Northern Territory News (Online), The Mercury (Online)

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Ambulances lose 96 shifts every day to ramping. This $99m pledge promises to slash those delays

Daily Telegraph Australia, General News, 05/10/2026, Brendan Kearns

Up to ten "transit lounges" would be brought into Victorian hospitals across the state to get patients out of emergency rooms faster under an election commitment from the Coalition. According to recent research from Ambulance Victoria's Centre for Research and Evaluation the number of ambulance hours lost to ramping between January 2020 and March 2024 was equivalent to an 96 ten-hour ambulance shifts every day.

Also reported by: The Courier Mail (Online), Adelaide Now (Online), Northern Territory News (Online), The Mercury (Online)

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What work-life balance is really like for junior doctors in Australia

Medical Journal of Australia, General News, 05/10/2026, Sophia Auld

After finishing work at Liverpool Hospital at 10:00pm one evening, neurosurgery registrar Dr Tom Morrison was called in to work from 11:00pm to 3:00am before starting his next shift at 7:00 that morning. [...] Similarly, 45% of respondents in Ahpra's 2025 Medical Training Survey , which attracted responses from over 18,000 trainees, said their workload was heavy or very heavy.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Don't waste cost-of-living crisis: end Pharmacy Guild gouging

Australian Financial Review, General News, 06/10/2026, Melissa Bray, Page 31

I first came across the "community pharmacy" location and ownership rules in 2014 when I was part of the secretariat for Ian Harper's competition policy review.

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Doors to a new life

Canberra Times, General News, 06/10/2026, Peter Jean, Page 1

"Trippy" is how Donna Manton describes receiving a ketamine infusion for the first time. [...] Ketamine infusions for psychiatric treatment aren't currently covered by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, meaning civilian patients face large out-of-pocket costs.

Also reported by: Canberra Times (Online), Newcastle Herald (Online)

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Nurse's attack on aged resident

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 06/10/2026, Lucy Rutherford, Page 12

A registered nurse has been condemned for shocking acts against a resident, including forcefully grabbing her wrists and dragging her. [...] In a judgment published online, the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal disqualified Ms Han from applying to be re-registered as a health practitioner for two years after she was found to have engaged in professional misconduct.

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Aged-care worker loses 'unfair dismissal'

Courier Mail, General News, 06/10/2026, Vanda Carson, Page 10

An aged-care worker has accused nightshift staff of chewing the illegal, recreational stimulant betel nut at a Queensland nursing home during her failed unfair dismissal claim. Tracy Croucher also alleged staff were sleeping on shift in her complaint to management of Mareeba Gardens last year.

Also reported by: The Courier Mail (Online), Daily Telegraph Australia (Online), Adelaide Now (Online), Northern Territory News (Online), The Mercury (Online)

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AUSTRALIAN CDC

Climate change raises mosquito disease risks

West Australian, General News, 06/10/2026, Page 6

As global temperatures rise, Australia's north is at increasing risk of mosquito-borne diseases, including malaria and dengue. [...] Monash University researchers have delved into how climate change and other factors interact to potentially increase the risks of the diseases globally, in a study released yesterday.

Also reported by: Canberra Times (Online), West Australian (Online), Newcastle Herald (Newcastle)

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Dengue spike puts tropics off travel bucket list

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 06/10/2026, Angus Dalton, Page 4

Ella Stiebel's skull was racked by pain. [...] A vaccine for dengue is now commercially available after the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation released new advice recommending the use of the Qdenga vaccine for some travellers, especially those who have had the disease before.

Also reported by: Age (Melbourne), Sydney Morning Herald (Online)

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Peptide risk to surgery

Courier Mail, General News, 06/10/2026, Page 5

People using popular GLP-1 weight-loss injections and peptides are being urged to alert their anaesthetist before surgery because their stomach may still contain food, which can have potential life-threatening consequences. The warning comes from the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) ahead of National Anaesthesia Day on Friday, October 16.

Also reported by: Adelaide Advertiser (Adelaide), West Australian (Perth), Northern Territory News (Darwin), Hobart Mercury (Hobart)

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Tide turning in dementia battle

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 06/10/2026, Page 1

For 20 years, frustrated dementia researchers have struggled for answers. Now, finally, they are starting to embrace the word "breakthrough". [...] The first two drugs to successfully modify Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of dementia, were approved by Australia's medicine regulator, the Therapeutic Goods Administration, last year.

Also reported by: Age (Melbourne)

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Medicinal cannabis prescriber scrubs false claims but won't notify customers

SBS, General News, 05/10/2026, Cameron Carr

An online medicinal cannabis prescriber has admitted it wrongly described its products as approved by Australia's medicines regulator. [...] Medicinal Organic Cannabis Australia (MOCA) had claimed its entire product range was approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), whereas in fact the products it sells, while legal, are unapproved therapeutic goods and have not been assessed by TGA for safety, quality or effectiveness.

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'Cheap, quick, and easy': What Alex's prescription reveals about Australia after a major change

SBS, General News, 05/10/2026, Cameron Carr

For Alex, getting a prescription for medicinal cannabis was remarkably simple. [...] But the word "medicinal" does not necessarily mean a product has been assessed and registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

Death prompts official warning

Hobart Mercury, General News, 06/10/2026, Rob Inglis, Page 5

An overdose death has led Tasmania's Health Department to issue an official warning after the state's first known detection of a deadly U-class opioid was recorded. It's believed the death could have resulted from the use of an illicit drug containing a "strong" opioid the individual might not even have known about.

Also reported by: Daily Telegraph Australia (Online), The Courier Mail (Online), Adelaide Now (Online), Northern Territory News (Online)

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FOOD STANDARDS

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