



# ACAHA 26

BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES

23-25 APRIL 2026 | DARWIN CONVENTION CENTRE

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW



<https://acah.org.au/>



Academy of Child and Adolescent Health



academycah



# ACAH26: Day One

## Thursday 23rd April | Building Healthy Starts

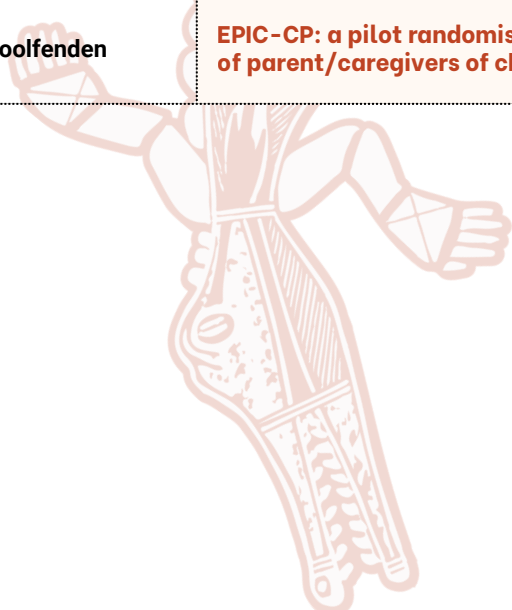
Time	Session	Time	Session
8:30 - 9:00	<b>Delegate Registration</b>		
9:00 - 9:30	<b>Opening Ceremony</b>  <b>Welcome to Country</b> <b>Dr Richard Fejo</b> , Senior Larrakia Elder, Flinders Uni Elder on Campus.  <b>Welcome from ACAH Board</b> <b>Dr Jacqueline Small</b> , Chair, ACAH Board <b>Dr Monica Parker &amp; Dr Marissa Loh</b> Co-Convenors, ACAH26 Conference	13:30 - 14:45	<b>NT Research Showcase: the Latest in First Nations Health</b> <b>Dr Jemima Beissbarth</b> , Senior Research Officer, Child and Maternal Health Division Menzies School of Health Research <b>Dr Bianca Middleton</b> , Paediatrician, Royal Darwin Hospital and PhD student Global and Tropical Health Division at Menzies School of Health Research <b>Prof Amanda Leach AM</b> , Senior Principal Research Fellow, Head of the Ear Health Research Programme, Child and Maternal Health Division, Menzies School of Health Research
9:30 - 10:15	<b>Opening Plenary: Introduction to Place and Culture</b> <b>Dr Richard Fejo</b> , Senior Larrakia Elder, Flinders Uni Elder on Campus.	14:45 - 15:15	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>
10:15 - 10:45	<b>Morning Tea</b>		
10:45 - 11:30	<b>Plenary: Birthing on Country - Child Health in Timor-Leste</b> <b>Prof Nelson Martins</b> , Timorese medical doctor, public health specialist, and national health leader; Senior Technical Advisor, Menzies School of Health Research Timor-Leste Health Minister 2007-2012.	15:15 - 17:00	<b>Room 1</b> <b>Pharmacy Updates</b> <b>Chair: Peter Barclay, Director of Pharmacy at the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network</b> <b>1515 Deshina Naidoo</b> National Paediatric Medicine Forum Report <b>1535 Dr Felicity Wright</b> Carbon stewardship and medication safety <b>1555 Madison Groves</b> Case Study - Managing a complex Oncology patient residing in Darwin from Sydney <b>1615 Deshina Naidoo</b> Advanced Therapeutics at the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network <b>1635 Peter Barclay</b> Barriers to medicine access for children
11:30 - 12:30	<b>Child and Adolescent Health on the Tiwi Islands - True Stories</b> <b>Presented by Ms Libby Coombes with Aboriginal Health Practitioners from Tiwi Islands</b>		<b>Room 2: Research Presentations</b>  <b>See next page for details</b>
12:30 - 13:30	<b>Lunch</b>		
		Social: Sunset at the Ski Club, 6:30pm onwards	

ACAH26: Day One

# Thursday 23rd April | Building Healthy Starts

**Waterfront Room 3, Darwin Convention Centre, 3:15pm-5:00pm**

Presenting author	Title
Krishna Solanki	What's my colour on the spectrum? A novel approach in supporting autistic children and young people
Jade Woon	Out-Of-Home Care in Central Australia – A Retrospective Audit of Health Needs and Timeliness of Assessment compared to the National Clinical Assessment Framework
Sarah Grace & Kate Fulford	Integration of a GP–Paediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP) Community Model of Care to Improve Outcomes for Aboriginal Children
Katsuhiko Hiratsuka	Supporting Growth Between Safety and Independence Among Adolescents and Young Adults Continuing Pediatric Care – A Qualitative Descriptive Study from Japan
Erin Jelacic	What Matters Most? Aboriginal Families' Voices in Child Development and Wellbeing: Embedded Yarning Conversations in a Community Paediatrics Setting
Heidi Smith-Vaughan	HealthLAB and SHELab: Taking Interactive Health Promotion to Youth in Northern and Central Australia
Sue Woolfenden	EPIC-CP: a pilot randomised controlled trial of social prescribing to address the unmet social needs of parent/caregivers of children with cerebral palsy



# ACAH26: Day Two

## Friday 24th April: Building Stronger Youths

Time	Session
8:30 - 9:00	<b>Plenary - Angelena Harradine</b> , Kurna Ngadjuri Ngarrindjeri Narrunga Senior Elder and Mintirininthi (Traditional Healer)
9:00 - 10:00	<b>Panel Discussion: Youth Mental Health</b> <b>Angelena Harradine</b> , Ngadjuri, Ngarrindjeri, Narrunga & Kurna Elder, South Australia Community work supporting women and children's wellbeing <b>Ranjika Huppertz-Daley</b> , Western Arrernte and Bundjalung woman, Project Assistant, Stay Strong digital mental health team, Menzies School of Health Research, Behaviour Support Practitioner <b>Simon Davis</b> , Program Manager - Enhanced Care, Headspace
10:00 - 10:30	<b>Morning Tea</b>
10:30 - 11:00	<b>Plenary: Our most vulnerable children bearing the consequences of a failed system</b> <b>Shahleena Musk</b> , Larrakia woman; Children's Commissioner in the Office of the Children's Commissioner NT
11:00 - 12:00	<b>Panel Discussion: Youth Justice</b> <b>Chair: Dr Richard Fejo</b> <b>John Lawrence, SC</b> , Legal Practitioner, Senior Counsel, former Crown Prosecutor, President of the NT Bar Association, Criminal Lawyers Association NT and Director of the Law Council of Australia <b>Mililma May</b> , Danggalaba Kulumbiringin Tiwi writer and Community Organiser; Former CEO and Co-Founder of Uprising of the People Ltd; Campaigns and Advocacy Manager at Change the Record <b>Justine Davis MLA</b> , Independent Member for Johnston, Member of the Parliament of the Northern Territory <b>Natalie Hunter</b> , Nykina/Jabba Jabba woman, Founding Member of Close Don Dale Now, Justice Not Jails, Co-Founder of NT Aboriginal Legal Service
12:00 - 13:00	<b>Lunch</b>

Time	Session	
13:00 - 14:00	<b>Birthing on Country &amp; Neonatal Health in the NT</b> <b>Chair: Dr Monica Parker</b> , General Paediatric and Neonatal Advanced Trainee, Chief Resident Medical Officer, Royal Children's Hospital <b>Dr Mantho Kgosiemang</b> , Specialist Neonatologist and General Paediatrician, Royal Darwin Hospital <b>Dr Mathew Wong</b> , Specialist Neonatologist and General Paediatrician, Royal Darwin Hospital <b>Dr Gurmeet Singh</b> , General Paediatrician, Royal Darwin Hospital and Senior Principal Research Fellow, Head of the Life Course Program, Deputy Head of the Child and Maternal Health Division Menzies School of Health Research. <b>Dr Kiarna Brown</b> , Senior Research Fellow, Child and Maternal Health Division Menzies School of Health Research. First Nations Obstetrician & Gynaecologist	
14:00 - 14:45	<b>Getting value from research: how to make the juice worth the squeeze</b> <b>Prof Tom Snelling</b> , Head of Health and Clinical Analytics at University of Sydney	
14:45 - 15:15	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>	
15:15 - 16:00	<b>ROOM 1</b> <b>Type 2 diabetes in young people - shifting paradigms and a challenge for equity</b> <b>Dr Angela Titmuss</b> Paediatric Endocrinologist and Paediatrician at Royal Darwin Hospital, Senior Research Fellow at Menzies School of Health Research	<b>ROOM 2</b> <b>Research Presentations</b>  <b>See next page for details</b>
16:00 - 17:00	<b>ROOM 1</b> <b>Challenges Facing Top End Youth - Acute Rheumatic Fever &amp; Rheumatic Heart Disease</b> <b>What's new (and on the horizon) in rheumatic fever diagnosis and management?</b> - Prof Anna Ralph <b>Where are we at with RHD?</b> - Dr Hilary Hardefeldt <b>Learning from patient experience - my journey to becoming a clinician-researcher</b> - A/Prof Jennifer Yan	

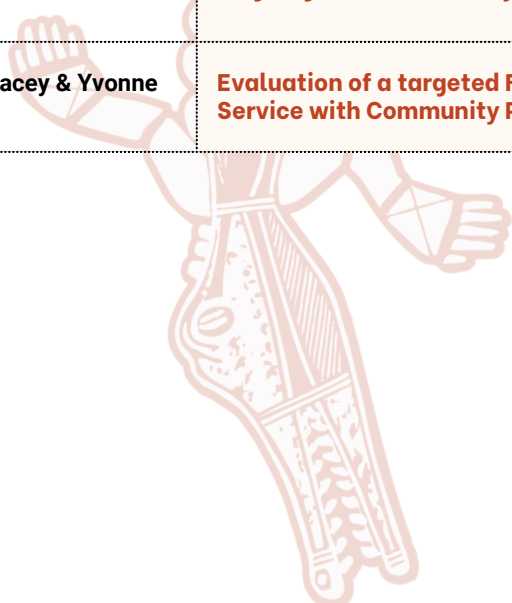
**Social: Conference Cocktail Evening, 6pm onwards, Darwin Trailer Boat Club - [Tickets available here](#)**

# ACAH26: Day Two

## Friday 24th April: Research Presentations

**Waterfront Room 3, Darwin Convention Centre, 3:15pm-5:00pm**

Presenting author	Title
Stephanie Nesbit	Room for improvement: compliance with standards for echocardiography and clinical review in children with acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease in Central Australia and the Barkly, 2019 - 2023
Karen Zwi	Providing Enhanced Access for Child Health Services (PEACH): addressing inequities in hospital outcomes for Australian children from priority populations
Ella Tracey & Shanti Raman	Essential service improvements to deliver a Culturally responsive and trauma-informed Community Paediatric clinical service for urban Aboriginal children in Sydney
Patrick Hawker	Development of a family-focused digital intervention for children with neurodevelopmental disabilities
Piyumi de Silva	Exploring cultural ways of knowing, being, and doing: Supporting families' view of child development and wellbeing in Aboriginal Community Paediatric clinics through yarning and meaningful reports
Nicole Pattison	Aligning Priorities: Family Perspectives for Paediatric Emergency Medicine Research
Ella Tracey & Yvonne Teoh	Evaluation of a targeted First 2000 days collaborative care clinic: Aboriginal Child & Family Health Service with Community Paediatrics



# ACAH26: Day Three

## Saturday 25th April: Powerful Communities

Time	Session
8:30 - 9:00	<b>Plenary: Paediatric Refugee Health - silver linings and golden highlights</b> <b>Chair: Prof Hasantha Gunasekera</b> , Professor of Paediatric Priority Populations, Children's Hospital at Westmead Clinical School, University of Sydney <b>A/Prof Sarah Cherian</b> , Perth Children's Refugee Health Service, Clinical Associate Professor within the Division of Paediatrics, UWA and Honorary Research Associate (The Kids Research Institute)
9:00 - 10:30	<b>Plenary &amp; Panel Discussion: Health of Children Experiencing War and Conflict</b> <b>Chair: Dr Jacki Small</b> <b>Prof Amy Gray</b> , Chair and Head of Department of Paediatrics at The University of Melbourne, General Paediatrician, Medical Educator <b>Prof Shanti Raman</b> , Editor-in-Chief BMJ Paediatrics Open <b>Prof Nelson Martins</b> , Timorese medical doctor, public health specialist, and national health leader; Senior Technical Advisor, Menzies School of Health Research Timor-Leste Health Minister 2007-2012.
10:30 - 11:00	<b>Morning Tea</b>
11:00 - 12:00	<b>Plenary: Environmental Health &amp; Advocacy</b> <b>Dr Louise Woodward</b> , Paediatrician, Royal Darwin Hospital, Environmental Activist <b>Mililma May</b> , Danggalaba Kulumbiringin Tiwi writer and Community Organiser; Former CEO and Co-Founder of Uprising of the People Ltd
12:00 - 12:30	<b>Closing Ceremony &amp; Awards</b>
12:30-13:30	<b>Lunch</b>
13:30 -15:30	<b>Prevocational Workshops</b> <b>Mentoring Program 1:30-2:30pm</b> <b>Practical Advocacy 2:30-3:30pm</b> <b>Dr Paul Bauert, Dr Louise Woodward</b>  <a href="#"><u>Sign up for our mentoring program here</u></a>
Social: Drinks at Dock One Bar, Stokes Hill Wharf (short walk from Darwin Convention Centre)	

*Please note: Program is subject to change until the day of the conference.*

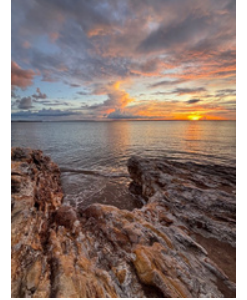
# DARWIN, LARRAKIA COUNTRY

We are excited to be hosting ACAH26 in Darwin, on Larrakia Country. The Larrakia people are the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Darwin Region.

Darwin is a vibrant and multicultural city in the tropical north of Australia, with plenty to offer for visitors. It is the gateway to Litchfield and Kakadu National Parks, with stunning sunsets and beaches, and world-famous street food markets running year round.

## About the venue

ACAH26 will be held at the Darwin Convention Centre, which is the largest conference and event facility in the Northern Territory. Located in the Waterfront Precinct, the world class venue offers meeting rooms and auditoriums, paired with outstanding dining experiences and excellent service.



# INTRODUCING OUR SPEAKERS



## Dr Richard Fejo

Dr Richard Fejo is a Larrakia Man from Darwin from his father, his grandfather and his great grandfather in what culture calls "Grandfather lore".

Richard is also Warumungu from Tennant Creek on his mother's side and holds a great amount of cultural knowledge and experiences from both northern and Central Australia across the Northern Territory. Richard has worked for 30 years across 40 First Nations communities across the Northern Territory, training doctors in Aboriginal cultural practices in the last 15 years, earning his Honorary Doctorate from Flinders University in 2022. He is also a stand-up comedian and emerging singer and songwriter.



## Prof Tom Snelling

Tom Snelling is a clinical scientist, Director of Health and Clinical Analytics in the School of Public Health at the University of Sydney, and an infectious diseases physician in the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network. He leads a team implementing learning health systems to improve healthcare and reduce the burden of infectious disease.

His collaborative projects across Australia cover a range of clinical domains, including improving treatment and prevention of severe gastroenteritis in remote Aboriginal children, primary prevention of food allergies, SMS-based interventions to improve immunisation timeliness, and improving management of cystic fibrosis.




## Dr Jemima Beissbarth

Dr Jemima Beissbarth (PhD, GCCLinEpi, BSc, BT) is a respiratory microbiologist with over 20 years' experience in otitis media and respiratory pathogen surveillance research in First Nations infants and children. She recently completed her PhD on the selective pressures of pneumococcal vaccines on the microbiology of otitis media in First Nations children in northern Australia. An early career researcher, her work focuses on the aetiology and treatment of chronic suppurative otitis media, preventing bacterial colonisation by *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Haemophilus influenzae*, and evidence-based clinical trials to improve outcomes for children with severe ear infections.



## Mililma May

Mililma May is a Danggalaba Kulumbiringin Tiwi writer and community organiser who has led and supported Northern Territory grassroots campaigns including Shut Down Don Dale, Save Lee Point, and Stop Middle Arm. A former CEO and co-founder of Uprising of the People Ltd, she carries forward her Old People's legacy, grounded in lived knowledge across Colonial and Traditional systems. She is currently Campaigns and Advocacy Manager at Change the Record, working for Indigenous self-determination and an inevitable future where every single Indigenous child can thrive.

[Reserve tickets](#) 

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# INTRODUCING OUR SPEAKERS



## Dr Louise Woodward

Dr Louise Woodward is a Northern Territory paediatrician and environmental advocate who has been adding a health voice to campaigns with environmental groups, Indigenous leaders, and public health organisations by highlighting the health impacts of fossil fuel projects on local communities in fossil fuel sacrifice zones, like her own home of Darwin. She has used her privileged role as a paediatrician to speak out publicly on the obligation of governments to prioritise human health by protecting air and water quality and over corporate interests.



## Deshina Naidoo

Deshina is a Project Pharmacist for the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network working within the Clinical Governance Unit (CGU) and Children's Hospital Westmead (CHW) Pharmacy Department. She is the Executive Officer of the National Paediatric Medicines Forum under CGU and supports the pharmaceutical management of Advanced Therapeutics at CHW. Deshina has an interest in novel therapies in paediatrics and looks forward to developing resources, improving awareness and advocacy in the evolving paediatric therapeutics space.




## Professor Shanti Raman

Prof Shanti Raman is a Consultant Paediatrician and Director of Community Paediatrics in South Western Sydney, leading clinical services in child development and child protection. She is Senior Clinical Advisor for Child and Family Health at the NSW Ministry of Health and Editor-in-Chief of BMJ Paediatrics Open. Her research spans migrant and refugee health, Indigenous child health, child rights, and global maternal and child health, and she is actively involved in policy development at state, national, and international levels promoting a rights-based approach to child health.



## Dr Kiarna Brown

Dr Kiarna Brown is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descended from the Wuthathi people of Cape York Peninsula. She has traditional family ties with the Gurindji People of the Northern Territory, and the people of the Torres Straits. She was born and raised in Garamilla (Darwin) on the beautiful lands of the Larrakia Nation and is a Specialist Obstetrician Gynaecologist dedicated to strengthening health outcomes for Top End women. She is a Senior Research Fellow and Co-Lead of the Maternal Health Program at Menzies School of Health Research and clinical lead of the Australian Preterm Birth Prevention Alliance in the Top End.

[Reserve tickets](#) 

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# INTRODUCING OUR SPEAKERS



## Professor Amanda Leach

Prof Amanda Leach is a NHMRC Senior Principal Research Fellow and Leader of the Ear Health Research Program at Menzies School of Health Research, Darwin. Her work has had national and global influence through WHO recommendations for pneumococcal vaccine research, innovative multi-pathogen vaccine trials, and accredited national clinical guidelines for otitis media. A Member of the Order of Australia for her contributions to ear disease and Indigenous child health research, Professor Leach was also the 2019 NT Telstra Business Woman of the Year.



## Dr Bianca Middleton

Dr Bianca Middleton is a general paediatrician with a strong interest in public health. She co-leads a program of immunisation research at the Menzies School of Health Research which seeks to optimise immunisation schedules and uptake for children living in rural and remote northern Australia.




## Dr Felicity Wright

Dr Felicity Wright is the Director of Pharmacy at Sydney Children's Hospital. She trained as a paediatric cellular therapy and oncology pharmacist, is a Board Certified Oncology Pharmacist (USA), has a Master of Public Health Policy and a PhD in pharmacogenetics. Felicity leads a team of pharmacists, technicians and support staff practising at top of scope across clinical, production, and leadership domains. She has driven innovation in pharmacy-led models of care, integrating decentralised clinical pharmacy services, specialised pharmacy production, and the adoption of automation and robotics within pharmacy services to improve efficiency, quality, and workforce sustainability. Felicity also plays the Trombone in the Sydney Children's Hospital band, The Night Shift.



## Professor Amy Gray

Prof Amy Gray is the Stevenson Chair and Head of Department of Paediatrics at The University of Melbourne, Consultant Paediatrician at The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne, Australia and the Co-Chair of Melbourne Children's Global Health. She is a clinician, educator and researcher who has worked in the Asia Pacific for 20 years supporting paediatricians and other health workers improve care and outcomes for children.

[Reserve tickets](#) 

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# INTRODUCING OUR SPEAKERS



## **A/Prof Jennifer Yan**

A/Prof Jennifer Yan is a paediatrician and paediatric infectious diseases physician at the Royal Darwin Hospital and principal research fellow at the Menzies School of Health Research. She has been living and working in Darwin on Larrakia country for the past eight years, and co-leads a program of research and health system strengthening activities in Northern Australia and Timor-Leste, across areas including rheumatic heart disease, antimicrobial resistance, infectious diseases and OneHealth.



## **John Lawrence**

John Lawrence has practised law in the Northern Territory since 1987, beginning as a Crown Prosecutor before leading NAALAS (now NAAJA) and joining the Independent Bar, where he has spent 28 years. Appointed Senior Counsel in 2010, he has appeared in many high-profile cases including several Royal Commissions. He has served as President of the NT Bar Association and CLANT, and as a Director of the Law Council of Australia. A passionate advocate for human rights and the rule of law, John has spent much of his career representing Indigenous people and organisations in their struggle against disadvantage and injustice.




## **Madison Groves**

Madison Groves is a Paediatric Oncology Pharmacist at Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick. She has a strong interest in medication safety, education, and optimising therapy for children and adolescents with cancer through collaborative and evidence-based practice.



## **Professor Nelson Martins**

Prof Nelson Martins is a Timorese medical doctor and public health leader who served as a frontline medic for FALINTIL during the independence struggle before becoming Timor-Leste's Minister for Health (2007–2012), where he led major health system reforms. He has authored 127 academic works, led 26 research projects — including Timor-Leste's first randomised controlled trial published in the BMJ — and presented at over 90 international conferences. Currently a Professor at the Menzies School of Health Research in Australia, he leads CAMO NET Timor-Leste, a collaborative network across 11 countries advancing public health systems worldwide.

[Reserve tickets](#) 

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# INTRODUCING OUR SPEAKERS



## Ranjika Huppatz-Daley

A proud Western Arrernte and Bundjalung woman, Ranjika is a Project Assistant with the Stay Strong digital mental health team within Menzies School of Health Research. She also works as a Behaviour Support Practitioner – providing specialist support to individuals with disabilities and mental health diagnoses across the lifespan.

Her work is underpinned by a deep commitment to enhancing quality of life and complemented by studies in psychological science and sociology. She is passionate about Mob-led healthcare and champions a strength-based approach to achieving meaningful and sustainable health outcomes.



## A/Prof Sarah Cherian

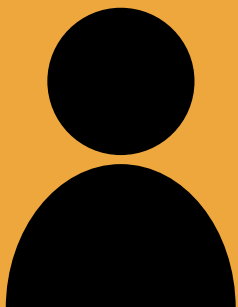
A/Prof Sarah is a dual trained General and Community Child Health Paediatrician working at Perth Children's Hospital, Child and Adolescent Health Service. She has worked in the field of paediatric refugee health since 2005 and led the tertiary WA Refugee Health Service for 15 years. Sarah received the 2020 Royal Australasian College of Physicians Mentor of the Year award for her contributions to mentorship, education, leadership, and advocacy and a finalist in the 2024 WA Office of Multicultural Interests Outstanding Individual Award. Sarah is a Clinical Associate Professor within the Division of Paediatrics, UWA and Honorary Research Associate (The Kids Research Institute). She has a strong background in clinical research, focusing on improving health equity and removing barriers to care for under-served paediatric populations.



## Peter Barclay


Peter Barclay is the Director of Pharmacy at the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network (SCHN) and has worked as a Hospital Pharmacist for over 40 years. Peter is deeply committed to enabling access to appropriate medications for children and families and actively works to remove health barriers that exist in the health system. He is currently engaged in the provision of precision medicines, including gene therapies, for children at SCHN.

With extensive experience, Peter utilises pharmacy technology to deliver both patient safety and business efficiency. He is a strong advocate for the role of Hospital Pharmacists as clinicians, patient safety advocates, efficient pharmaceutical procurers, and key stakeholders in medication-related clinical governance.



## Libby Coombes

Libby was born and raised in Darwin and the Tiwi Islands. Her first job was with the Community Development Program (CDP) Office in Pirlangimpi. She then worked at the Pirlangimpi School as a tutor for children needing extra help. She was selected by the local Tiwi Council for Aboriginal Health Practitioner (AHP) training in 1993. For family reasons, she needed to move to Wurrumiyanga and was unable to transfer her training position. She returned to AHP training as a mother of 4 children in 2000. After finishing her training, she worked as a casual AHP and a pharmacy technician for all 3 communities until a full-time position became available. Since then she has worked as an AHP for the Tiwi Health Board, the NT Government, and the Danila Dilba Aboriginal Medical Service. This has included important roles in the Midwifery Group Practice and the Department of Paediatrics. Currently, she is the Aboriginal Health Practitioner Coordinator for Top End Central. She works closely with Raelene, Roy, Keleasha, and Linda and has worked with Colleen and Anthea in the past.

[Reserve tickets](#) 

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# INTRODUCING OUR SPEAKERS



## Prof Gurmeet Singh

Professor Gurmeet Singh is Director of the Life Course Program at Menzies School of Health Research and a Specialist Paediatrician at Royal Darwin Hospital. With over 25 years of experience in Indigenous child health and epidemiology, she leads the Aboriginal Birth Cohort – the longest running longitudinal study of Aboriginal people in Australasia – generating critical evidence linking early life exposures to chronic disease outcomes including kidney disease, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease.

Professor Singh also holds a Professor of Rural Medicine appointment with the Flinders Northern Territory Medical Program and is committed to mentoring the next generation of clinicians and researchers.



## Dr Hilary Hardefeldt

Dr Hilary Hardefeldt is a Paediatric Cardiologist living and working in the Top End of the NT. She trained predominantly in the NT, Queensland and Aotearoa New Zealand. Her research focuses on acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease.




## Dr Paul Bauert

Dr Paul Bauert OAM is a General Paediatrician and lifelong Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, and currently serves as Vice-President of the Australian Paediatric Society. Based in the Northern Territory, his clinical and research focus spans the impact of environmental factors on childhood disease, including infectious disease burden and chronic inflammation in childhood lung conditions. A passionate advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, he has received the RACP Medal for Clinical Services in Rural and Remote Areas and two AMA President's Awards recognising his decades of advocacy for children's health and Indigenous health equity.



## Dr Angela Titmuss

Dr Angela Titmuss is a paediatric endocrinologist and paediatrician at Royal Darwin Hospital and Senior Research Fellow at Menzies School of Health Research, working within the youth type 2 diabetes team of the Diabetes across the Lifecourse: Northern Australian Partnership. She is an Investigator on several studies exploring prevention strategies for obesity and type 2 diabetes in childhood, as well as the development of new models of care for management of youth-onset type 2 diabetes, and youth engagement. Angela has been the only paediatric endocrinologist in the Northern Territory for many years and provides outreach and clinical support across the region. She sits on multiple regional and national representative bodies regarding youth-onset type 2 diabetes and has been heavily involved in clinical guideline development and workforce education.

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# INTRODUCING OUR SPEAKERS



## Simon Davis

Simon is a Darwin local and Mental Health Nurse, who has worked in the NT hospital system and headspace for most of his career.

In his current role, he manages a small multidisciplinary team within headspace Darwin/Palmerston that provides intensive support for young people in the 'missing middle' in youth mental health, presenting with complex mental health and social challenges. A large proportion of the young people supported by the program are First Nations young people.



## Dr Mat Wong

Mat is a Neonatologist working for Darwin Newborn Services and clinical lead for neonatal retrievals & NETS NT. He has moved to the Top End after completing neonatal training across Queensland. Mat is passionate about First Nations healthcare and improving outcomes for babies born from remote communities through improving access to education and equipment. Out of work you will find Mat either baking sourdough, camping or watching a classic Top End sunset.




## Angelena Harradine

Angelena Harradine is a Senior Kaurra Ngadjuri Ngarrindjeri Narrunga woman. Angelena is a tireless Mintirninthi (Traditional Healer) who through education teaches about the importance of Indigenous knowledge and practices. She facilitates workshops and healing circles, cultural awareness workshops and runs the Yaitya Mintirninthi cultural healing centre. Through her work as a community leader Angelena is helping to keep alive the traditions and wisdom of her people, while also bridging the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and promoting greater understanding and respect between all people. She continues to pass on her knowledge to the next generation, ensuring that her traditions and practices will continue to be passed down for generations to come. Angelena has worked in Aboriginal health and worked closely with women and families experiencing domestic violence.



## Natalie Hunter

Natalie Hunter is a Nykina/Jabba Jabba woman, born in Derby and raised in Darwin, Northern Territory. Natalie is passionate about advocating for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection and justice systems. She has worked tirelessly to address the inhumane treatment of children incarcerated and champion human rights. As a founding member of Close Don Dale Now, she campaigns against the incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and seeks to ensure that children belong on Country, not in prisons. Currently, Natalie is working with a group called Justice Not Jails, advocating against vigorous reforms to incarcerate children at 10 years, many of whom are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children living with trauma and disability.

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# INTRODUCING OUR SPEAKERS



## Justine Davis

Justine Davis is the Independent Member for Johnston, Member of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly. She has a background in mediation and justice with decades of experience in the Northern Territory.



## Dr Mantho Kgosiemang

Dr Mantho Kgosiemang is Director of Newborn Services, Senior Neonatologist and General Paediatrician at Royal Darwin Hospital, where she has worked for 14 years, including 11 as a consultant. She has a strong interest in developmental paediatrics, particularly FASD, and spent five years as consultant clinical lead for the Out of Home Care clinic at RDH. She has also worked for several years in multidisciplinary teams assessing neurodevelopmental concerns in young people within the juvenile detention system, and is a founding member of the TEDI clinic, a long-term neurodevelopmental service for at-risk infants at RDH. Passionate about culturally appropriate care, she has led family-integrated care initiatives within the NICU, and her current focus is on strategies that bring care closer to home for all families.




## Shahleena Musk

Shahleena is a Larrakia woman from Darwin in the Northern Territory and is the current Children's Commissioner in the Office of the Children's Commissioner NT. She has over two decades experience working in legal, policy and advocacy roles with a focus on child rights and youth justice. Shahleena gained her legal qualifications in the Northern Territory and has been admitted as a legal practitioner in the Supreme Courts of the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Victoria. She has worked as a human rights and youth justice advocate, criminal lawyer, and prosecutor; and has extensive experience in policy development, project delivery, law reform, and strategic research. Specific to her role as Commissioner, Shahleena brings a wealth of skills and experience having worked to improve legal and policy outcomes for children, youth, families, and communities for more than 20 years.



## Prof Anna Ralph

Professor Anna Ralph is a Darwin-based clinician-researcher. She is the Deputy Director (Research) at Menzies School of Health Research, and is a Senior, Pre-eminent Staff Specialist in Infectious Diseases and Adult General Medicine at Royal Darwin and Palmerston Hospitals. Her research programs focus on rheumatic fever, tuberculosis, and intercultural communication.

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## Improving *health outcomes* for children and communities *across the NT*

At Flinders University, we're committed to improving the health and wellbeing of communities through research, education and strong partnerships.

Through Flinders Northern Territory, we work alongside local health services, researchers and communities to address health challenges across the NT, building a workforce equipped to support healthier futures.

Through programs such as [Remote Health Practice](#), the [Northern Territory Medical Program](#), [Paramedicine NT](#) or the [NT Regional Training Hub](#) Flinders is helping to train the health workforce needed to support communities across the Territory and beyond.

**Proud to support the next generation of health leaders.**

[flinders.edu.au/flinders-nt](http://flinders.edu.au/flinders-nt)



# POSTGRADUATE COURSES IN CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH



The Postgraduate program in Child and Adolescent Health covers a broad range of relevant subjects grounded in an evidence based approach.

The program has been developed by Sydney Medical School's clinical, education and research staff from the Discipline of Child and Adolescent Health. It reflects their breadth of expertise and provides practical tips relating to the care of children and young people.

The course can be taken **part-time or full-time** and is delivered **online** to suit busy working professionals.

This course is highly relevant to:

- **Medical graduates** wanting to pursue a career in paediatrics
- **General Practitioners** looking for more training in child and adolescent health
- **Medical specialists** from other fields who desire a better understanding of child health
- **RACP trainees** wanting more in-depth training in specific areas of paediatrics and support for their RACP college project

## Enquiries and to apply

Program Director | A/Prof. Patrina Caldwell

E [pgmed.support@sydney.edu.au](mailto:pgmed.support@sydney.edu.au)

W [sydney.edu.au/courses/master-of-medicine-child-and-adolescent-health](http://sydney.edu.au/courses/master-of-medicine-child-and-adolescent-health)

## Handbook

[https://www.sydney.edu.au/handbooks/medicine\\_health\\_pg/coursework\\_ac/child\\_adolescent\\_health/unit\\_of\\_study\\_table.html](https://www.sydney.edu.au/handbooks/medicine_health_pg/coursework_ac/child_adolescent_health/unit_of_study_table.html)

## Admission requirements

Admission requires a medical degree. The advanced option is available to students who have completed the requirements for the master's degree with an average mark of at least 75% in 24 credit points of compulsory and/or stream specific units.

The degree structure allows students to **upgrade** to a higher award (eg MPhil and PhD) or **downgrade** and exit the program early provided course requirements are met. It is also possible to complete **a unit of study** without enrolling in a degree. The unit may be credited to a degree within two years of completion.

## Compulsory Units of Study

Introduction to Clinical Epidemiology	6CP
Evidence and Ethics in Paediatrics	6CP

## Stream Specific Units of Study (6CP each)

Neurology	Child development	Adolescent medicine	Allergy and immunology
Neonatal medicine	Nutrition and Obesity	Endocrinology	Emergencies
Common presentations	Evidence and Ethics	Infectious diseases	Gastroenterology

## General electives (6CP each) include:

- Independent studies (research)
- Psychiatry in clinical practice
- Child and adolescent mental health
- Diagnostic and screening tests
- Essential dermatology
- Genomics in clinical practice
- Genomics, Omics and medical application
- Leadership in health
- Teaching in the clinical environment
- Pain in children
- Introductory biostatistics





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**Dr Jacqueline Small (Chair)**  
Paediatrician



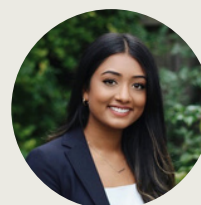
**Prof Hasantha Gunasekera (Treasurer)**  
Paediatrician



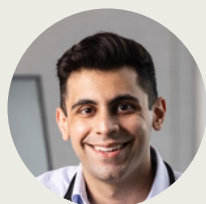
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Research Fellow



**Dr Amelia Lewis**  
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Neuropsychologist



**Dr Anysha Walia**  
Paediatric Trainee



**Dr Devin Deo**  
Paediatric Trainee



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Pharmacist



**Prof Kim Oates**  
Paediatrician

## Convenors



**Dr Marissa Loh**  
(Co-Convenor)  
Paediatric Trainee



**Dr Monica Parker**  
(Co-Convenor)  
Paediatric Trainee



**Dr Tara McFadyen**  
(Co-Convenor)  
Resident Medical Officer



**Dr Teresa Pham**  
(Co-Convenor)  
Intern



# REFLECTIONS ON ACAH

“I see the ACAH network continuing to grow and provide a platform for our emerging leaders in the health and medical space to share important learnings that are innovative and value a diversity of knowledges to shape the health and wellbeing for our next generations.”

**- Dr Simone Sherriff, Wotjobaluk woman, ACAH Board Director**

“When I was an intern interested in paediatrics, I was thrilled to first immerse myself in the world of ACAH at their 2023 conference in Melbourne and to instantly feel a sense of belonging in a tight-knit community passionate about child health and advocacy.

The approaching 2026 ACAH conference in Darwin will be another exciting opportunity to grow our community, and spark interest and connections among experienced as well as budding paediatric health care professionals, with the common goal of driving meaningful change in our paediatric population.

**- Dr Clara Charbine - Paediatric Basic Trainee, ACAH Pre Vocational Committee**



# THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

## Destination Partner



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## Exhibitors



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ACAH26: Building Brighter Futures | 23 - 25 April | Darwin Convention Centre