

ACA^H

ACADEMY OF CHILD & ADOLESCENT HEALTH



Newsletter July 2026



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



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Academy of Child and Adolescent Health



[academycah](https://www.instagram.com/academycah)



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Dr Lily Chen
Newsletter producer

The ACAH is progressing plans for ACAH27 Conference to be held 6-8 May 2027 in Sydney. I am very grateful to Amelia Lewis, Devin Deo, Peter Barclay and Shanti Raman for their involvement in the Conference Organising Committee and their role in planning the programme.

Devin is demonstrating his creative skills with graphic design for the poster and other publications. Please see the poster in this newsletter and share with colleagues across Australia, New Zealand and beyond.

Some early programme teasers include:

- The latest in neuroimmunology
- Social prescribing
- Climate change
- Rare diseases
- Social media
- Top 5 recent published articles- involved Editors in Chief
- Published authors on storytelling and health

The ACAH has contacted Dr Anne Aly MP, Minister for International Development to request a meeting to discuss child health in South East Asia and South Pacific. We recognize that there are a number of our members who work or teach in these regions as individuals or through another organization. We are keen to understand more of your engagement and how we might support you, your colleagues and children and young people. Please email admin@acah.org.au.

The ACAH is continuing to advocate in relation to Thriving Kids and will be reengaging with jurisdictions. A key aspect of our advocacy includes:

A policy window has opened with Thriving Kids. It's mostly about delivering different and less about delivering more.

We support the shift to a "seek and respond" model, where support is provided immediately and proportionately and integrated and delivered where children live, learn, and play. We particularly recognise the important role of primary care providers, early childhood education centres, and schools in identifying concerns and delivering child- and family-centred supports.

Please don't forget to renew your membership here <https://acah.org.au/membership/apply-for-or-renew-membership/>

If you would like to reach out to me, other Board members or a committee please email us on admin@acah.org.au.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Jacqueline Small
Chair ACAH Board

ACAH 27

ACADEMY OF CHILD &
ADOLESCENT HEALTH

A Shared Vision



6-8th May 2027



Sydney, NSW

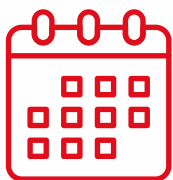


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A Shared Vision



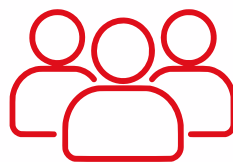
Shaping the future of child and adolescent health-**together**.



6-8th May
2027



Aerial Function
Centre
Sydney,
Australia



**HEALTH
PROFESSIONALS**
Across all disciplines
and settings



**CALL FOR
ABSTRACTS**
**OPENING
SOON!**

Join us in 2027 for the Academy of Child and Adolescent Health Conference, where a diverse community of professionals will come together around a shared vision: **improving the health and wellbeing of every newborn, child, and young person so they can reach their full potential.**

Grounded in collaboration and driven by purpose, this year's theme, "**A Shared Vision,**" reflects a collective commitment to high-quality, evidence-based care across disciplines and settings. The conference will highlight innovative approaches to clinical practice and research, while strengthening the connections between professionals, services, and communities that are essential for meaningful, lasting impact.



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

We invite submissions that showcase innovation, research, quality improvement, and lived experience across all areas of child and adolescent health.

More information and submission details coming soon



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@AcademyCAH

ACAH at AMSA

AMSA National Convention July 1-3 2026

ACAH was delighted to sponsor a booth at the AMSA National Convention 2026 in Adelaide, joining more than 800 medical students from across Australia for an inspiring week of learning, connection and advocacy.

Our team enjoyed meeting so many enthusiastic students and we welcome 163 new members to our growing ACAH student membership. Congratulations to Eliska Mitchell, the lucky winner of our stethoscope giveaway!

Our booth was attended by prevocational committee members Teresa Pham, Claire Demeo and board member Anysha Walia, and promotional material designed by the talented Lily Chen. We are excited to continue growing the Academy's presence at events such as these, and to get the chance to connect with students who are passionate about child and adolescent health.



ACAH Webinar Updates

Upcoming Webinars

Caught in the Crossfire: Safeguarding Children in Times of War

03

Dec 2026

Thursday 10th September 2026

This webinar will feature leading paediatric and child health professionals discussing how to safeguard children in conflict zones.

[→ Register here](#)

AI Ethics and Law: Responsibility of clinicians in direct patient care

03

Dec 2026

Thursday 3rd December 2026

This webinar will address AI ethics and law and the responsibility of clinicians in direct patient care.

[→ Register here](#)

Please contact us to suggest topics or speakers (such as international experts visiting Australia) for webinars, your contributions are very welcome.

These webinars are recorded for later viewing by members.

[Join ACAH to get access to these.](#)

Who is the ACAH?

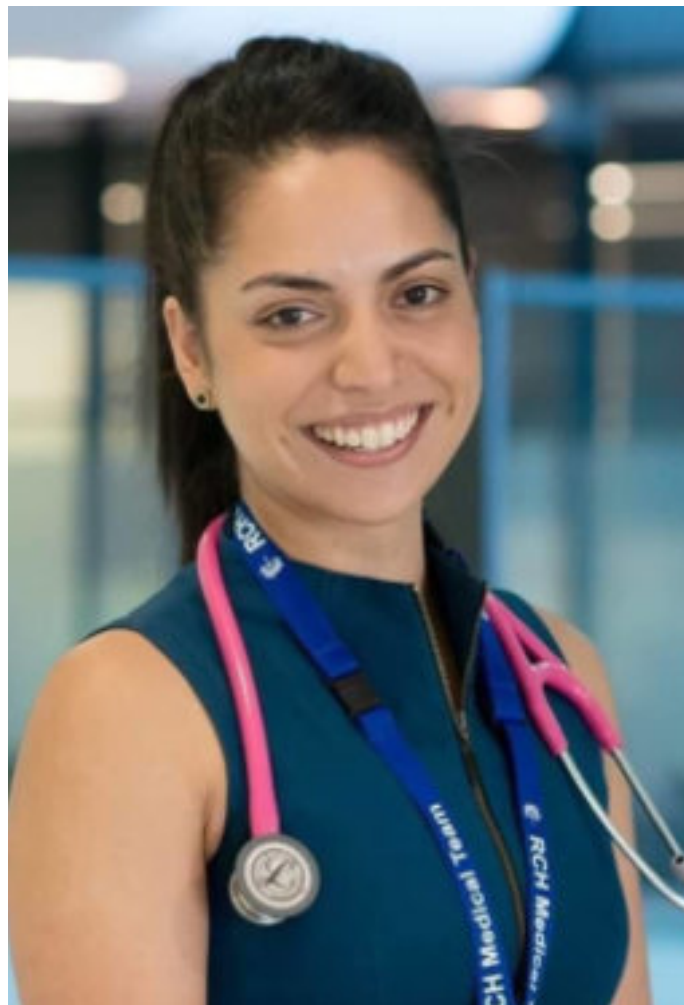
Reflections from the Board

Dr Davina Buntsma

I am an early career fellow working in Adolescent Medicine, Aboriginal Health and Refugee & Immigrant Health. I hold consultant positions at the Royal Children's Hospital, Monash Health and the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service. I am passionate about children of all backgrounds in Australia and New Zealand achieving equitable access to opportunities which will support them to reach their full social, emotional and health potential.

Trainees and early career fellows form an important part of ACAH's growth and future. I was a member of the RACP College Trainees Committee (CTC) for 8 years, representing the Northern Territory, New South Wales and Victoria, and bi-national CTC Chair for 4 years spanning some critical events. During this time we were able to strengthen the voice of trainees and developed positive relationships to ensure that trainee views were represented and included in key decisions. Most recently I served as a director on the RACP Board from May 2022-2024 in the role of Trainee Director. It gave me experience in the role of a Board to direct an organisation towards the goals and vision it sets out to achieve.

Having recently joined the Board of ACAH as a casual director I am excited to be a part of an organisation with like-minded colleagues from diverse practice groups who all share a commitment to improving child and adolescent health and wellbeing.



ACAH 26 MOMENTS





Meet the Board



Dr Jacqueline Small, Chair

Jacki is a Community Child Health Consultant in SLHD and has over 27 years experience in multidisciplinary teams for children with developmental disabilities. She was RACP President/Board Chair 2022-2024 and President Australian Association Developmental Disability Medicine (2015-2020).

Dr Has Gunasekera, Treasurer

Has is a Clinical Academic and Professor of Paediatric Priority Populations at CHW and University of Sydney. He is engaged in research with ACCHOs and worked in Health Assessment for Refugee Kids clinic for over two decades.



Dr Kim Oates AO

Kim is a paediatrician who trained across 3 countries and was the first holder of University of Sydney's Chair of Paediatrics and Child Health (1985-1997) and subsequently, CE from 1997-2006. Kim retains his international reputation as an expert in child abuse and neglect and as a teacher of medical students.

Simone Sherriff

Simone is a Wotjobaluk woman who lives and works on Wiradjuri country and is a Research Fellow at the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health at Sydney University. Simone has extensive experience working in the Aboriginal community-controlled health sector in NSW and has worked with Aboriginal community organisations for the last 15 years on health research and the implementation of services around key priority areas for communities. Simone's research interests are around food security, breastfeeding, and child health.



Dr Anysha Walia

Anysha is a paediatric trainee in Victoria and was shortlisted as Intern of the year in 2022. She has been active in the ACAH since she was a medical student and was co-convenor of ACAH2023. She is a volunteer for Water Well project and involved in refugee health research.

Meet the Board



Dr Devin Deo

Devin is a Paediatric Trainee at The Children's Hospital at Westmead, NSW. He completed his undergraduate medical degree from The University of Newcastle in 2020, before completing his internship in rural Taree. He is currently the President of the Kids Resident Medical Officer Association at Westmead Kids and also a member of the Clinical Council of the Sydney Children's Hospital Network. Devin also serves as the Hospital Representative for Westmead Kids in the Australian Medical Association NSW Doctors-In-Training Committee.

Peter Barclay

Peter is the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network Director of Pharmacy. Having worked as a Hospital Pharmacist for over 40 years, Peter is passionate about enabling access to appropriate medications for children and families and removing barriers that exist in the health system. Actively engaged in the provision of precision medicines including gene therapies for children at SCHN. Peter is experienced using pharmacy technology to deliver patient safety and business efficiency. He has been a strong advocate for the role of Hospital Pharmacists as clinicians, advocates for patient safety, efficient pharmaceutical procurers and key stakeholders in medication related clinical governance.



Dr Amelia Lewis

Amelia is the Senior Clinical Neuropsychologist at the Disability Specialist Unit, Sydney Local Health District. With over a decade of experience supporting children and adolescents with neurodevelopmental differences and disabilities, she brings expertise in clinical neuropsychology, research, and health policy. Amelia's work is guided by systems thinking, collaboration, and child-and-family-centred care. She is deeply committed to promoting the wellbeing of children and young people, as well as their families and communities.



Dr Davina Buntsma

Davina is an early career fellow working in Adolescent Medicine, Aboriginal Health and Refugee & Immigrant Health. She holds consultant positions at the Royal Children's Hospital, Monash Health and the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service. She is passionate about children of all backgrounds in Australia and New Zealand achieving equitable access to opportunities which will support them to reach their full social, emotional and health potential.

