

ACAH 27

ACADEMY OF CHILD &
ADOLESCENT HEALTH

A Shared Vision



ACAH27 Conference

Preliminary programme overview

6–8 May 2027 • Aerial Function Centre, Sydney



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.

We look forward to seeing you on 6–8 May, 2027.

ACA27 Convenors



Dr Jacqueline Small
ACA27 Chair



Dr Devin Deo



Dr Amelia Lewis



Prof Shanti Raman



Dr Sahani Jayawardane

Day 1: Thursday 6th May

Time	Stream 1	Stream 2
9:00	Conference opening	
9:30	Plenary: Health and wellbeing of children in Australia	
10:30	Panel: Impact of the Australian social media ban for children under 16 years old	
11:30	Morning tea	
12:00	Unravelling rare diseases: Paediatrician contributions to 35 years of the Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit	Research presentations
13:00	Lunch	
14:00	Panel: Top 3 research papers and discussion	Research presentations
15:15	Afternoon tea	
15:45	Plenary: Decontextualised diagnosis and impact for children and families	
16:15	Can we move away from medicalisation and disorderism?	

Day 2: Friday 7th May

Time	Stream 1	Stream 2
8:30	Plenary: Child and adolescent health in Australia and New Zealand	
9:30	Panel: Climate change	
10:30	Morning tea	
11:00	Plenary: Early diagnosis of cerebral palsy	
11:30	Panel: Exploring the most important issues for young people.	
12:30	Lunch	
13:15	Symposium: Rare diseases	
14:00	Panel: Wellbeing and education: partners in care	
14:45	Afternoon tea	
15:15	Symposium: Population vaccine rates and vaccine hesitancy	Research presentations
16:15	Indigenous health	

Day 3: Saturday 8th May

Time	Stream 1
8:30	Plenary: Social prescribing
9:00	Panel: Integrated models of care and social prescribing
10:00	Morning tea
10:30	Plenary: Neuroimmunology
11:00	Panel: Reading books and storytelling for children
12:00	Close and wrap up
12:45	Lunch
14:00	Trainee and student: Narrative Medicine
15:00	Trainee and student: Speed dating
15:30	Trainee and student: Clinical pearls

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!





Special Guest Speakers



Dr Tycho J. Dekkers

Psychologist and senior researcher at University Medical Center Groningen/Accare Child Study Center.

Dr Dekkers is an expert coordinator for ADHD at Levvel, Academic Center for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. His research primarily focuses on children and adolescents with ADHD and behavioral issues. His research interests include the effectiveness of psychosocial ADHD interventions, examining the potential negative effects of receiving an ADHD diagnosis, and risk-taking behaviors in adolescents with ADHD. Tycho is also an editor for Child and Adolescent Mental Health and the Journal of Attention Disorders.



Professor Michael Kidd AO

Chief Medical Officer for Australia

Professor Kidd is the Chief Medical Officer for Australia. He also holds appointments as Director of the International Centre for Future Health Systems at the University of New South Wales, and as Professor of Global Primary Care and Future Health Systems at the University of Oxford. He is a past President of both the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the World Organization of Family Doctors.



Professor Dame Helen Stokes-Lampard

National Clinical Chief Medical Officer for Health New Zealand / Te Whatu Ora and Specialist General Practitioner (GP)

Professor Stokes-Lampard, has been the National Clinical Chief Medical Officer for Health New Zealand / Te Whatu Ora since November 2024 and also works as a Specialist General Practitioner (GP). Until late 2024 she lived in the UK and was an NHS GP, Professor of GP Education at the University of Birmingham and a Non-Executive Director on the board of NHS England. She has held several prestigious positions in the medical field, most notably serving as the Chair of the UK Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC 2020-2023) and Chair of the Royal College of General Practitioners (2016-2019). She was the founding Chair of the National Academy for Social Prescribing, founding Chair of the Dames Commander Society and a trustee at Macmillan Cancer. Her personal clinical interests include holistic approaches to health and care, disease prevention, authentic medical leadership and embracing innovation in healthcare in safe responsible ways. Her contributions were recognised by award of DBE (New Year Honours 2022).



Professor Paul Kelly

Founder and Principal, PK Public Health Advisory; Honorary Enterprise Professor, University of Melbourne

Professor Kelly is a widely recognized leader in population health with over three decades of experience spanning communicable and non-communicable disease control, public health policy and health emergency management. He was Australia's Chief Medical Officer (2020–2024) where he was the primary medical advisor to the Australian Government through the COVID-19 pandemic and led major national reforms in environmental health, climate change policy, and communicable disease control.

or Then"

Annalee Bye, Neurology, SCHN
 Dr Angie Morrow, Paediatric Rehabilitation Physician,
 Hospital at Westmead, NSW
 Prof David Celermajer AO, Professor of Cardiology,
 World Debating Champion, NSW



Friday 8 April | Main Conference Day One

ACAH 2

4:00 pm - The Great Debate - Working in Healthcare:
 Better Now than Then? Battle of the Generations!

Moderator: Kim Oates

Team "Better Now"

Dr Patrick Walker, Paediatric Trainee, RCH
 Melbourne, VIC
 Dr Micah Vincent, Advanced Trainee, Sydney
 Children's Hospital Network, NSW
 Dr Ashfaq Quadir, Advanced Trainee,
 Children's Hospital at Westmead, NSW

Team "Better Then"

Professor Annalee Bye, Neurology, SCHN
 Dr Angie Morrow, Paediatric Rehabilitation Physician,
 Children's Hospital at Westmead, NSW
 Prof David Celermajer AO, Professor of Cardiology,
 USYD & World Debating Champion, NSW

Meet our expert speakers



Professor Andrew Baillie

BSc(Hons) UNSW, MPsycho(Clin) UNSW, PhD Macq, FCCLP

Professor Baillie is a clinical psychologist, Professor of Allied Health with Sydney Local Health District (SLHD), and Senior Advisor with Sydney Health Partners. He works in SLHD to build Allied Health Research Capacity and with Sydney Health Partners on their Implementation Science Academy and Clinical Academic Groups. He also works with Drug Health Services at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and the Psychology Team at Sydney Virtual.



Shankari Chandran

Writer and lawyer; 2023 Miles Franklin Literary Award

Shankari Chandran is an Australian Tamil writer and lawyer. Shankari is the winner of the 2023 Miles Franklin Literary Award for *Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens* and has published five novels. Her next book, *Daughters of the Red Earth* (Ultimo Press, 2027) focuses on religious extremism and its intersection with ethno-nationalism and transcendence. Shankari has previously led the pro bono legal teams for Allen & Overy (globally) and Ashurst (Australia).



Professor Elizabeth Elliott AM MD FRACP FRCP FRCPCH

University of Sydney and Consultant Paediatrician at the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network.

Professor Elliott leads the NSW fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) assessment service. In 1993, she established the Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit and remains its Director. APSU has conducted over 75 studies on rare childhood diseases that have informed policy and practice. She was instrumental with colleagues from the UK and Canada in developing the International Network of Paediatric Surveillance Units and was elected Convenor in 2000. Her research, clinical work and advocacy involve disadvantaged children living with rare diseases, in remote Aboriginal communities, in immigration detention and in South East Asia. FASD has been a major focus and she chairs the Australian Government's FASD Advisory Group.

Elizabeth is an elected Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Science and the Royal Society of NSW. She was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in the 2026 King's Birthday Honours.



Professor Sharon Goldfeld

Director, Centre for Community Child Health (CCCH) the Royal Children's Hospital, and Theme Director, Population Health at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute

Professor Goldfeld has a decade of experience in state government as a senior policymaker in the Victorian health and education departments. Her research program is made up of complementary, synergistic and cross-disciplinary streams of work focused on investigating, testing, and translating sustainable policy relevant solutions that eliminate inequities for children. In 2024 she received an Order of Australia (AM) and was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (AAHMS).



Dr Karl Pobre

Paediatric emergency Staff specialist and Paediatrician, CHW; Motivated for Change ED Lead

Dr Karl Pobre is a Paediatric Emergency Physician and Co-Director of Emergency Medical training at The Children's Hospital at Westmead. He leads Motivated for Change, a multidisciplinary, co-designed program focused on improving the experience, safety and quality of emergency care for children with disability and their families.



Dr Manjekah Dunn

Advanced metabolic and clinical genetics trainee; PhD candidate

Dr Manjekah is an advanced metabolic and clinical genetics trainee and PhD candidate researching accessible and inclusive genomic testing for people with intellectual disability. Her work bridges research and clinical practice, co-producing practical resources with people with intellectual disability and health professionals to drive equitable genomic healthcare.



Professor Nadia Badawi AM
Medical Director and Co-Head of the Grace Centre at Westmead and Cerebral Palsy Alliance Chair of Research at the University of Sydney

Professor Nadia Badawi AM is a world leader in neonatal care whose work has helped transform outcomes for Australia's most vulnerable infants. As Medical Director and Co-Head of the Grace Centre at Westmead and Cerebral Palsy Alliance Chair of Research at the University of Sydney, she has led research and clinical initiatives contributing to a 40% reduction in the incidence and severity of cerebral palsy in Australia. Her work continues to shape care, policy and outcomes for children worldwide.



Felicity Wright, PhD

Director of Pharmacy, Sydney Children's Hospital; Net Zero Clinical Lead

Dr Felicity Wright trained as a paediatric cellular therapy and oncology pharmacist, is a Board Certified Oncology Pharmacist (USA), and holds an MPH Policy and PhD in pharmacogenetics. She leads pharmacy across clinical, production and leadership domains, driving pharmacy-led models of care, specialised production, and automation to improve efficiency, quality and workforce sustainability.



Professor Ju Lee Oei

Inaugural Chair of Neonatology, Mater; Conjoint Professor UNSW

Professor Ju Lee Oei is the inaugural Chair of Neonatology at Mater. She has extensive expertise in newborn resuscitation and in the care of families affected by drug dependency, and is Conjoint Professor at UNSW. She has authored more than 190 papers and contributes to state, national and international neonatal guidelines.



Professor Raghu Lingam

Paediatrician, population health researcher and Professor of Paediatric Population Health, UNSW Sydney.

Professor Lingam leads the Population Child Health and Health Services Research Group at UNSW and the GenV Intervention Hub, a national platform within Generation Victoria that accelerates the development, testing and implementation of interventions to improve outcomes for children and families at scale.

His research focuses on prevention, health-system innovation, integrated care and implementation science, with the goal of improving child health outcomes and reducing inequities. Working across primary care, community, hospital and policy settings, he develops and evaluates models of care that strengthen health systems and support children and young people to thrive.



Professor Sue Woolfenden

Director of Community Paediatrics; co-chair, Sydney Institute for Women, Children and their Families, SLHD; Professor of Community Paediatrics, University of Sydney

Professor Woolfenden is Director of Community Paediatrics and co-chair the Sydney Institute for Women, Children and their Families at Sydney Local Health District and Professor of Community Paediatrics at the University of Sydney. Her clinical, service development and research work addresses child health inequities in Australia and globally through integrated health–social care models, including hubs and social prescribing working in partnership with Priority Populations. She has > 200 publications.



Professor Shanti Raman, MBBS, FRACP, MAE, PhD

**Director- Department of Community Paediatrics, South Western Sydney Local Health District
Senior Clinical Advisor-Child & Family Health, NSW Ministry of Health, Conjoint Professor, University of New South Wales, School of Women's & Children's Health**

Shanti Raman is a Consultant Paediatrician, with training in epidemiology and public health. As the Director of Community Paediatrics - South Western Sydney, she is responsible for clinical services in Child Development and Child Protection across the region, providing leadership and directing research and training. In her Ministry of Health role, she supports the quality, safety, and integration of child and family health services through the development of statewide healthcare policy. Her research and teaching interests include health of migrants and refugees, indigenous child health, child rights and child maltreatment, quality and safety in health, global maternal, newborn and child health. She is involved with policy development at State, national and international levels promoting a rights-based perspective to child health and child rights. She is the Editor-in-Chief of BMJ Paediatrics Open; over the past two years the journal has pioneered several specialised collections that explore critical issues impacting child and youth health globally.

On the community engagement front, Dr Raman has been involved with a range of civil society organisations, responding to social justice, gender issues, human rights and support to refugee and migrant groups.



Dr Amelia Lewis

Senior Clinical Neuropsychologist at the Disability Specialist Unit, Sydney Local Health District and a Board Member of the Academy of Child and Adolescent Health.

Dr Amelia Lewis holds a Doctorate of Clinical Neuropsychology and a Master of Philosophy (Psychology) from Macquarie University as well as a Master of Health Policy from the University of Sydney. She is also a traditionally-published children's picture book author. With over a decade of experience supporting children and adolescents with neurodevelopmental differences and disabilities, she brings expertise in clinical neuropsychology, clinical research, and health policy alongside a deep commitment to child and family-centred care. Her work is guided by a passion for storytelling that fosters connection, identity, and joy.



Lesley Bruce

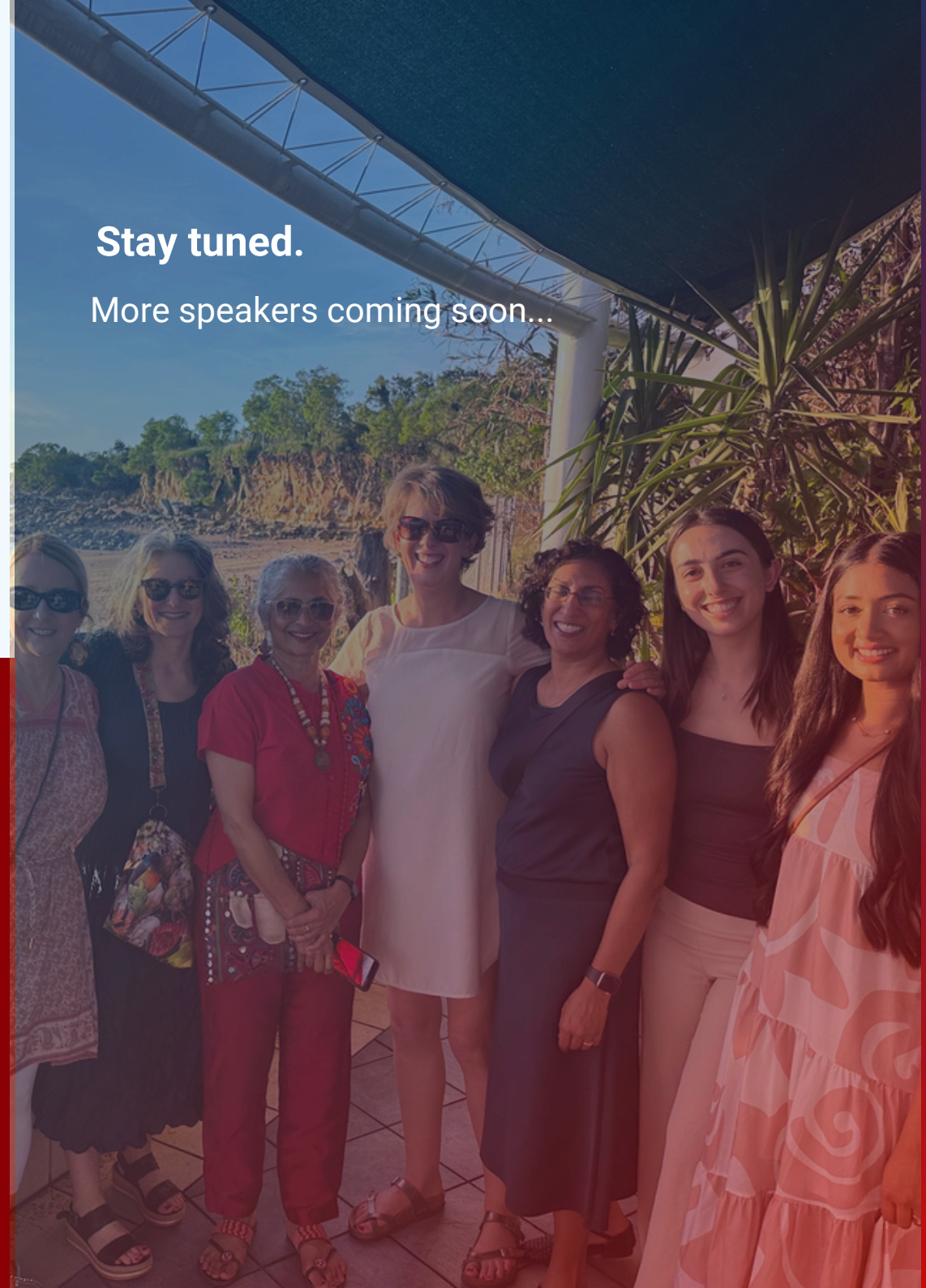
Principal, Cairnsfoot Special School, Brighton Le Sands

During her forty working years with the Department of Education, she has gained vast experience in the following fields of education – Early Childhood, Primary and Special Education.

As Principal of Cairnsfoot, she is committed to supporting students with complex needs and their families by working through an interagency model. Her knowledge in working with students with disability and their families, is regularly sought by her mainstream colleagues.

Stay tuned.

More speakers coming soon...



Aerial Function Centre, Sydney

University of Technology, Sydney campus, Ultimo.

Located in the heart of Sydney at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) campus, Aerial Function Centre is an award-winning conference and events venue renowned for its stunning rooftop setting, modern facilities and panoramic views of the Sydney skyline and Darling Harbour. Offering flexible, pillarless event spaces accommodating up to 450 delegates, Aerial is ideally suited to conferences, exhibitions, workshops, networking events and gala functions. The venue features multiple configurable function rooms, expansive outdoor terraces, state-of-the-art audiovisual capabilities and premium catering services, providing a seamless experience for organisers and delegates alike.

Conveniently located within walking distance of Central Station and Sydney's major accommodation precincts, Aerial combines accessibility, flexibility and exceptional event delivery, making it an ideal venue for national conferences and professional gatherings. For ACAH 2027, Aerial provides a vibrant and contemporary setting that supports collaboration, learning and connection, offering delegates a memorable conference experience in the heart of Sydney



Submit an abstract for ACAH27

We welcome submissions from everyone working in child and adolescent health. Accepted abstracts are considered for oral presentation (8 minutes plus questions) and for prizes. Presenters must be registered for the conference.

ACAH Research Prize \$1000

Open to all registrants.

Trainee Prize \$500

Open to anyone training to be a member of one of the child and adolescent health medical, nursing or allied health professions.

Higher Degree Prize \$500

Open to any PhD or Masters by research candidate currently enrolled, or awarded within 1 year of conference start date.

Allied Health Prize \$500

Open to allied health professionals.

Student Prize \$500

Open to any health student (medical, nursing, allied health or equivalent).

Evidence of eligibility for the student, trainee and higher degree prizes will be required if your abstract is accepted.

Priority themes

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
- Refugee health
- Child and/or adolescent health (considered broadly)
- Climate change and children
- Advocacy, population health
- Mental health

SUBMIT ABSTRACT

acah.org.au/home/abstracts-submission/

Structured abstracts (Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions) must be limited to 350 words.

05

Registrations opening soon

ACAH 27

Conference: A Shared Vision

6–8 May 2027 • Sydney, NSW

Be first to know.

Register your interest: acah.org.au/sydney-conference-2027

Event enquiries: admin@acah.org.au

Follow us to stay updated on the latest news:

[Linkedin](#) | [Instagram](#) | [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#)



INTERESTED IN SPONSORING?

Partner with us and help drive innovation, collaboration and impact in child and adolescent health.

[View Sponsorship Prospectus](#)