



Palliative Care
New South Wales

2026 State Conference PROGRAM

19 – 21 October | Sydney Masonic Centre

(Draft and subject to change)

2026 STATE CONFERENCE

19–21 October
Sydney Masonic Centre



The Program Highlights

5 Pre-Conference Workshops and Panels (19th October)

Welcome Reception (19th October)

Celebration Dinner (20th October)

Engaging Keynote & Plenary Speakers

12 Different Concurrent Streams

40 Concurrent Presentations

16 Poster Pitches

4 Learning Labs

20+ Posters

Diverse content and topics

Interactive exhibition and catering space

Conference Venue

Sydney Masonic Centre

66 Goulburn Street, Sydney NSW 2000

MONDAY 19th OCTOBER

Pre-Conference Tours & Workshops / Panels

Welcome Reception

Attendance included for all registered full delegates (excluding single day registrations)

Pre-Conference Tours		
Option 1		Option 2
A flexible drop-in touring window: 9am, 10am or 11am		10:15am arrival for a 10:30am start
Manly Adolescent and Young Adult Hospice (AYAH) Visit AYAH, Australia’s first dedicated, purpose-built hospice for adolescents and young adults aged 16-30 living with life-limiting illness. This unique opportunity will give delegates an insight into AYAH’s statewide role, its age-appropriate model of care, and how the service supports young people and their families across NSW. Reserve your place here .		Art Gallery of New South Wales Join us at the Art Gallery of New South Wales for a special arts-based experience exploring the Pause Palliative Care Program. This engaging session will explore how art and culture can support connection, reflection and meaningful conversations in palliative care - with patients, families, carers, healthcare professionals and volunteers. Reserve your place here .
1:00pm	Registration Opens Ground Floor Foyer, Sydney Masonic Centre	
Pre-Conference Workshops / Panels Commence		
1:15 – 2:45pm	Workshop 1 Corinthian Room	Panel 1 Doric Room
	FROM STANDARDS TO PRACTICE: EXPLORING THE NATIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE STANDARDS WITH PACSA Led by Kate Ritchie and Chelsea Menchin, Palliative Care Australia	WE’RE NOT TALKING ABOUT THIS ENOUGH: COMMUNITY VOICES ON DEATH, GRIEF AND CARE Led by Danni Petkovic, Liminal Being Jill Nash, Community Advocate and Volunteer, Ageing and Dying Well Advocate Sally Douglas, Good Mourning Richard Boele, Father, Bereaved Parent and Lived Experience Advocate John Milham, Men’s Wellbeing Advocate, Compassionate Connector, Men’s Coach, Suicide Prevention Trainer

2:45pm	Afternoon Tea Break <i>Ground Floor Foyer</i>		
3:15 – 5:15pm	Workshop 2 <i>Corinthian Room</i>	Workshop 3 <i>Doric Room</i>	Workshop 4 <i>Ionic Room</i>
	JUST INCLUDE ME: SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY WITH PALLIATIVE CARE, DYING AND GRIEF Led by David Pech, Council for Intellectual Disability	WHEN WORDS MATTER MOST: COMMUNICATION AND CULTURAL SAFETY IN PALLIATIVE CARE Led by Una Turalic, Northern Sydney Local Health District & NSW Transcultural Mental Health Centre David Gillet and Emma Dixon, Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District	EVIDENCE-BASED THERAPIES FOR BREATHLESSNESS ARE ALL NON- PHARMACOLOGICAL – HERE’S HOW YOU USE THEM Led by Mary Roberts, Westmead Hospital Associate Professor Tim Luckett, University of Technology Sydney (UTS) IMPACCT (Centre for Improving Palliative, Aged and Chronic Care through Clinical Research and Translation) Dr Ester Klimkeit, Westmead Hospital Heather Stephenson, Westmead Hospital Muneeba Chaudhry, IMPACCT, University of Technology Sydney Dr Tracy Smith, Westmead Hospital Bronwen Hewitt, Liverpool Hospital
5:30pm	Welcome Reception Commences <i>Marble Foyer, Sydney Masonic Centre</i>		
7:00pm	Welcome Reception Concludes		

TUESDAY 20th OCTOBER

Day 1 Conference Sessions

Celebration Dinner

Celebration Dinner attendance included for all registered full delegates (excluding single day registrations)

8:30am	Registration Opens <i>Marble Foyer, Sydney Masonic Centre</i>
9:00am	Conference Day 1 Commences Official Opening Session <i>Grand Lodge</i>
	Welcome to Country Opening Keynote: Culture, Connection and Voice <i>This immersive and powerful story, told by the team from the Mid North Coast Local Health District and the family involved, highlights the importance of culturally responsive, person-centred palliative care in supporting an Aboriginal man's wish to return to Country at the end of life. Through collaboration, advocacy and partnership with family and services, Ben's journey demonstrates the profound impact of honouring cultural identity, connection to Country and individual choice, ensuring dignity, comfort and cultural safety during his final days.</i> Storytellers Allison McLaughlin, Nurse Practitioner, Palliative Care, Mid North Coast Local Health District Cynthia Younie, Senior Aboriginal Health Worker, Palliative Care, Mid North Coast Local Health District Aunty Jacqueline Smith (Ben's aunty), Kristy Fernando (Ben's sister), and Renshaya Sines (Ben's daughter), South West Rocks Figtree descendants.
10:30am	Morning Tea <i>Banquet & Exhibition Hall</i>

11:00am	Plenary Session <i>Grand Lodge</i> Shaping the Future Together <i>This session will explore some of the themes that have emerged from the consultation process for the NSW Health End of Life and Palliative Care Framework 2026 - 2031, due to be released in December. To meet current and future demands, recognising challenges, identifying opportunities, and working collaboratively will be essential. How do we effectively shape the future together? Four keynote speakers followed by an expert panel will explore this theme.</i> Shaping the Future of Palliative Care: What the Data Tells Us and Where to Next Associate Professor Chris Schilling, Health Economist and Palliative Care Economics Lead, University of Melbourne Building End of Life and Palliative Care Capability in the NSW Health Workforce Dr Kate Kennett, Senior Policy Officer, End of Life and Palliative Care, Priority Populations Unit, NSW Health Exploring the Impact of Palliative Care Volunteering in NSW Dr Patricia Mackey, Senior Lecturer and Researcher, Charles Sturt University Public Health Approaches to Palliative Care: Strengthening Communities and Building Death Literacy Dr Kerrie Noonan, Senior Research Fellow and Adjunct Associate Professor, Public Health Palliative Care Unit, La Trobe University and Director of Research, Western NSW Local Health District Expert Panel Dr Meera Agar, End of Life and Palliative Care Senior Clinical Advisor, NSW Health Sabina Clapham, Director, Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration (PCOC+) Professor Deb Parker AM, Co-Director, UTS Ageing Research Collaborative
12:30pm	Lunch <i>Banquet & Exhibition Hall</i>

1:30pm	Concurrent Sessions			
	Stream 1 <i>Ionic Room</i> Supportive Care: Beyond the Hospital	Stream 2 <i>Doric Room</i> Palliative Care in Aged Care	Stream 3 <i>Tuscan Room</i> Connected Care: Models & Partnerships	Stream 4 <i>Corinthian Room</i> Complex Minds, Compassionate Care
1:30pm (Poster Pitch)	The Missing Piece – The Value of Palliative Care Volunteers - Janet Pearce, Far West Local Health District	Responding to An Ageing Population: System-Level Redesign of Palliative Care in Residential Aged Care Homes - Susan Jenkins, Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District	Bridging the Gap – A Review of Specialist Nurse Practitioner Support in a Rural Hospital Setting - Teresa Gillies, Shoalhaven Specialist Palliative Care	Bridging Mind and Body at the End of Life: Embedded Psychiatry within an Australian Palliative Care Program - Shalini Rajan, Supportive Care for Chronic Disease, Hunter New England Local Health District
1:35pm	'Fixing the Fixables'. Supportive Care and Hospital-in-the-Home (HITH) Services, Working Together - Dr Clare Jones and Monita Mesuria, St George Hospital	Implementing PACOP to Improve Palliative Care Outcomes in Residential Aged Care - Renee Millen, Palliative Aged Care Outcomes Program (PACOP) – University of Wollongong	Co-Designing an Innovative Oral Health Model of Care for Palliative Care Nurses: An Australian First - Vipin Jain, Western Sydney University	Holding Complexity: Trauma, Illness and Continuity in Care at the End of Life - Sarah Pullen, Hunter New England Local Health District
2:00pm	Ticking Off the Bucket List – Managing Chronic Illness in the Community - Val Maynes, Rebecca Thornley and Jacqui Burgess, St George Hospital	When Dying Isn't Dying: Reassessing Decline in Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease in Aged Care - Natividad Miles, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital	'From Palm Beach to Eden' A Collaborative Partnership Enabling After-Hours Telehealth Support in Southern NSW - Sevi Russell-Williams, HammondCare Brigid White, Southern NSW Local Health District	Person-Centred Care in a Siloed Health System: Complexity of Mental Health - Donna Waters, Community Palliative Care, Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District

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2:25pm	What Matters Most? Transforming Care in Advanced Non- Malignant Chronic Disease - Sarah Pullen, Hunter New England Local Health District	Collaborative Multidisciplinary Care Enabling End of Life Care for a Patient with MND in Residential Aged Care - Donna Berry, Calvary Hospital Kogarah	Improving Palliative Care in Aged Care Settings: Implementation of Specialist Palliative Care Needs Rounding on the Central Coast - A CPCiAC Initiative - Megan Whittington and Janice Spinley, Central Coast Local Health District	Exploring Associations Between Pain Burden and Psychosocial Distress in a Rural NSW Palliative Care Population - Felicity Bates, Mid North Coast Local Health District
2:50pm (Poster Pitch)	Integrating Palliative Care into Nephrology: A 10-Year Kidney Supportive Care Experience - Natividad Miles, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital	Syringe Drivers in Residential Aged Care Facilities for Palliative Patients - Juan IX Cabredo, Prince of Wales Hospital	Redefining End-of- Life Care: A Clinically Supported Relational Care Model for Integrated Community-Based Systems - Anne Kubiak, Full Circle – End of Life Matters	Storytelling at End of Life: Evaluating the Establishment of Volunteer-Led Biography Programs in Palliative Care - Professor Megan Best, University of Notre Dame
2:55pm	Afternoon Tea <i>Banquet & Exhibition Hall</i>			
3:30pm	Concurrent Sessions			
	Stream 1 <i>Ionic Room</i> Managing Complexity	Stream 2 <i>Doric Room</i> Comprehensive Care at End of Life	Stream 3 <i>Tuscan Room</i> Care Models & Outcomes	Stream 4 <i>Corinthian Room</i> Person Centred Dementia Care
3:30pm (Poster Pitch)	Feasibility-Testing a Co-Designed Breathlessness Episode Recovery Plan for People with COPD and their Support Persons - Tim Lockett, University of Technology Sydney	Off-Site Planning: Strengthening Continuity and Service Development in Palliative Care - Liliana D'Agostino, Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital	'Safer at Home': Nurse Practitioner- Led Model Strengthening Community Nursing Partnerships in After Hours Palliative Care - Carmen Sanchez, Northern Sydney Home Nursing Service	Dementia ... Through a Different Lens - Tatjana Jokic, JK Corporate Resourcing

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3:35pm	Local Error to Statewide Change: Transforming Clonazepam Safety - Joey Chan, Adolescent and Young Adult Hospice (AYAH)	Sowing Seeds of Healing: Evaluation of a Bereaved Parent Peer Mentor Program - Naomi Mason, LadyBird Care Foundation	PCOC Version 4: Strengthening Measurement in Palliative Care to Advance Equity and Access - Le-Tisha Kable, Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration	Unequal Burdens: Socioeconomic Disadvantage in Dementia Care and Caregiving - Joanne Lewis, Avondale University and University of Technology Sydney Deborah Parker, University of Technology Sydney Kristin Bindley, University of NSW and University of Technology Sydney
4:00pm	Delirium-Related Distress in Palliative Care Patients, Family Carers and Health Professionals: A Qualitative Concept Analysis - Kimberley Campbell, University of Technology Sydney	Reframing What Matters: The Evidence for Palliative Rehabilitation - Deidre Morgan, Flinders University	The Establishment of a New Specialist Community Palliative Care Service - Trish Sutton and Charlene Casey, Prince of Wales Hospital	The Art of Being With: Patient and Family Centred Care in an Adolescent and Young Adult Hospice - Anna Blechinger and Sophia Melocco Hill, Adolescent and Young Adult Hospice (AYAH)
4:25pm	When Crisis Meets Compassion: Palliative Care-Emergency Services Partnership in an Unpredictable Case - Dr Alexandra Fletcher, Dr Johann Monzon and Julie Howard, HammondCare	Bridging Reflexive Research and Practice: Considerations for Cultural Humility in Palliative and Bereavement Care in Western Sydney - Nicole Winters and Jessie Phibbs, Supportive and Palliative Care, Western Sydney Local Health District	Evaluating a Tailored Model of Palliative Care for People with Intellectual Disability - Dr Tawanwart Thipayawat, University of NSW Sydney	Experiences and Benefits of Elder Clowning for Families of Persons with Dementia in Long-Term Care - Sara-Jane Roberts, University of Technology Sydney

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4:55pm (Poster Pitch)	Hospital in the Home for Palliative Care in Residential Aged Care Facilities - Michelle Leung-Cheng, Calvary Healthcare Kogarah	Enhancing Nutrition Care in Rural Palliative Care Services: A Virtual Model for Equitable Dietetic Support - Leanne Baulch, Murrumbidgee Local Health District	Pharmaceutical Society of Australia National Palliative Care Project Service Model Pilots - Megan Tremlett, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia	A Quasi-Experimental Study of Supported Decision-Making Training for the Australian Aged Care Workforce - Leila Zhu, University of New South Wales
5:00pm	Conference Day 1 Concludes			
6:30pm	Celebration Dinner Commences			
	<i>Harbour Lights & a Golden Night.</i> Where connection meets celebration. Thanks to our Celebration Dinner Partner HammondCare As the sun sets over Sydney Harbour, join fellow delegates for an unforgettable evening of celebration, connection and conversation. <i>Harbour Lights & a Golden Night</i> offers the perfect opportunity to unwind after the conference, reconnect with colleagues, and celebrate the people and achievements that make our sector so special. Enjoy a relaxed yet elegant evening at Watersedge, with great food, stunning views and plenty of opportunities to connect. Dress to impress with a touch of gold, sparkle or glamour. Location: Watersedge at Campbell's Stores. 25 Hickson Road, The Rocks			
10:00pm	Celebration Dinner Concludes			

Make sure to visit the Poster Display Area during conference breaks

Poster Pitch presentations will have their poster on display.

The following additional posters will also be on display:

Carer-Led Ascites Drainage: Empowering Families, Improving Quality of Life,

Andrea Firgau

Blankets at the End of Life – A Small Gift with a Big Impact,

Lara Johnson

Development of a Guide to End of Life, Death and Bereavement for Patients, Families and Friends,

Sarah Shaw

Two Lives, One Journey: Embedding Carer Support into Care for Advanced Non-Malignant Chronic Disease,

Sarah Pullen

Strengthening Paramedic Capability in Palliative and End of Life Care: A Statewide NSW Ambulance Initiative,

Caroline Belfanti

A Picture on the Wall,

Helen Napthali

All Hands on Deck – Managing Chronic Illness in the Community,

Clare Jones

Inclusive and Equitable Palliative Care: A Case Study Highlighting Cultural Safety for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Communities (Nepali),

Usha Gurung

Supportive Care for Patients with High Grade Gliomas,

Clare Jones

Reducing Residential Aged Care Hospitalisation at End-of-Life: Implementing a Palliative Approach,

Melanie Correia

WEDNESDAY 21st OCTOBER

Day 2 Conference Sessions

8:30am	Registration Opens <i>Marble Foyer, Sydney Masonic Centre</i>
9:00am	Conference Day 2 Commences Plenary Session <i>Grand Lodge</i> Caring for Carers <i>This keynote session connects directly to Standard Three of the National Palliative Care Standards, while also acknowledging this year's National Carers Week theme, Care for a Carer: Making Carers Visible. Carers NSW will set the scene followed by unique insights from carers who have supported loved ones through palliative and end of life care.</i> Partners in Care: Recognising, Supporting and Partnering with Carers Dr Lukas Hofstaetter, Manager Research & Development, Carers NSW Coming of Age in Palliative Care: Burdens and Blessings of Caring for Prematurely Ill Parents Kelly and Karina Chan Our Palliative Care Story: Family, Compassion, Community The Hughes Family
10:15am	Morning Tea <i>Banquet & Exhibition Hall</i>

10:45am	Concurrent Sessions			
	Stream 1 <i>Ionic Room</i> Innovations in Systems and Supports	Stream 2 <i>Doric Room</i> Better Access, Better Experience	Stream 3 <i>Tuscan Room</i> Growing & Supporting the Workforce	Stream 4 <i>Corinthian Room</i> Death Literacy & Advance Care Planning
10:45am	Preliminary Data Regarding Equipment Supporting Palliative Patients to Live Safely at Home - Greg Foreman, HealthShare NSW / EnableNSW	Caring Together: Co-Designing a Culturally Safe Paediatric Palliative Care Resource - Annette Vickery, Palliative Care Australia	Learning Experiences of Nursing Students in Palliative and End of Life Care - Lisa Wong, Western Sydney University (Paramatta South Campus)	Working Together to Strengthen Death Literacy & Education in Regional and Rural Communities - Maria Cambitzi, HammondCare Shannon Elwell, Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network
11:10am	Nanga Mai – End of Life Care in Campbelltown Emergency Department - Dr Katie Maclean and Kayla Gloss, Campbelltown Hospital	Analysis of Patients' Experiences in Community Palliative Care Using the ConsiderATE Tool - Maree Montgomery, Murrumbidgee Local Health District – Palliative Care	Empowering Aged Care Nurses to Deliver High Quality Palliative and End of Life Care - Nikita Cunningham, NSW Health – South Western Sydney Local Health District Palliative Care Service	From Awareness to Action: Advancing Care Planning in Practice - Debra Clark, Sydney North Health Network Kelly Arthurs, ANDCare
11:35am	The Sutherland Hospital Emergency Department & Geriatric Flying Squad Pathway – The Right Care, at the Right Place, at the Right Time, for the Right Person - Sandhya Chand, Sutherland Hospital, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District	Listen to Me. Voices of Domestic Violence Impacting on Palliative Care - Joan Ryan, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital	The Lived Experience of Registered Nurses Providing Palliative Care in the Community: A Phenomenological Study - Emily Weston, Australian Catholic University / Western Sydney University	Planning for a Death with an Addiction - Sarah Blakemore and Dr Aarti Ganapathi, Drug and Alcohol Services, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District

	Stream 1 <i>Ionic Room</i> Innovations in Systems and Supports	Stream 2 <i>Doric Room</i> Better Access, Better Experience	Stream 3 <i>Tuscan Room</i> Growing & Supporting the Workforce	Stream 4 <i>Corinthian Room</i> Death Literacy & Advance Care Planning
12:00pm	But Will They Come Back to Us: Discharging Safely from Specialist Palliative Care - Nicola Farrer , Murrumbidgee Local Health District	Co-Developing the CALD-PC Navigator Program for NSW Palliative Care Services - Dr Jessica Lee , Concord Centre for Palliative Care, Concord Hospital Dr Rayan Saleh Moussa , University of Technology Sydney	The Power of Storytelling: Connection and Growth Through Schwartz Rounds - Lara Johnson , The Sutherland Hospital	Who Gets a Say at the End? LGBTQ+ Voices in Community End-of-Life Care - Zoe Hinton , ACON
12:25pm	Lunch <i>Banquet & Exhibition Hall</i>			
1:15pm	Learning Labs			
	Room 1 <i>Ionic Room</i>	Room 2 <i>Doric Room</i>	Room 3 <i>Tuscan Room</i>	Room 4 <i>Corinthian Room</i>
	Improving Recognition and End-of-Life Planning in Dementia: Integrating the Functional Assessment Staging Tool (FAST) with the End of Life Care Assessment Tool for Dementia (EoLC ATD) in Aged Care Settings - Dr Carolyn Bourke , Palliative Aged Care Network (PACN) Jon San Martin , University of Technology Sydney Lara McIntyre , Catholic Healthcare	Advancing End of Life Communication at Campbelltown and South Western Sydney Local Health District – SHAPES EOL Communication - Dr Katie Maclean , Kayla Gloss and Richard Cracknell , Campbelltown Hospital Daniela Quiroz and Rachael Williams , South Western Sydney Local Health District	Supporting Person- and Family-Centered Quality of Life Across the Paediatric Palliative Care Journey - Natalie Hudson and Dr Maggie Mei Ki Winters , Sydney Children's Hospitals Network, The Children's Hospital at Westmead	Caring Without Barriers: Reducing Inequities in Palliative Care for People with Intellectual Disability - Maria Heaton , South Eastern Sydney Local Health District Meredith Laina and Usha Gurung , Calvary Health Care Kogarah

2:15pm	Closing Keynote Speaker <i>Grand Lodge</i> Nadine Champion Nadine is a martial arts expert, author & mindset coach. She has dedicated almost 40 years to studying martial arts, discovering practical tools for strengthening the mind, developing resilience and building courage. Her academic background as a Social Scientist specialising in Criminology ignited her fascination with the power of mindset - to limit our potential or motivate us to be our best. She is also passionate about palliative care, following several personal experiences in her life that have been positively impacted by the support of palliative care. Nadine is excited to be closing our 2026 State Conference. This is going to be an energetic, dynamic and uplifting presentation that you won't want to miss. <i>Nadine is exclusively represented by Saxton.</i>
3:00pm	Farewell Afternoon Tea <i>Banquet & Exhibition Hall</i>
3:30pm	Conference Concludes <i>Coach transfers to the airport</i>

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