

Medico Legal Congress

35 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE: NAVIGATING
THE FUTURE OF MEDICO LEGAL

17 – 18 March 2026 | Swissotel, Sydney

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:



Magistrate Ken Archer, *Coroner*, **ACT Coroner's Court**



Professor Erwin Loh, *President*, **Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators (RACMA)**,
Director of Medical Services, **Monash Health/ Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD**

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:



Prof Marie Bismark, *Consultant Psychiatrist and Health Lawyer*, **Barwon Health**



Dr Jamie Orchard, *General Counsel*, **AHPRA**



Dr Sidney Chandrasiri, *Executive Director Medical Services*,
Department of Health Tasmania



Dr Nisha Khot, *Clinical Director O&G*, **Peninsula Health**



Hester Wilson, *GP, Chief Addiction Medicine Specialist*,
NSW Health



Darran Foo, *Co-Deputy Chair - Digital Health & Innovation SIG*, **RACGP**



Robyn Langham AM, *Chief Medical Adviser*, **TGA**



Bill Madden, *Senior Legal Counsel*, **Carroll & O'Dea Lawyers**, *Adjunct Professor*, **Australian Centre for Health Law Research (QUT)**



Professor Tina Cockburn, *Director*,
Australian Centre for Health Law Research



Dr Marija Kirjanenko, *Emergency Physician*,
Eastern Health and Victorian Virtual Emergency,
Mental Health Tribunal, Victoria



Professor William Rawlinson AM, *Senior Medical Virologist*,
Director of Serology, Virology and OTDS Laboratories (SAViD),
NSW Health Pathology Randwick



Butho Mayo, *Mental Health Lead*,
Victorian Virtual Emergency Department

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8:30 Registration & Morning Coffee

9:00 DAY ONE OPENING

9:05 Opening Remarks From the Chair

Prof Marie Bismark, *Consultant Psychiatrist and Health Lawyer, Barwon Health*

9:10 Weight Loss Prescribing: Clinical Best Practices and Risk Management

Dr Georgia Rigas, *Obesity Doctor, VMO & Senior Bariatric Medical Practitioner, St George Private Hospital; Founder and Past Chair-Obesity Management SIG, RACGP*

9:40 PANEL

Prescription Realities and Regulation Challenges with Medicinal Cannabis

Australia's key regulators and clinical leaders address the pressing legal and ethical challenges in medicinal cannabis prescribing, providing insights on:

- Regulatory Compliance & Liability
- Prescription Profits vs Patient Care
- Concerns with Single-Issue Clinics

Dr Jamie Orchard, *General Counsel, AHPRA*

Robyn Langham AM, *Chief Medical Adviser, TGA*

Hester Wilson, *GP, Chief Addiction Medicine Specialist, NSW Health*

Moderated by Prof Marie Bismark, *Consultant Psychiatrist and Health Lawyer, Barwon Health*

10:25 SPOTLIGHT SESSION

Informed Consent in Cosmetic Surgery: Evolving Standards and Digital Solutions

Dr Malcolm Linsell, *Specialist Plastic Surgeon*



10:55 Networking Break & Morning Tea

11:25 Post COVID Pandemic: Emerging Medical and Medicolegal Issues around Long COVID

Long COVID (PASC) is a post-viral syndrome characterized by symptoms such as fatigue, dizziness, and postural hypotension. This session will explore the increasing medicolegal issues related to COVID acquisition and complications through relevant case examples.

Professor William Rawlinson AM, *Senior Medical Virologist, Director of Serology, Virology and OTDS Laboratories (SAVID), NSW Health Pathology Randwick*

11:55 Virtual Healthcare – Coercive Control & Domestic Violence

Lauren Cooper, *Senior Social Worker, RPA Virtual*

Shannon Saad, *General Practitioner, RPA Virtual*

12:25 Networking Lunch

13:25 IN CONVERSATION

Risk Attitudes & Decision Making in High Stake Situations

Clinical decision-making is complicated by balancing patient autonomy with safety and responsibility concerns, varying clinician risk tolerance, and complex hierarchies involving multiple teams and protocols, challenges that are particularly acute in Emergency Department settings.

Dr Marija Kirjanenko, *Emergency Physician, Eastern Health and Victorian Virtual Emergency, Mental Health Tribunal, Victoria*

14:10 PANEL

Where Are We Now with Non-delegable Duty in a Medical Setting

From *Albrighton* in 1980 to *AA* in 2025 under the umbrella of civil liability legislation – has anything changed in relation to non-delegable in the provision of medical services?

Professor Tina Cockburn, *Director, Australian Centre for Health Law Research*

Bill Madden, *Senior Legal Counsel, Carroll & O'Dea Lawyers, Adjunct Professor, Australian Centre for Health Law Research (QUT)*

Ruanne Brell, *Senior Legal Partner, Avant Mutual*

14:55 Afternoon Tea & Networking Break

15:25 2025 National Law Reforms: Enhanced Transparency of Practitioner Misconduct

- Significant amendments to take effect at the beginning of 2026
- Focus on sexual misconduct by practitioners

Dr Jamie Orchard, *General Counsel, AHPRA*

15:55 CLOSING PANEL

Addressing Healthcare Workforce Shortages: Regulation & Practical Strategies

Dr Nisha Khot, *Clinical Director O&G, Peninsula Health, President, RANZCOG*

Dr Sidney Chandrasiri, *Executive Director Medical Services, Department of Health Tasmania*

Moderated by Prof Marie Bismark, *Consultant Psychiatrist and Health Lawyer, Barwon Health*

16:40 Closing Remarks from Chair

16:45 Networking Drinks



18:00 Day 1 Concludes

VENUE DETAILS

Swissotel Sydney, 68 Market St, Sydney NSW 2000

Phone: (02) 9238 8888, www.swissotel.com/sydney

8:30 Registration & Morning Coffee

9:00 DAY TWO OPENING

9:05 Opening Remarks From the Chair

Dr Sidney Chandrasiri, *Executive Director Medical Services, Department of Health Tasmania*

9:10 OPENING ADDRESS

From the Coroner's Desk: Demystifying Coronial Processes

A practicing coroner delivers myth-busting insights on what triggers coronial investigations, how modern coronial processes prioritize systemic improvements over individual blame, and the evolution toward trauma-informed proceedings with practical guidance.

Magistrate Ken Archer, *Coroner, ACT Coroner's Court*

9:40 The Future of AI in Healthcare: Opportunities, Challenges, and Governance

Professor Erwin Loh, *President, Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators (RACMA), Director of Medical Services, Monash Health/Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD*

10:10 Networking Break & Morning Tea

10:40 DTC Telehealth in Australia: Balancing Innovation with Professional Responsibility

Direct-to-consumer (DTC) telehealth is reshaping how Australians access care, expanding access and convenience while raising complex questions of safety, accountability, and professional ethics. This session examines key areas of active debate: how AHPRA standards apply in virtual-first models; defining safety and quality expectations for telehealth organisations; and the clinical and regulatory implications of prescribing across asynchronous and synchronous consultations.

Darran Foo, *Co-Deputy Chair - Digital Health & Innovation SIG, RACGP, PhD Candidate in Health Innovation, AIHI - Macquarie University, Medical Director, Healthdirect Australia*

11:00 PANEL

AI Scribe in Healthcare: Regulation, Practice, and Risk Management

This panel explores AI scribes in healthcare through regulatory, clinical, and legal lenses, addressing medical device classification, user experiences, and liability considerations for healthcare providers.

Darran Foo, *Co-Deputy Chair - Digital Health & Innovation SIG, RACGP, PhD Candidate in Health Innovation, AIHI - Macquarie University, Medical Director, Healthdirect Australia*

Nimesh Piyatissa, *CEO & Co-founder, AKURU iScribe*

Moderated by Dr. Owen Bradfield, *Chief Medical Officer, MIPS*

11:45 Psychiatric injury Claim: Nervous Shock and Delayed Diagnosis

Psychiatric injury claims are increasing, encompassing nervous shock, secondary victim cases, and delayed diagnostic scenarios, with challenges stemming from the subjective nature of symptoms and absence of physical evidence.

Emma Baker, *Special Counsel, Barry Nilsson*

12:30 Networking Lunch

13:30 PANEL

Mental Health Treatment: Best Care for Patient Safety

This session examines mental health treatment frameworks through legal and ethical perspectives, covering voluntary versus involuntary care, public/private and metro/regional service disparities, inpatient care ethics and management, and Community Treatment Orders under mental health legislation.

Dan Mabon, *CEO/DON, Wyndham Clinic Private Hospital*

Butho Moyo, *Mental Health Lead, Victorian Virtual Emergency Department*

Moderated by Penelope June Weller, *Health Law Professor, RMIT, Mental Health Tribunal, Victoria*

14:15 FIRESIDE CHAT

From Clinic to Courtroom: Navigating Legal Risk in Orthopedic and Musculoskeletal Practice

Explore the legal risks and responsibilities in orthopaedic and musculoskeletal practice, with expert insights into defence strategies, common medico-legal challenges, and practical tools to help clinicians respond to claims and mitigate against future claims.

Julie Shooter, *Special Counsel & Head of Health and Medical Law, Lander & Rogers*

14:45 Closing Remarks from Chair

14:50 Day 2 Concludes

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