

# Medico Legal Congress

35 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE: NAVIGATING THE FUTURE OF MEDICO LEGAL

17 - 18 March 2026 | Swissotel, Sydney

## SPEAKERS INCLUDE:



Carly Kind, *Privacy Commissioner, Office of the Australian Information Commissioner*



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



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



Dr Georgia Rigas, *Senior Bariatric Medical Practitioner, St George Private Hospital Sydney*



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



Robyn Langham AM, *Chief Medical Adviser, TGA*



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



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



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



Dr Jamie Orchard, *General Counsel, AHPRA*



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



Fleur Katsmartin, *Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary, The Royal Melbourne Hospital*



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



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



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



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

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PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP: 16 MARCH 2026 | 9:00AM - 12:00PM

**Duty of Candour Masterclass: A Step-by-Step Guide from Adverse Events to System Learning**

Facilitator: Bree Knoester, *Principal and Founder, Brave Legal*

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP  
MONDAY 16 MARCH 2026 | 9:00AM - 12:00PM

**Duty of Candour Masterclass: A Step-by-Step Guide from Adverse Events to System Learning**

*When a patient safety event occurs, how do hospitals and health services respond - and what can we learn from the process?*

This 3-hour masterclass brings together medical and legal perspectives to examine how adverse events are identified, reviewed, and communicated. Drawing on real-world examples, we'll explore what happens from the moment an incident is classified through to open disclosure, regulatory reporting, and review.

Facilitator: Bree Knoester, *Principal and Founder, Brave Legal*

## Medico Legal Congress

Tuesday 17 March 2026

# DAY 1

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 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 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.

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 Navigating Weight Management Law: The Rx, the Risks, and the Rights**

- Compliance & Consent: Examine legal requirements for informed consent in obesity-management medication (OMM), including disclosure standards for long-term commitment, side effects, and off-label use under Australian law
- Practice Risk Mitigation: Risk management strategies to prevent patient complaints from unrealistic expectations and address professional challenges from evolving obesity pharmacology standards of care

Dr Georgia Rigas, *VMO-Obesity Doctor & Senior Bariatric Medical Practitioner, St George Private Hospital, Adjunct Associate Lecturer, St George & Sutherland Clinical School, UNSW Medicine*

**11:55 Post COVID Pandemic: Emerging Medical and Medicolegal Issues around Long COVID**

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

12:25 Networking Lunch

**13:25 IN CONVERSATION | Risk Attitudes & Decision Making in High Stake Situations**

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

Fleur Katsmartin, *Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary, The Royal Melbourne Hospital*

**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 Advisor, Avant Mutual*

14:55 Afternoon Tea & Networking Break

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

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

# Medico Legal Congress

Wednesday 18 March 2026

# DAY 2

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 | Privacy in the Age of AI: Navigating Healthcare's Digital Transformation**

Australian Privacy Commissioner Carly Kind will examine the intersection of privacy law and healthcare AI technologies, addressing upcoming privacy reforms, enforcement priorities for healthcare providers, and practical guidance for balancing innovation with patient data protection in Australia's evolving regulatory landscape.

Carly Kind, *Privacy Commissioner, Office of the Australian Information Commissioner*

9:40 **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.

Amanda Cuss, *Principal Medical Adviser for Device Surveillance, TGA*

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

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

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

10:25 Networking Break & Morning Tea

10:55 **DTC Telehealth in Australia: Balancing Innovation with Professional Responsibility**

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

11:25 **Virtual Healthcare – Coercive Control & Domestic Violence**

Lauren Cooper, *Senior Social Worker, RPA Virtual*

11:55 **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*

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

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

12:40 Networking Lunch

13:40 **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*

14:10 **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*

Dr Michael Ryan, *Director, Sydney Specialist Physiotherapy Centre*

14:40 **CLOSING ADDRESS | 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*

15:10 Closing Remarks from Chair

15:15 Day 2 Concludes

## SPONSORSHIP AND EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITIES

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To see what we have available please contact **Lily Doherty, Sponsorship Manager**, on +61 2 9080 4340 or email: [Lily.Doherty.AU@informa.com](mailto:Lily.Doherty.AU@informa.com)



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## Easy Ways to Register



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## Scan to Book



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## Pricing Details

Register Early & Save	Early Bird Rate Book & pay by 9 January 2026				Standard Rate Book & pay from 10 January 2026		
Conference Package	PRICE	GST	TOTAL	SAVE	PRICE	GST	TOTAL
<b>Standard 2 day conference pass</b>	\$2,695	\$269.50	\$2,964.50	\$200	\$2,895	\$289.50	\$3,184.50
<b>Health professional 2 day conference pass</b>	\$1,895	\$189.50	\$2,084.50	\$300	\$2,195	\$219.50	\$2,414.50
<b>Standard Virtual Pass</b>	\$2,495	\$249.50	\$2,744.50	\$300	\$2,795	\$279.50	\$3,074.50
<b>Health Professional Virtual Pass</b>	\$1,795	\$179.50	\$1,974.50	\$200	\$1,995	\$199.50	\$2,194.50
<b>Pre-Conference ½ Day Workshop</b>					\$595	\$59.50	\$654.50
<b>Streamly Access Pass</b>					\$150	\$15	\$165

## VENUE DETAILS

Swissotel Sydney, 68 Market St, Sydney NSW 2000  
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