

# 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*

### 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



**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*

Butho 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 Orthopaedic 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

Don't miss this opportunity to get involved early in this year's Medico Legal Congress. Sponsorship or exhibiting will allow your organization to:

- Build relationships with potential & existing clients
- Network with the industry
- Generate leads from a targeted audience
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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)



# Medico Legal Congress 2026

17 – 18 March 2026 | Swissotel, Sydney

## Easy Ways to Register

**1 Web**  
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**3 Email**  
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## Scan to Book



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## Pricing Details

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

### VENUE DETAILS

Swissotel Sydney, 68 Market St, Sydney NSW 2000  
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