



National Dementia Conference

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28–29 APRIL 2026 | CROWN CONFERENCE CENTRE, MELBOURNE

INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE FROM THE UK



Lorraine Burgess, *Macmillan Dementia Nurse Consultant, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, UK*



Kirsty Marsh, *Digital Clinical Placement National Expert, UK*

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:



Dr Denise Craig OAM, *Advanced psychologist - Dementia Advisory, Queensland Health*



Dr Desmond Graham, *Chief Medical Officer, Geriatrician, Geriatric Care Australia*



Darryl Steff, *Chief Executive Officer, Down Syndrome Australia*



Naomi Moylan, *Younger Onset Dementia Project Coordinator, Brightwater Care Group*



Associate Professor Anita Goh, *Clinical Neuropsychologist & Director of Aged Care and Social Gerontology, National Ageing Research Institute*



Sandra Slatter CM, *Founder & President, Dementia Alliance*



Sarah Yeates, *Chief Executive Officer, Caladenia Dementia Care*



Dr Kaele Stokes, *Executive Director Services, Engagement & Research, Dementia Australia*



Treasure Jennings, *Aged Care Complaints Commissioner, Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission*



Cathy Roth OAM, *National Chairman, PALZ – Professionals with Alzheimer's & related diseases*



Dee-Anne Hull, *Dementia Support Pharmacist, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia*



Ben Gatehouse, *Dementia Clinical Nurse Consultant, Mercy Health*



Dr Marianne Coleman, *Orthoptist & Prof Henry Brodaty Mid-Career Research Fellow, National Centre for Healthy Ageing*



Jane Verity, *Founder & CEO, Dementia Care International, Melbourne Australia*



Brenda McAuley-Hines, *Team Leader Advocacy, Elder Rights Australia*



Dr Kathleen Doherty, *Senior Lecturer, Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre, University of Tasmania*

NATIONAL DEMENTIA PRE-CONFERENCE HALF DAY WORKSHOP | 1:00 – 4:00PM | 27 APRIL 2026

A Positive Approach to Care- Practical dementia training for a practical workforce

Workshop Facilitators: Kathy Kirby, *Director & Registered Nurse, Thrive Aged Care Consultants*
Kate Lamont, *Director & Registered Occupational Therapist, Thrive Aged Care Consultants*
Gaby Brodbeck, *Trainer & Registered Nurse, Thrive Aged Care Consultants*

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National Dementia Conference

Tuesday 28 April 2026

DAY 1

JOINT PLENARY KEYNOTE SESSION: HALL 1

8:15 Registration & Morning Coffee

8:50 DAY ONE OPENING

8:55 Opening remarks from the Chair

9:00 **OPENING ADDRESS | My Life with Dementia**

9:20 KEYNOTE

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

9:50 **EXECUTIVE PANEL | Navigating the New Aged Care Act: Impacts on Providers and Consumers**

Treasure Jennings, *Aged Care Complaints Commissioner*, Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission

Sarah Yeates, *Chief Executive Officer*, Caladenia Dementia Care

Dr Kaele Stokes, *Executive Director Services, Engagement & Research*, Dementia Australia

10:30 SESSION SPOTLIGHT

Isabelle Meyer, *Executive Director*, Dementia Training Australia



11:00 Networking Break & Morning Tea | Hosted with the Aged Care Reform Forum in the pre-function area

NATIONAL DEMENTIA CONFERENCE: HALL 3

"The Dementia Journey: From Diagnosis to Dignity"

11:30 Opening remarks from the Chair

11:35 **KEYNOTE | Telehealth and early dementia diagnosis: Overcoming accessibility challenges**

Dr Desmond Graham, *Chief Medical Officer, Geriatrician*, Geriatric Care Australia

12:05 **PANEL | Exploring Spectrum of Dementia**

Darryl Steff, *Chief Executive Officer*, Down Syndrome Australia

Naomi Moylan, *Younger Onset Dementia Project Coordinator*, Brightwater Care Group

Senior Representative, Childhood Dementia Initiative

Associate Professor Anita Goh, *Clinical Neuropsychologist & Director of Aged Care and Social Gerontology*, National Ageing Research Institute

12:50 **The roles of digital health and research in dementia care**

Dr Sanka Amadoru, *Consultant Geriatrician*, Austin Health, Bendigo Health, and Aria Health; *Elected Councillor & Company Director*, Australian & New Zealand Society for Geriatric Medicine

13:20 Networking Lunch

Hosted with Aged Care Reform Forum in the pre-function area

14:20 **Dementia-Friendly Design: Creating Supportive Environments Through Community, Culture & Connection**

Sandra Slatter CM, *Founder & President*, Dementia Alliance

Marg Rae, *Carer Coordinator*, Dementia Alliance

14:50 **Empowering Carers through Advocacy**

Cathy Roth OAM, *National Chairman*,

PALZ – Professionals with Alzheimer's & related diseases

15:10 **IN CONVERSATION | The Carer's Journey**

Sally Martin, *Carer for husband living with YOD*

Cathy Roth OAM, *National Chairman*,

PALZ – Professionals with Alzheimer's & related diseases

15:40 Networking Break & Afternoon Tea

Hosted with Aged Care Reform Forum in the pre-function area

16:10 **CASE STUDY | Dementia support and the role of pharmacists in dementia care**

Dee-Anne Hull, *Dementia Support Pharmacist*, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

Nicola Sander, *Dementia Support Pharmacist*, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

16:40 **Person-Centred Care is as Simple as a One-Eyed Egg**

Jenny Puxley, *Diversional Therapist*, SereneCare

17:10 Closing remarks from the Chair

17:15 End of Day 1 & Networking Drinks

Hosted with Aged Care Reform Forum in the pre-function area



National Dementia Conference

Wednesday 29 April 2026

DAY 2

8:20 Registration & Morning Coffee

8:50 **DAY TWO OPENING**

8:55 Opening remarks from the Chair

9:00 **OPENING KEYNOTE | New Frontiers in Alzheimer's Treatment: Donanemab and Lecanemab**

9:30 **INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE | Dementia and Cancer: Expert Practitioner Contributions to a UK National Oncology Digital Clinical Placement**

A dementia consultant nurse from an international oncology centre in the UK collaborates with a national expert in Digital Clinical Placements to deliver high-quality clinical education to thousands of pre-registration nurses across Adult, Mental Health, Children's, and Learning Disability fields.

Through the DCP model, learners gain direct access to real-world expertise in supporting people and families affected by dementia and cancer.



Lorraine Burgess, *Macmillan Dementia Nurse Consultant, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, UK*

Kirsty Marsh, *Digital Clinical Placement National Expert, UK*

10:10 **Alzheimer's, Advance Care Plans and Autonomy, but whose autonomy?**

Advance care planning is grounded in the principle of autonomy - the right of individuals to make decisions about their future health care. This presentation explores the tension between the autonomy of the 'earlier' person and the roles played by families and clinicians acting on behalf of an incompetent patient who completed an advance care plan.

Dr Denise Craig OAM, *Advanced psychologist - Dementia Advisory, Queensland Health*

10:40 **Reimagining Dementia Care**

- The Mercy Health Dementia Model of Care redefines traditional residential aged care by placing greater emphasis on residents' personal choices, independence, and overall quality of life
- The model is built on four foundational principles: person centred care, engagement and connection, dementia friendly environments, and staff capability uplift. These principles were developed collaboratively with residents, their families, and staff

Ben Gatehouse, *Dementia Clinical Nurse Consultant, Mercy Health*

11:10 Networking Break & Morning Tea

Hosted with Aged Care Reform Forum in the pre-function area

11:40 **Breaking down barriers to accessing dementia-friendly eyecare**

People living with dementia are more likely to miss out on routine eyecare, increasing their risk of experiencing preventable sight loss. Poor eyesight makes life with dementia harder, increasing risk of falls, social isolation and loneliness, and dependence on others for support. Everyone living with dementia should have regular eye tests, and our research set out to make this easier for everyone involved in the process. Come along and hear about the links between dementia and eyesight, free resources we've made to help people living with dementia get regular eye tests, and find out how you can help shape a future dementia eyecare pathway for residential aged care.

Dr Marianne Coleman, *Orthoptist & Prof Henry Brodaty Mid-Career Research Fellow, National Centre for Healthy Ageing*

12:10 **Behaviour is in the eye of the beholder**

When we broaden our perception of behaviour we can effortlessly bring about a significant shift in work practices resulting in decreased numbers of incidences. To facilitate such a shift, 3 points will be explored:

- What's in a label?
- The linguistic impact on our emotions
- The 3 filters that sustain beliefs

Jane Verity, *Founder & CEO, Dementia Care International, Melbourne Australia*

Tania Hammond, *Nurse Practitioner & Spark of Life Master Practitioner, Eyre & Far North Local Health Network, Rural & Remote Health, South Australia*

12:40 **CASE STUDY | Advocacy: Challenges of accessing services when living with dementia**

Brenda McAuley-Hines, *Team Leader Advocacy, Elder Rights Australia*

13:10 Networking Lunch

Hosted with Aged Care Reform Forum in the pre-function area

14:10 **Innovative Education and Tailored Support in Dementia Respite Care: Discover DREAM**

Dr Kathleen Doherty, *Senior Lecturer, Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre, University of Tasmania*

14:40 **CLOSING PANEL | The role of Healthcare Professionals in Palliative/End-of-Life Care**

- When should healthcare professionals introduce palliative care in dementia, and what changes for carers when it's introduced early versus during a crisis?
- Which communication approaches have most helped to align care with what matters to the person and carer?
- How can multidisciplinary teams work better to deliver compassionate, person-centred palliative care?
- What are the most practical ways to support families through grief and bereavement?

Moderator: Associate Professor Anita Goh, *Clinical Neuropsychologist & Director of Aged Care and Social Gerontology, National Ageing Research Institute*

15:15 Closing remarks from the Chair

15:20 End of Conference & Afternoon Tea

Hosted with Aged Care Reform Forum in the pre-function area

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National Dementia Conference

28 – 29 April 2026 | Crown Conference Centre, Melbourne

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| | Book & pay on or before 20 March 2026 | | | | Book & pay from 21 March 2026 | | |
| Conference Package | PRICE | GST | TOTAL | SAVE | PRICE | GST | TOTAL |
| 2 Day Pass - National Dementia | \$1,599 | \$159.90 | \$1,758.90 | \$400 | \$1,999 | \$199.90 | \$2,198.90 |
| 2 Day Pass - Aged Care Reform | \$1,599 | \$159.90 | \$1,758.90 | \$400 | \$1,999 | \$199.90 | \$2,198.90 |
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| Virtual Pass - Aged Care Reform | \$1,499 | \$149.90 | \$1,648.90 | \$400 | \$1,899 | \$189.90 | \$2,088.90 |
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| 2 Day Pass - Aged Care Reform | \$1,099 | \$109.90 | \$1,208.90 | \$400 | \$1,499 | \$149.90 | \$1,648.90 |
| Post-Conference Workshop | | | | | \$550 | \$55 | \$605 |
| Streamly Access Pass - (12-month subscription to on-demand video presentations of event) | | | | | \$150 | \$15 | \$165 |

VENUE DETAILS

Crown Conference Centre, Melbourne
Crown Promenade, Crown Melbourne, 8 Whiteman Street,
Southbank VIC 3006 | **Phone:** (03) 9292 6222

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