



# National Health Workforce Summit 2026

by informa...

17 – 18 AUGUST 2026

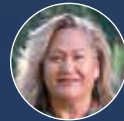
CROWN PROMENADE MELBOURNE



## INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE ADDRESSES:



Wai Kuen KAM, Deputy Director, Workplace Safety and Health, Operations Lead, Staff Protection Office, Co-Chairman, Staff Protection Council, Singapore General Hospital



Cazna Luke, Tumu Whakararae - Chief Executive Officer, Kia Ora Hauora, New Zealand



Dr Christina Leonard, Associate Professor, FNP Program Director, Assistant Director Interprofessional Education and Care, Duke University School of Nursing, USA



## SPEAKERS INCLUDE:



Dr Alice Hucker, Senior Clinical Psychologist & Educator, The Royal Melbourne Hospital



Chris King, Executive Director Allied Health, Central Adelaide Local Health Network



Dr Matthew Fisher, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Society of Anaesthetists



Luke Donnan, Course Director - Podiatric Medicine, Charles Sturt University



Dr Manjit Sekhon, Chief Executive Officer & Chief Medical Officer, Gidgee Healing



Dr Leah Wiseman, Chief Operating Officer, Kirinari Community Services



Emma Vo, Director Allied Health Workforce Reform, Central Adelaide Local Health Network



Dr Anna Moran, Physiotherapist, Researcher & Founder, Unplexi



Adjunct Associate Professor Dr Sue Fitzpatrick, Chief Allied Health Officer, Australian Capital Territory



Carly Nisner, Occupational Therapist, Founder & Director, Beyond Boundaries Rehab and Support Worker Association of Australia (SWAA)



Isla Woidt, Strategic Lead Workplace Wellbeing Partnerships, Commission on Excellence & Innovation in Health, SA Health



Stacey Mansfield, Former Director of Allied Health, Occupational Therapist & Community Capacity Specialist



Sam Avitaia, President, SPERA – Society for Provision of Education in Rural Australia; Manager, University of Wollongong Regional Campuses & Manager, UOW Bega Valley



Dr Neel Gobin, Regional Director of Medical Services, Hunter New England Local Health District (NSW)



Dr. Nici Williams, Clinical Director of Primary Care, Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia (RFDS) South Eastern Section



Rita Cincotta, Founder, The Deliberate Leader

## JOINT PLENARY KEYNOTE SESSION | CROWN PROMENADE

8:15 Registration & Morning Coffee

9:00 **DAY ONE OPENING**

9:00 **Opening remarks from the Chair**

Rita Cincotta, *Founder, The Deliberate Leader*

9:05 **OPENING KEYNOTE | The State of the Nation: next steps for the National Medical Workforce Strategy Department of Health, Disability and Ageing**

9:35 **EXECUTIVE PANEL | The 2026 Workforce Reset & Beyond**

This panel will explore how Australia can transition from a crisis-management mindset to a sustainable growth model. The panel will address how to integrate AI to reduce clinician burden, the implementation of "Single Employer Models" for rural doctors, and the shift from temporary staffing back to a stable, permanent workforce.

Dr Matthew Fisher, *Chief Executive Officer, Australian Society of Anaesthetists*

10:20 **INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE | Fleshing out the skeleton to manage abuse and harassment in healthcare**

 Wai Kuen KAM, *Deputy Director, Workplace Safety and Health, Operations Lead, Staff Protection Office, Co-Chairman, Staff Protection Council, Singapore General Hospital*

10:50 **KEYNOTE | Beyond Stereotypes: Helping Multigenerational Teams Thrive**

Healthcare teams now span multiple generations—each bringing different expectations, pressures, and priorities. This keynote moves beyond stereotypes to unpack how generational change influences work values and motivations, offering evidence-based strategies for leading multigenerational teams and supporting wellbeing, engagement, and high-quality care.

Dr Alice Hucker, *Senior Clinical Psychologist & Educator, The Royal Melbourne Hospital*

11:20 **Networking Break & Morning Tea**

*Hosted with Healthcare Workplace Safety Conference in the pre-function area*

***"From Crisis to Capability - Building a Sustainable, Safe, and Tech-Enabled Workforce"***

11:50 **Beyond Ratios: Rethinking Allied Health Workforce Planning**

Adjunct Associate Professor Dr Sue Fitzpatrick, *Chief Allied Health Officer, Australian Capital Territory*

12:20 **Rural/Remote Workforce Retention: The FIFO Model in Health**

Ashley Nind, *Director of Health Programs, Royal Flying Doctor Service Victoria*

12:50 **SESSION SPOTLIGHT | Upskilling staff in digital literacy and data interpretation**

13:20 **Networking Lunch**

*Hosted with Healthcare Workplace Safety Conference in the pre-function area*

14:20 **Wellbeing by Design: Governing the conditions that sustain our healthcare workforce**

Isla Woitd, *Strategic Lead Workplace Wellbeing Partnerships, Commission on Excellence & Innovation in Health, SA Health*

14:50 **CASE STUDY | Growing our own regional workforce: Piloting alternative localised training models**

The University of Wollongong and UOW College have been working with healthcare facilities in Regional South East NSW for the past four years trialling alternative training models in Regional Healthcare. This year UOW has received federal funding through the Dept of Health, Disability and Ageing to further expand a cross-sectoral pilot across the Bega Valley, Eurobodalla and Snowy Monaro in Ageing Support, Disability and Indigenous Healthcare.

Program coordinator Samantha Avitaia, Manager UOW Regional Campuses, will speak about the pilot components and regional learnings across the programs.

Sam Avitaia, *President, SPERA - Society for Provision of Education in Rural Australia; Manager, University of Wollongong Regional Campuses & Manager, UOW Bega Valley*

15:20 **Networking Break & Afternoon Tea**

*Hosted with Healthcare Workplace Safety Conference in the pre-function area*

15:50 **BREAKOUT - INDUSTRY ROUNDTABLES**

*Join us for an engaging roundtable (RT) discussion featuring esteemed featured speakers. The discussions are meant to be very organic, interactive and aims to foster exchange of ideas, highlight best practices. Attendees also have the opportunity to participate in the conversation, ask questions, and contribute their perspectives.*

### INDUSTRY ROUNDTABLE 1

**Reimagining the Rural Model: A Strategic Approach to Rural and Remote Workforce**

Dr. Nici Williams, *Clinical Director of Primary Care, Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia (RFDS) South Eastern Section*

Mark Muchiri, *Manager Workforce and Development, Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia (RFDS) South Eastern Section*

### INDUSTRY ROUNDTABLE 2

**Operating at the Ceiling: Expanding Scopes of Practice and the Rise of Emerging Roles**

### INDUSTRY ROUNDTABLE 3

**The "Thin Market" Challenge: Sustainable business models for GP clinics in small populations and outer-metro "MM1" regions that lack rural funding despite high need.**

16:35 **Someone from Industry RT sessions share the top 3-5 key takeaways that was discussed in their RT**

16:50 **Closing Remarks from the Chair**

17:00 **End of Day 1 & Networking Drinks**

*Hosted with Healthcare Workplace Safety Conference in the pre-function area*



**8:20** Registration & Morning Coffee

**9:00** DAY TWO OPENING

**9:05** Opening remarks from the Chair

**9:10** **OPENING KEYNOTE | Workforce Retention in Remote Areas: Addressing the “hard to staff” nature of remote clinics**

Dr Manjit Sekhon, *Chief Executive Officer & Chief Medical Officer, Gidgee Healing*

**9:40** **INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE 1 | Kia Ora Hauora, Growing your own, Indigenous Workforce Development**

- Kia Ora Hauora overview as a pioneering national Māori workforce development programme that provides practical solutions to pressing national health challenges, with proven impact
- The importance of building a workforce reflective of the communities we serve
- Indigenous model of engagement and our impact on participation and retention
- Data intelligence informing targeted pathways and programme pivots
- Key learnings and challenges in strengthening equitable, whānau centred workforce outcomes

 Cazna Luke, *Tumu Whakarae - Chief Executive Officer, Kia Ora Hauora, New Zealand*

**10:10** **INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE 2 | Duke BLUE an IPE scholars program preparing IP learners for collaborative practice**

The Duke BLUE Interprofessional Scholars Program is a longitudinal IPE initiative that prepares health professions students from nursing, medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and physician assistant programs for collaborative, team-based care through four core pillars, Building relationships, Learning across disciplines, Uniting through service, and Experiencing collaborative practice, using simulations, case conferences, community engagement, and student-designed interprofessional projects.

 Dr Christina Leonard, *Associate Professor, FNP Program Director, Assistant Director Interprofessional Education and Care, Duke University School of Nursing, USA*

**10:40** **Networking Break & Morning Tea**

*Hosted with Healthcare Workplace Safety Conference in the pre-function area*

**11:10** **Closing the Gap from Within: Sustainable Pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Professionals**

**11:40** **Building a Sustainable Allied Health Workforce: CALHN’s Journey to 2026 and Beyond**

Launched in December 2025, CALHN’s Allied Health Workforce Plan 2026-2031 and beyond strategically aligns building workforce capability and capacity with the changing and future needs of consumers and communities. It was developed through a large-scale workforce planning project, incorporating workforce data analysis and engagement with over 290 stakeholders. The project has defined our vision of building a sustainable allied health workforce, empowering excellence. Emerging themes informed CALHN’s key strategic workforce priorities for allied health over the next five years and beyond, designed to harness the full potential of the workforce and deliver safe and connected care at CALHN: We Plan. We Develop. We Excel.

Emma Vo, *Director Allied Health Workforce Reform, Central Adelaide Local Health Network*

Chris King, *Executive Director Allied Health, Central Adelaide Local Health Network*

**12:10** **Training undergraduate podiatrists within their home location: Adoption of a hybrid education model for allied health students**

- A declining growth rate of registered podiatrists is threatening the sustainability of Australia’s podiatry profession
- Barriers such as relocation, family and work commitments are shown to restrict undergraduate podiatry enrolments
- Introduction of a novel, hybrid approach to podiatry studies have increased accessibility and Charles Sturt Universities enrolments by 400%

Luke Donnan, *Course Director - Podiatric Medicine, Charles Sturt University*

**12:40** **Networking Lunch**

*Hosted with Healthcare Workplace Safety Conference in the pre-function area*

**13:40** **PANEL | The Missing Middle: Building Capability and Giving Voice to Australia’s Support Workforce**

Dr Leah Wiseman, *Chief Operating Officer, Kirinari Community Services*

Dr Anna Moran, *Physiotherapist, Researcher & Founder, Unplexi*

Carly Nisner, *Occupational Therapist, Founder & Director, Beyond Boundaries Rehab and Support Worker Association of Australia (SWAA)*

Stacey Mansfield, *Former Director of Allied Health, Occupational Therapist & Community Capacity Specialist*

**14:20** **CLOSING PANEL | The Global Tug-of-War: Balancing International Recruitment with Domestic Sustainability**

- How can international practitioners be culturally and professionally supported to stay for the long term?
- What specific ‘domestic sustainability’ milestone would signal that we’ve finally balanced the scales?
- How do we prevent the ‘bottleneck’ at the internship and registrar level?
- What can Australia offer to remain an ethical and attractive leader in health workforce migration?

Dr Neel Gobin, *Regional Director of Medical Services, Hunter New England Local Health District (NSW)*

**15:00** Closing Remarks from the Chair

**15:05** End of Conference & Afternoon Tea

## SPONSORSHIP AND EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITIES

Don’t miss this opportunity to get involved early in this year’s National Health Workforce Summit.

To see what we have available please contact:

**Danielle Newman, Sponsorship Manager**

**Phone: (+61) 2 9080 4318**

**Email: Danielle.Newman@informa.com**

# National Health Workforce Summit 2026

17 – 18 August 2026 | Crown Promenade Melbourne

## Easy Ways to Register

**1 Web**  
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**2 Telephone**  
+61 (0)2 9080 4307 – Quoting P26A12

**3 Email**  
[info@informa.com.au](mailto:info@informa.com.au) – Quoting P26A12

## Scan to Book



## Stay Connected



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## Pricing Details

Register Early & Save	Early Bird Rate: Book & pay by 7 July 2026				Standard Rate: Book & pay from 8 July 2026		
Conference Package	PRICE	GST	TOTAL	SAVE	PRICE	GST	TOTAL
Standard Ticket	\$1,895	\$189.50	\$2,084.50	\$300	\$2,195	\$219.50	\$2,414.50
Hospital/Govt Rate	\$1,495	\$149.50	\$1,644.50	\$300	\$1,795	\$179.50	\$1,974.50

### VENUE DETAILS

Crown Promenade Melbourne  
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