



CONFERENCE DAY ONE | Tuesday 3rd August 2026

All timings are in Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT)

08:30 Registration & Morning Coffee

09:00 DAY ONE OPENING

09:05 OPENING REMARKS | Opening remarks from the Chair

09:10 OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS | Global Perspectives on Short Stay Hospitals

09:40 Victorian Surgical Reform: Transforming Planned Care and Day Case Surgery
Professor Benjamin Thomson, *Chief Surgical Advisor, Victorian Department of Health*

10:10 INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT

Chad Wilhelm, *Managing Director, Wilhelm Integrated Solutions*

10:40 Networking and refreshment break

11:10 Strategic Planning for Short Stay Hospitals: Lessons from St Vincent's

Andrew Roma, *Head of Strategy and Planning, Private Hospitals, St Vincents Health Australia*

11:40 Partnering for Innovation

Andrea Tuckey, *Head of Provider Strategy and Delivery, Medibank*

12:10 PANEL DISCUSSION | Short Stay Mental Health Facilities: Better Outcomes or Cost-Driven Care?

- Are short stay mental health facilities improving patient outcomes, or are they primarily driven by cost-saving incentives from health insurers?
- What evidence exists to support the effectiveness of short stay models in mental health care?
- Should the focus be on reducing length of stay, or on preventing hospitalizations altogether?
- How can financial models and clinical needs be balanced to ensure patient-centered care?
- What role do psychiatrists and health insurers play in shaping the future of short stay mental health facilities?

Mark Sweeney, *Co-Founder and Co-Chief Executive Officer, Avive Healthcare*

13:00 Lunch and networking break

14:00 Innovative Models of Care: Mater's Approach to Short Stay Hospitals

14:30 Embedding a Short Stay Arthroplasty Model at Fremantle Hospital

Fremantle Hospital has implemented a short stay arthroplasty model of care for hip and knee replacement to reduce length of stay and improve patient flow, improve patient outcomes and experience while maintaining safety. In this session, Dr Omar Khorshid (Head of Orthopaedics) and Sarah Hobson (Program Director, Clinical Services Redesign, SMHS) will share details on the core

elements of the model of care, including anaesthesia and analgesia protocols, swelling management and early mobilisation, as well as how the model and pathway was designed and implemented across multi-disciplinary areas involved in the patient journey. The session will also outline the performance indicators used and lessons learned that are transferable to other specialties and services.

Dr Omar Khorshid, *Head of Department- Orthopaedic Surgery, Fremantle Hospital*

Sarah Hobson, *Project Director- Short Stay Arthroplasty Project, Fremantle Hospital*

15:00 Networking and refreshment break

15:30 Nexus Hospital

Fiona Langley, *Southern Operations Director VIC/SATAS, Nexus Hospitals*

16:00 EXECUTIVE PANEL | Overcoming Barriers Together

- What are the key challenges in transitioning to short stay hospital models, including cost pressures, outdated structures, and misaligned incentives?
- How can health funds, large hospitals, and smaller facilities collaborate to address these systemic barriers?
- How can stakeholders- hospitals, health funds, and doctors- work together to create sustainable incentives for adopting short stay care?

Reza Barzegari, *CEO, Waikiki Hospital*

Ravinder Carothers, *General Manager-Health Funding, Strategy and Performance, St John of God Health Care*

Moderator: Dr Malak Sukkar, *Managing Director, MediHealth Partners*

16:45 CLOSING REMARKS | Closing remarks from the Chair

16:50 Networking Function



CONFERENCE DAY TWO | 4th August 2026

All timings are in Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT)

08:30 Registration & Morning Coffee

09:00 DAY TWO OPENING

09:05 OPENING REMARKS | Opening remarks from the Chair

09:10 OPENING ADDRESS | Optimizing Surgical Pathways: Discharge Criteria, ERAS Successes, and Day Stay Innovations

Professor David Watters, *Director of Surgery, Safer Care Victoria (SCV), Professor of Surgery, University Hospital Geelong, Barwon Health and Deakin University*

09:40 The Challenges and Opportunities in Orthopedic Short Stay Hospitals

Dr Daevyd Rodda, *Orthopaedic Surgeon, Sunshine Coast Orthopaedics Group*

10:10 INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT

10:40 Networking and refreshment break

11:10 Emerging Technologies in Short Stay Hospitals: Robotic Surgery

A/Prof Chrys Hensman, *Bariatric and Robotic specialist Surgeon, CEO, LapSurgery Australia*

11:40 Innovations in Pain Management for Short Stay Procedures

Dr Ken Sleeman, *Consultant Anaesthetist, Chairman, Day Care Anaesthetist SIG*

12:10 PANEL | Designing for Efficiency: Sustainability and Operational Excellence in Day Hospitals

Tara Veldman, *Managing Director, Billard Leece Partnership*

13:00 Lunch and networking break

14:00 Health Insurance and Short Stay Hospitals: Aligning Incentives for Better Care

14:30 CLOSING PANEL | Investing in Innovation: Shaping the Future of Short Stay Hospitals

- Examine how private equity and investment firms are shaping the growth of short stay hospitals
- Explore future trends and real-world examples

Srimathi Iyengar, *Institutional Healthcare Portfolio Manager, Barwon Investment Partners*

15:15 CLOSING REMARKS | Closing remarks from the Chair

15:20 END OF CONFERENCE