



Paediatric Units Insight Forum Program

20-21 October 2025
Crowne Plaza Adelaide
Mawson Lakes SA

Day 1 – Monday 20 October 2025

8:00 – 8:30 Registration - tea and coffee available

8:30 – 8:40 Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country
Goals for the day

Leila Kelly, Network Coordinator
Sarah Elliott, Project Coordinator
Children's Healthcare Australasia

8:40 – 8:50 Speed Dating – What brings you joy at work?
Let's talk about the big and small things that bring joy to your working day - from the small acts of kindness to the eureka moments.

8:50 – 9:20 Service Reveal – What's new with you?
• What is going well at your children's service?
• What challenges are you facing?

All participants
● Tertiary
● Non Tertiary Metropolitan
● Regional and Rural Services

Setting the scene – How are we faring in child health?

9:20 – 9:40 What is changing in child health across Australia and New Zealand?

Dr Barb Vernon, Chief Executive Officer, Children's Healthcare Australasia

9:40 – 10:00 Hospital mortality with increased risk for priority populations
This understanding, in conjunction with interventions co-designed with priority population consumers and delivered at scale, can potentially reduce excess mortality.

Dr Ella Tracey, Paediatric Fellow, South Western Sydney Local Health District, NSW

10:00 – 10:20 Morning tea (20 minutes)

Preventing paediatric deterioration – from pathways to education

10:20 – 10:40 The development of a Paediatric Sepsis Pathway
Launching pilots across several Victorian centres, the development has been a valuable change process, marked by strong collaboration and engagement across paediatric teams and healthcare services.

Assoc Prof David Fuller, Clinical Director, Barwon Health, VIC

10:40 - 11:00 RADAR (Recognise Acute Deterioration and Respond) Paediatrics – Evaluating the learning
The program has shown to make a significant contribution to a nurses' confidence, paediatric nursing knowledge and skill set required to care for deteriorating paediatric patients.

Allira Riley, Nurse Unit Manager, North West Regional Hospital, TAS

11:00 – 11:30 Bridging the gap: Upskilling Paediatric Nurses for high acuity environments in different contexts
Innovative, educational theory-grounded approach to upskill paediatric nurses for high acuity environments, implemented across two settings in Australia and New Zealand, with contrasting resources.


Nicola Irwin, Paediatric Clinical Support Nurse, Canberra Health Services, ACT
Anna Collins, Paediatric Neuroservices Nurse Educator, Starship Child Health, NZ

11:30 – 12:00 Roundtable discussions and Q&A




12:00 – 12:40 Lunch (40 minutes)

Minimising psychological distress for hospitalised children

12:40 – 1:10	Keeping Kids in No Distress – workshop Resources and clinical support education to help children cope with medical trauma, anxiety and distress caused by illness, injury or hospitalisation.	Gillian Griffiths , KKIND Coordinator Occupational Therapy, <i>Perth Children's Hospital, WA</i>
1:10 – 1:30	Nurse-led Dexmedetomidine sedation for paediatric MRI – an Australian experience Pilot study evaluating the feasibility, safety, and outcomes of a nurse-led dexmedetomidine sedation protocol for paediatric MRI: adaptation of the Great Ormond Street Hospital (London) model within an Australian context.	Lynn Tarnowski-Mobbs , Paediatric Sedation Service Nurse Consultant, Dr Laura Burgoyne , Senior Staff Specialist, <i>Women's and Children's Health Network, SA</i>
1:30 – 1:50	Roundtable discussions and Q&A	

Reimagining care for young people with disordered eating

1:50 – 1:55	An introduction to the NSW Eating Disorder Service Plan	Caroline Hill , Statewide Service Development and Policy Implementation Lead, <i>InsideOut Institute for Eating Disorders, NSW</i>
1:55 – 2:10	It takes a team A MDT approach in eating disorder inpatient care to provide close to home quality care and decrease LOS.	Kristine Campagna , Senior Paediatric Outpatient Physiotherapist, Dr Joshua Steadson , Staff Specialist Paediatrician, <i>Hornsby Ku-Ring-Gai Hospital, NSW</i>
2:10 – 2:30	The eating disorder inpatient-outpatient-community transition of care model within a rural hospital Effective and timely medical stabilisation, weight gain, decreased LOS, increased staff confidence and families reported feeling supported during and after admission.	Dr Daphne Ng , Paediatrician, <i>Manning Rural Referral Hospital, NSW</i>
2:30 – 2:50	Empower ED Parent and Carer Toolkit - A 90-day journey of innovation and improvement Reducing inpatient readmissions through effective parent/carer education and support.	Dr Natasha Parekh , Adolescent Medicine Consultant and Paediatrician, <i>Monash Health, VIC</i>
2:50 – 3:10	Roundtable discussions and Q&A	
3:10 – 3:30	Afternoon tea (20 minutes)	

Pick of the crop – celebrating the CHA community

3:30 – 4:00	CHA Annual General Meeting Celebrating the CHA community in 2024-25	Dr Barb Vernon , Chief Executive Officer, John Stanway , President, <i>Children's Healthcare Australasia</i>
4:00 – 5:00	CHA Medal of Distinction Award presentation Individual, Local/Community, Team and Sustainability.	To be announced on the day...

Complimentary networking dinner

The Watershed Function Centre & Café

6.30pm - 9.30pm

Offers a unique blend of natural beauty, high-quality dining, and the ultimate boutique event spaces.

(Note: Venue has been notified of Dietary Requirements)



Day 2 – Tuesday 21 October 2025

Collaborating to improve care and outcomes

8:30 – 8:35	Welcome to Day 2	Dr Barb Vernon , Chief Executive Officer, <i>Children's Healthcare Australasia</i>
8:35 – 9:00	Pushing the boundaries of our knowledge together: The Children's Inpatient Research Collaboration for Australia and New Zealand (CIRCAN).	Assoc Prof David Tickell , Consultant Paediatrician, <i>Grampian Health, VIC</i>

Optimising patient flow and outcomes

9:00 – 9:20	Are you ready? The timely and safe transfer of paediatric patients from ED to the Inpatient Ward Improving transfer efficiency, we aim to deliver care that is coordinated, safe, and patient-centred, thereby ensuring the right care is provided in the right place, at the right time.	Ruza Capiral , Clinical Practice Improvement Specialist - Paediatrics, Lucy Dove , Nurse Unit Manager, <i>Sunshine Hospital, VIC</i>
9:20 – 9:40	Accelerating access to timely care in a 23-hour Paediatric Ward Lessons from a pilot project at a busy metropolitan unit. A pilot 23-hour Paediatric Ward improves bed access, streamlines short-stay care, and reduces winter surge reliance. Early results show faster ED transfers, shorter stays, and enhanced patient experiences through more efficient, timely paediatric care delivery.	Libby Coonan , Assistant Director of Nursing, <i>Canberra Health Services, ACT</i>
9:40 – 10:00	Optimising paediatric care through a Day Procedure Unit (DPU) Making a difference without additional resources in the Top End. Improved timely access to paediatric procedures without additional FTE, reducing admissions and transfers. Over 550 interventions were completed with high efficiency, safety, and caregiver satisfaction in its first year.	Mary Noah , Nurse Unit Manager, Lauren Roberts , Nurse Education and Research Coordinator for Paediatrics, <i>Royal Darwin Hospital, NT</i>

10:00 – 10:20 Roundtable discussions and Q&A



10:20 – 10:40 Morning tea (20 minutes)

Tackling the waiting list in the General Paediatrics Clinic

10:40 – 11:00	Enhancing equity of access to general paediatric outpatients The use of an Allied Health-led Access Navigation model to process, progress and respond to general paediatric referrals.	Dr Lawrence Gray , Paediatrician, <i>Barwon Health, VIC</i>
11:00 – 11:20	Brisbane Paediatric Collaborative Care Pathway Three public health services, two PHNs, GPs and lived experience consumers reimagined high-quality, partnered continuum of care for paediatric ADHD. We will utilise full scope of practice, and uplift timely access to quality care, close to home.	Dr Jo Thomson , Developmental Paediatrician, <i>Children's Health Queensland, QLD</i> Martine Waters , Manager of Strategic Partnerships, <i>Metro South Health, QLD</i>

11:20 – 11:40 Roundtable discussions and Q&A



Care closer to home

11:40 – 12:00	A new way to do HITH - a regional paediatric model Establishment on limited funding while still improving flow, reducing length of stay, enhancing outcomes, and empowering families, while minimising hospital clinic demand and additional workforce requirements.	Mathew Drake , Health at Home Regional Paediatric Navigator, Dr Nelu Jayawardena , Paediatrician, <i>Grampians Health, VIC</i>
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12:00 – 12:20

Revolutionising patient care: The role of Clinical Pharmacists in the Paediatric Hospital in the Home (HiTH) programs

Kharan Wadhwa, Senior Pharmacist,
Denisha Lee, Senior Project Officer,
Perth Children's Hospital, WA

12:20 – 1:00

Lunch (40 minutes)

Building partnerships to promote child health and wellbeing

1:00 – 1:20

Bridging the divide: A School Based Integrated Care Program

School Based Integrated Care (SBIC) programs within NSW will be discussed to illustrate how health, education and community services can work collaboratively to improve access for underserved children, reduce inequity, and enhance wellbeing through multidisciplinary partnerships.

Dr Santuri Rungan, Community Paediatrician and Senior Clinical Advisor for Youth Health and Wellbeing,
NSW Health

1:20 – 1:50

Children in the North – Rapid Improvement Project

The project is piloted in Davoren Park, SA, responding to increasing developmental vulnerability among children. By bringing health, education, and community supports into everyday settings, the initiatives are exploring more coordinated, equitable ways to reach families early and strengthen child development.

Belinda Hallsworth, Executive Director, *Children in the North Department of the Premier and Cabinet*
Maeve Downes, Nursing Director,
Rado Gregoric, Paediatric Nurse Consultant,
Tanya Williams, Paediatric Nurse Consultant, *Northern Adelaide Local Health Network, SA*

Listening to and learning from children and young people

1:50 – 2:00

Progress update on the Development of a Paediatric Patient Reported Experience Measure

Current progress and an opportunity for CHA members to participate in the evaluation of the validation process using the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research.

Sarah Elliott, Clinical Project Coordinator, *Children's Healthcare Australasia*

2:00 – 2:20

Imagine if we could measure outcomes from the child and family's point of view? The P-PROM ROCK trial

An overview of the co-design and evaluation of the P-PROM ROCK Program, enabling children to share their health experiences through Paediatric Patient Reported Outcome Measures and promoting more patient-centred care in routine outpatient settings.

Prof Harriet Hiscock, Paediatrician,
The Royal Children's Hospital, VIC

A take home thought...

2:20 – 2:50

Why walk up a mountain when you could run?

Running an ultramarathon, like pediatric medicine, requires endurance, preparation, adaptability, and focus. Both demand resilience, wise pacing, overcoming challenges, and relying on teamwork to achieve better outcomes for those supported.

Assoc Prof David Tickell, Paediatrician,
Grampians Health, VIC

2:50 - 3:00

Take home reflections

Dr Barb Vernon, Chief Executive Officer, *Children's Healthcare Australasia*

3:00

Meeting Close

Hospital Tour

Lyell McEwin Hospital (LMH) - Northern Adelaide Local Health Network

3.30 - 5.30PM

Provides comprehensive inpatient, outpatient, and community care for children and young people in Adelaide's northern suburbs, supporting diverse, high-needs populations, including Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, and children with complex conditions.

