



**100<sup>th</sup>** International  
Conference on  
Social Work in  
Health and  
Mental Health

**NAVIGATING A CHANGING WORLD**  
Empowering Minds and Transforming Lives

# CONFERENCE HANDBOOK



Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre  
Melbourne Australia

Tuesday 19 November – Friday 22 November 2024  
[icswhmh.aasw.asn.au](https://icswhmh.aasw.asn.au)

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Join the  
conversation



Add your voice to the  
global conversation

**#ICSWHMHMelb2024**



The Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) is Australia's professional body for social workers. As well as representing and supporting social workers in their essential work, we set the benchmarks for professional education and practice in social work.



## OUR VISION

Wellbeing and social justice in Australia.

## OUR PURPOSE

Empowering social workers to make a difference.



# WELCOME FROM THE CEO

Dear colleagues,

I am delighted to welcome you to the 10th International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health: *Navigating a Changing World: Empowering Minds and Transforming Lives*.

We gather on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We respectfully acknowledge the past and present Traditional Owners and ongoing Custodians of the land on which we meet. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, their ancestors and their families, and to Elders of other communities.

We are joined by delegates from across the world—social workers, academics, practitioners, students, and allied health professionals—who have come together to engage in discussion, share knowledge, and strengthen the global social work community. I would also like to extend a special thanks to our esteemed keynote speakers: Professor Tom Calma AO, Dr Michael Ungar from Canada's Resilience Research Centre, Associate Professor Heather Boetto from Charles Sturt University, and Dr Cindy Blackstock, Executive Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society in Canada.

We are also extremely grateful to our sponsors, Visit Melbourne and the Melbourne Convention Bureau, whose generous support has made this conference possible. I would also like to thank the exhibitors who have contributed to making this event a great success.

This year's conference comes at a critical time for our profession and our world. The theme of this event reflects the complexities and challenges social workers face globally. As we confront inequality, climate change, mental health crises, and systemic injustices, this conference presents a unique opportunity to exchange ideas and develop innovative solutions.

Our gathering over the four days reflects the social work profession's shared commitment to upholding values of social justice, human rights, and ethical practice. Throughout this conference, we will explore the intersection of health, mental health, and social work practice and consider ways to collaborate globally to address the pressing issues in our profession.

Our strategic plan, which runs through 2027, focuses on fostering professional excellence, creating pathways for career development, and adapting the profession to future challenges. At the heart of our work is a commitment to lifelong learning, celebrating diversity, and amplifying the critical impact that social workers make in communities across Australia and the world.

This year's conference offers a comprehensive program covering various topics related to health, mental health and social work. Our sessions will explore essential areas such as trauma, acquired brain injury, cancer care, palliative care, mental health, and social work in emergency settings. We will also discuss the social determinants



of health, including income inequality, discrimination, and access to care, which remain at the forefront of social work intervention.

I am particularly excited about the international panels, where we will hear from leading experts on hospital social work models of care and the intersection of health and mental health. These panels will provide valuable global perspectives that will enrich our discussions and inform our future practices.

I encourage you to engage fully with the program, contribute your knowledge, and build connections that will last long after this conference. This is a space for collaboration, learning, and innovation. Take the insights gained here back to your communities, workplaces, and research, and use them to drive meaningful, lasting change.

Thank you all for being part of this important event. I would also like to extend my deepest gratitude to our speakers and the Conference Management Committee and International Advisory group for their hard work bringing this conference to life. I look forward to the insightful discussions and inspiring presentations we will experience together.

Thank you, and I hope you enjoy the conference.

Warm regards,

Cindy Smith  
Chief Executive Officer



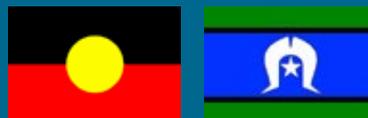
# CONFERENCE MASTER OF CEREMONIES MIMI KWA

Mimi Kwa has been a journalist and media personality on stage, page and screen for more than 20 years before recently becoming an author with her best-selling memoir House of Kwa.

She was the first person of Asian descent on Channel 9 and, for most of her career, read news on ABCTV to 40 countries.

She has interviewed Prime Ministers, celebrities and global sports stars, and plays herself as a newsreader in international series like Wentworth, The Preacher, The Clearing and The Newsreader.

Mimi has four children and is writing more books as well as working as a facilitator, MC and keynote speaker.



The Australian Association of Social Workers respectfully acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live and work and pays its respects to Elders past and present.

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



## DR CINDY BLACKSTOCK

*Executive Director, First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, Canada*

A member of the Gitksan First Nation, Cindy is honoured to serve as the Executive Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society and a professor at McGill University's School of Social Work. She has over 30 years of experience working in child welfare and Indigenous children's rights and has published on topics relating to reconciliation, Indigenous theory, First Nations child welfare and human rights. A recipient of the SSHRC Gold Medal, Cindy was honoured to work with First Nations colleagues on a successful human rights challenge to Canada's inequitable provision of child and family services and failure to implement Jordan's Principle. This hard-fought litigation has resulted in hundreds of thousands of services being provided to First Nations children, youth, and families.

Cindy is frequently sighted in the company of the Caring Society's reconciliation Ambearrister, Spirit Bear, engaging children in meaningful actions to implement the TRC Calls to Action.



## DR MICHAEL UNGAR

*Canada Research Chair in Child, Family and Community Resilience*

*Director, Resilience Research Centre*

*Professor of Social Work, Dalhousie University*

*AAMFT Clinical Supervisor*

*Registered Social Worker*

Michael Ungar, Ph.D., is a family therapist and Professor of Social Work at Dalhousie University where he holds the Canada Research Chair in Child, Family and Community Resilience. His research on resilience around the world and across cultures has made him the number one ranked social work scholar in the world, with numerous educational institutions, government agencies, and not-for-profits relying on his research and clinical work to guide their approaches to nurturing child, family, organisational and community wellbeing under stress. He is the author of 18 books for mental health professionals, educators, caregivers and employers, including his most recent works *The Limits of Resilience: When to Persevere, When to Change, and When to Quit*, a book for individuals and organizations under stress, *Change Your World: The Science of Resilience and the True Path to Success*, a book about our emerging understanding of resilience as more than individual grit, and *Working with Children and Youth with Complex Needs: 20 Skills to Build Resilience*, a book for mental health professionals and educators. As well as having received numerous awards for his work, including the Canadian Association of Social Workers National Distinguished Service Award and being named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, Dr Ungar maintains a blog, *Nurturing Resilience*, which can be read on Psychology Today's website.



## **PROFESSOR TOM CALMA AO**

*2023 Senior Australian of The Year*

Professor Tom Calma AO FAA FASSA FAHA FANZSOG is an Aboriginal Elder from the Kungarakan tribal group and a member of the Iwaidja and Woolwonga tribal groups in the NT and he lives on Ngunnawal country in Canberra. Graduating in social work and community development in 1978 he has a long and distinguished career in academia, public service bureaucracy, social justice and community development.

He is the National Coordinator Tackling Indigenous Smoking (2010-present), a Professor at the University of Sydney (2015-present) and Patron of the five national Poche Centres for Indigenous Health (2010 to present). Professor Calma was a former senior diplomat to India and Vietnam (1995-2002), Chancellor of the University of Canberra (2014-2023) and he previously served as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner (2004-2010) and the Race Discrimination Commissioner (2004-2009) with the Australian Human Rights Commission. Tom is chair of an Indigenous company, Ninti One Ltd and has been a Board member since 2009 and Chair of Ninti One Ltd since 2011 and is a director on the Ninti group of entities. He co-chairs Reconciliation Australia and the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation and chairs the Living First Languages Platform Company that facilitates the recording of First Nations Languages.

Professor Calma has a special interest in Indigenous and non Indigenous health, mental health, SEWB and suicide prevention, education, aged care, economic development and social justice. His 2005 Social Justice Report on First Australian's health inequality led to the creation of the Close the Gap Campaign and governments' Closing the Gap response that is still the predominant Indigenous Health policy today.

Professor Tom Calma was the 2023 Senior Australian of the Year and he is an inaugural member of Cancer Australia's Indigenous Cancers Leadership Group a member of Genomics Australia Independent Advisory Board and the Australian Medical Research Advisory Board.



## **A/PROFESSOR HEATHER BOETTO**

*Associate Professor, Charles Sturt University, Australia*

Heather Boetto is a distinguished expert in the field of environmental social work, obtaining a PhD with the prestigious Higher Degree by Research Medal in 2017 from Charles Sturt University.

Heather understands the intrinsic connection between environmental wellbeing and human welfare and actively works to address and rectify injustices that arise from the unequal distribution of environmental risks.

Heather's groundbreaking research in disaster practices and environmental social work has earned her international acclaim. Her expertise extends to leading transformative community-based research initiatives, emphasising the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in nurturing a sustainable and diverse ecosystem. Heather is passionate about qualitative research methodologies that promote inclusive, empowering, and co-created approaches and has spearheaded impactful research groups, such as the Environmental and Social Justice Research Group at Charles Sturt University.

Heather is dedicated to cultivating the next generation of social work professionals, educators, and practitioners to actively engage in issues concerning social and ecological wellbeing. She is a strong advocate for global ecological justice and strives to foster a healthy and diverse ecosystem that is accessible to all.

# VIRTUAL OPENING ADDRESS



## THE HON EMMA MCBRIDE MP

*Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention*

*Assistant Minister Rural and Regional Health*

Emma McBride is the Federal Member for the electorate of Dobell, on the Central Coast of NSW and was elected in 2016. After the 2019 election Emma was appointed Shadow Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Shadow Assistant Minister for Carers. Emma was the Deputy Chair of the House of Representatives Select Committee on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention in 2021. Following the 2022 election, Emma McBride was appointed Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health.

Emma worked in health for over 20 years, both in Australia and abroad. She was a Specialist Mental Health Pharmacist and the Chief Pharmacist at Wyong Hospital, and prior to her election to Parliament, was the Deputy Director of Pharmacy for Central Coast Local Health District.

Emma's background in a range of health care settings provides a unique platform to promote better health services for both her local area and the broader community.

Emma is a passionate advocate for quality healthcare, close to home. Emma recognises the unique challenges facing rural and regional communities in accessing health care and hopes to help shape public policy that promotes the health and wellbeing of all Australians, regardless of where they live.

# NORMA PARKER ADDRESS

Norma Parker Brown CBE (1906-2004) was one of the pioneers of Australian social work, and these addresses, in her honour, are made by AASW former presidents to address critical issues facing social workers.

This Norma Parker Address not only serves as a call for immediate action but is also hopeful. It ignites a renewed sense of purpose and responsibility within the social work community.



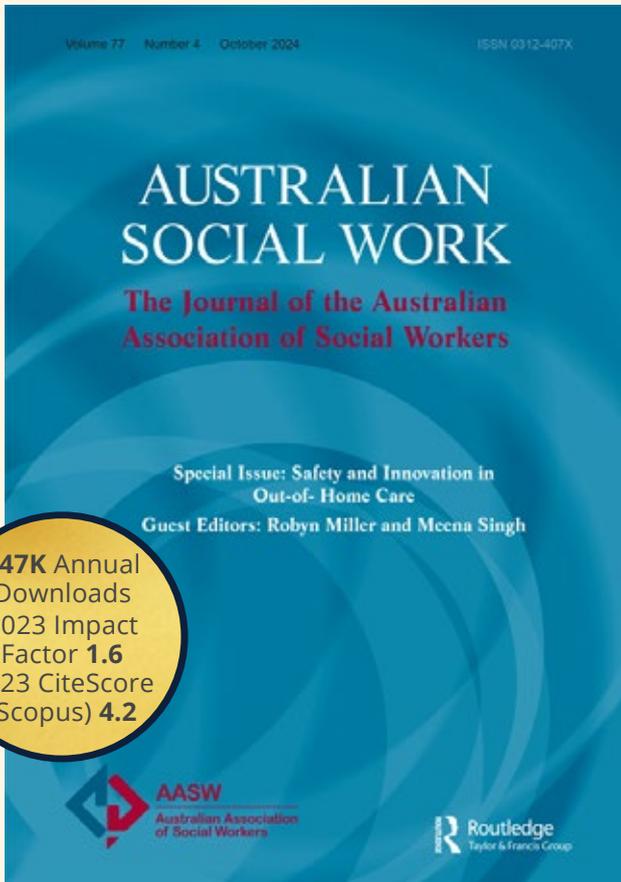
## JULIANNE WHYTE OAM

*AASW National President*

Julianne Whyte is the CEO, Director and Founder of a not-for-profit charity and organisation that provides disability, aged, social work and social impact programs aimed to increase the resilience, quality and vitality of people's lives in rural communities where they operate.

Julianne has over 45 years' experience in health, community services, community development, policy and program development, and implementation and research. She is an Accredited Social Worker and is in the final stages of her PhD.

Julianne received an OAM in 2017 for her research and community work in palliative and end-of-life care. Julianne is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



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Australian Social Work (ASW) is an international journal that publishes current thinking and trends in social work practice, research, education, and policy. Australian Social Work publishes original research, theoretical papers and critical reviews that build on existing knowledge and are of relevance to our Australian and international readership.

The Journal also publishes reviews of relevant professional literature, invited commentary and social policy analysis.



## **SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLE**

Australian Social Work welcomes new manuscript submissions: See Author and Submission Guidelines – [Submit to Australian Social Work \(tandfonline.com\)](https://tandfonline.com)



## **CONFERENCE WORKSHOP**

Join ASW Editor, Susan Gair and Editorial Board members at their “Publishing your practice and research” workshop (see Conference Program).



Session	Time	Opening Session
1	9:00 - 9:10	Welcome to Country
	9:15 - 9:20	Message from the Governor General of Australia - Her Excellency Samantha Mostyn
	9:20 - 9:25	Message from The Hon Emma McBride MP - Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Assistant Minister Rural and Regional Health
	9:25 - 9:40	Welcome Address - Mrs Julianne Whyte OAM, AASW National President
	9:40 - 10:40	Keynote Presentation - Professor Tom Calma AO

### 10:40 – 11:00 Morning Tea – Main Foyer 2 & 3

Session	Time	Stream 1 - Plenary	Stream 2 - MR219	Stream 3 - MR208	Stream 4 - MR209	Stream 5 - MR217	Stream 6 - MR206	Stream 7 - MR216	Stream 8 - MR214	Stream 9 - MR215	Stream 10 - MR220	Stream 11 - MR218
2		Social Work Responses to First Nations and Indigenous Challenges	Academic Insights into Social Work Challenges sponsored by Independent Living chaired by Professor Sue Green	Hospital Social Work Strategies in Crisis, Trauma and Research chaired by Ms Carolyn Cousins	Voices and Visions in Mental Health Social Work chaired by Dr Fotina Hardy	Social Work and the Pursuit of Human Rights chaired by Dr Fang Fu	School Social Work in Action: Enhancing Student Success and Resilience - Interactive stream chaired by Mrs Muriel Wymarra	Social Work and Health Inequalities Network (SWHIN) chaired by Ms Rohena Duncombe	Specialised Care: Social Work Practices in Eating Disorders and Mental Health - Interactive stream chaired by Dr Hadas Rosenne	Social Work's Impact on Ageing Populations and Intergenerational Connections - Interactive stream chaired by Ms Chris Hannan	Hospital Social Work - Adopting a Multidisciplinary Approach for Health chaired by Mr Chris Harvey	Restorative Justice in Mental Health: Social Work and Legislative Approaches - Interactive stream chaired by Professor Martin Webber
	11:00	Panel Discussion: Gods of the Court - Christine Clark (Australia, NSW), Aunty Leslie Franks (Australia, NSW), Uncle Michael Welsh (Australia, NSW)	The Ambiguity of Psychosocial Needs in Acquired Brain Injury: Understanding From the Grass Roots Up - A Social Work Perspective - Dr Brooke Kooymans (Australia, QLD)	Emergency Department and Crisis Community Mental Health Clinicians' Perspectives Regarding Innovations Required To Reduce Restrictive Interventions: An Australian Cooperative Inquiry - Ms Jacinta Chavulak (Australia, VIC)	How Can Social Workers Ally with People Who Have Lived Experience of Mental Distress, Carers and the Community to Create Optimal Services and Supports? - Dr Catherine Brasier (Australia, VIC) & Mr Amanjot Sandhu (Australia, VIC)	The Cost of Exclusion: Incorporating Lived Experience into Practice - Ms Tina Lucas-Smith (Australia, QLD)	Creating Successful School Based Placements for Social Work Students - Ms Michelle Brown (Australia, SA) & Ms Madeleine Samson (Australia, SA)	Therapeutic Applications and Challenges for an Unobtrusive Acoustic Device that Makes Emotion Apparent - Dr Bruce Friedman (US)	The Sanctuary in the Forest: An Australian Peer-led Respite Model for Post-Psychosis Integration Using a Bio-Psycho-Social-Spiritual Approach - Mrs Louisa Dent Pearce (Australia, QLD)	Beyond the Long-term Care Model: Hong Kong Experience of The Eden Alternative® - Ms Kin Wai Wong (Hong Kong), Ms Yin Ling (Hong Kong) & Ms Suki Chan (Hong Kong)	A Study of Use the Brief Symptom Rating Scale (BSRS-5) for Screening Inpatients' Needs for Social Work Services in a Tertiary Medical Centre In Taiwan - Mr Chia Te Lin (Taiwan)	Working From a Positive Behaviour Support Framework with People Experiencing Serious Mental Illness from a Social Work Perspective - Ms Amanda Giordano (Australia, VIC), Mr Garth Boyd (Australia, VIC) & Ms Irene Economou (Australia, VIC)
	11:20	Effects of Makuranage on Stress and Happiness Among Hong Kong Adolescents: An Examination of Mediating Effects - Mr Reyna Ka Kin Ma (Hong Kong) & Dr Wing Ho (Hong Kong)		Navigating Crisis with Resilience: Insights into the BANU Model through the October 7th Attack - Mrs Neta Magen (Israel)	The Benefits of Introducing Single Session Family Therapy to Adult Acute Psychiatric Teams - Mr Wayne Conron (Australia, VIC)	Political Activism is a Core Social Work Domain. A Call to Teach Civics to Clients, Communities and Social Work Students. Let's Build Justice Through Democracy - Ms Emily Bieber (Australia, VIC)	Enhancing Resilience in Early Childhood: The Impact of the 'Kindy Kids Connect' Program - Ms Tina Acevska (Australia, NSW) & Mr Michael Austin (Australia, NSW)	Promoting the Well-being of Non-Government Organisation Rural Mental Health Staff: A Pilot Study - Dr Emma Rush (Australia, NSW), Mr Andrew Prevett (Australia, SA), Ms Rohena Duncombe (Australia, NSW) & Dr Nicola Ivory (Australia, NSW)	Human Rights and Neoliberalism in Eating Disorders Services: A Critical Social Work Approach to Ethical Practice - Dr Sacha Jamieson (Australia, NSW)	The Utilisation of Mindfulness-Based Interventions to Improve Self-Regulation and Promote the Well-Being of Socially Marginalised and Isolated Populations - Ms Teresa Donegan (Australia, VIC) & Ms Sally Richmond (Australia, VIC)	An Evidence-Informed Information Guide for Family Caregivers of Ventilator-Assisted Individuals (VAIs): A Proposal - Ms Aiyu Li (Singapore)	Building Connections, Capacity, and Collaborative Care – A Statewide Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Telepsychiatry Service in Queensland - Ms Naomi Kikkawa (Australia, QLD)
	11:40		Exploring Recovery Journeys of NDIS Participants With Psychosocial Disability in Australia - Mr Johnny Choi (Australia, QLD)	'Beneath the Burns' A Case Study Exploring the Use of a Trauma-Informed Care Approach for Major Paediatric Burns Patients - Ms Alison Baillie (Australia, VIC) & Ms Grace Jury (Australia, VIC)	Investigating the Practice Wisdom of Public Mental Health Social Workers in Victoria, Australia - Ms Fiona Smith (Australia, VIC) & Dr Louise Whitaker (Australia, QLD)	Safeguarding the Human Rights of Mental Health Consumers: Lessons for Social Workers From the Independent Mental Health (IMHA) in Victoria, Australia - Ms Helen Makregiorgos (Australia, VIC)	Workshop - School Social Work - Not for the Faint Hearted! An Examination of the opportunities for Effective Social Work Practice in Schools - Ms Lynne Buttler (Australia, QLD) & Scarlett Buttler (Australia, QLD) - Workshop themes: School social work, LGBTIQ+ folk, adolescence	Climate Change and Mental Health in Rural Australia - Dr Ndungi Mungai (Australia, NSW) & Dr Fredrik Velander (Australia, NSW)	Workshop - Building the Bridge to Recovery: Co-Designing Services, Training, & Treatment for Eating Disorders with a Lived Experience Workforce - Ms Chantel Kleiner (Australia, VIC) - Workshop themes: Eating disorders, mental health social work	Workshop - The Transformative Nature of Storytelling Across the Generations- Reflections on PADSIP (Positive Ageing Digital Storytelling Intergenerational Project) - Impact on Emotional Wellbeing - Mr Mark Silver (Australia, QLD) - Workshop themes: Community social work, ageing populations, isolation and loneliness	Empowering Compassionate Choices: The Impact of the Social Work Role in Voluntary Assisted Dying - Ms Jane Adams (Australia, NSW)	Workshop - Discovering the Opportunities to Use Restorative Practice in Mental Health Services - Mr Michael Power (Australia, QLD) & Mrs Catriona Harwood (Australia, QLD) - Workshop themes: Forensic social work (including in criminal justice settings), mental health social work, mental health and mental capacity law
	12:00	Stepping into the Sacred: Building Partnerships of Maternal and Social Care with First Nations' Women of the Northern Peninsula Area - Dr Elsie Galloway (Australia, QLD)	A Longitudinal Approach to Exploring the Social and Emotional Well-Being of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Children in Out-of-Home Care: A Research Innovation - Dr Simpson Reeves (Australia, QLD) & Prof Karen Healy (Australia, QLD)	Waiting for a Deceased Donor Liver Transplant in Singapore: Uncertainty, Destiny and Challenges - Ms Yue Yan Ann Chow (Singapore)	Is Brief Admission Effective for People with Borderline Personality Disorder? A Mixed Method Systematic Review - Miss Sin-Ying Tan (Australia, VIC)	Promoting Women's Voices: Understanding the Online Opportunities and Risks Faced by Women in Activism - Dr Rojan Afrouz (Australia, VIC) & Dr Kim Robinson (Australia, VIC)		Healthcare or a 'Necessary Evil'? Exploring Social Worker Beliefs on Abortion Using a Qualitative Survey - Prof Elizabeth Beddoe (New Zealand)				A Social Worker and a General Practitioner walk into a Bar... A tantalising tale of interprofessional collaboration and its ripple effects - Ms Glenys Wilkinson (Australia, VIC)
12:20	Analysis of Successful Elements in Network Collaboration for Long-term Care in Indigenous Areas in Taiwan: Implications for Health Care Social Work - Dr Chien-Chou Hou (Taiwan)	The Silencing of Innocence: A Social Work Perspective on Media Portrayals of Murder-Suicides Involving Children - Ms Sheryl Hateley	Transforming Effectiveness in Health Social Work Through Quasi-Experimental Research : The Sostyo Terva Study- Prof Lynette Joubert (Australia, VIC)	Older Adults Presenting with Dementia and BPSD in an Older Adult Acute Mental Health Unit, Barriers to Discharge and Implications for Social Work Practice - Ms Margaret Dietz (Australia, VIC) & Mrs Jenny Kats (Australia, VIC)	Protection from Harm VS Duty of Care: AASW Interventions into the Social Determinants of Young People's Mental Health - Ms Angela Scarfe (Australia, VIC)		The Mediating Role of Self-Efficacy in the Association Between Family Support and Mental Health among Taiwanese Adolescents and Youth in Low-Income Families - Dr Ching-Wen Chang (Taiwan)				Digital Empowerment: Transitioning a Hospital Social Work Department From Anecdotal to Data-Driven - Ms Sara Hopewell (Australia, QLD) & Ms Alana Cowan (Australia, QLD)	

### 12:40 – 13:40 Standing Lunch – Main Foyer 2 & 3

### SWHIN Networking Lunch: 12:40 - 13:40

Session	Time	Stream 1 - Plenary	Stream 2 - MR219	Stream 3 - MR208	Stream 4 - MR209	Stream 5 - MR217	Stream 6 - MR206	Stream 7 - MR216	Stream 8 - MR214	Stream 9 - MR215	Stream 10 - MR220	Stream 11 - MR218
3		One World Many Voices: Global Perspectives on Social Work in Health and Mental Health	Innovative Paradigms in Hospital Social Work: Critical Conversations and Personal Reflections sponsored by Independent Living chaired by Mrs Amanda Jenkins	Social Work Interventions in the Wake of Trauma chaired by Ms Ashton Hayes	Substance and Support: Advanced Social Work in Addiction, Alcohol & Other Drugs chaired by Mrs Julianne Whyte	Social Work's Impact on Social Policy chaired by Ms Angela Scarfe	New Frontiers in Child and Adolescent Mental Health - Interactive stream chaired by Dr Lorraine Muller	Social Work and Health Inequalities Network (SWHIN) chaired by Ms Rohena Duncombe	Redefining Social Work through Research and Academia - Interactive stream chaired by Dr Louise Whitaker	Indigenous Advocacy Social Work for First Nations Rights - Interactive stream chaired by Mrs Melissa Puertollano	End of Life and Bereavement: Social Workers as Compassionate Guides chaired by Ms Robyn Farrands	Private practice and Stigma, discrimination and shame - Interactive stream chaired by Dr Brooke Kooymans
	13:40	Listening in Mental Health Clinical Settings: An Exploration of Listening, Listening Practices and the Role of Power - Mr Bani Aadam (Australia, NSW)	Introducing Workloads Management System to Inpatient and Ambulatory Social Work Teams at Monash Health - Mrs Rachel Corea (Australia, VIC), Mrs Katherine Bettoni (Australia, VIC)	Trauma Informed Support and Supervision: A Model to Support Social Workers Working with Children and Families Where Child Protection Concerns Are Present - Dr Fiona Oates (Australia, QLD)	The Nikau Practice Framework: A Focused Framework for Social Work Practice With Substance Use - Dr Anna Nelson (New Zealand)	Needs and Coping Strategies in Mental Crises: The Viewpoint of Caregivers in Taiwan -Mr. Huan-Wen Chen (Taiwan) & Miss Yi-En Hsieh (Taiwan)	Social Workers as Mental Health Service Designers - Mrs Joanne Allen-Keeling (Australia, QLD)	Suicide in Brazil: Reducing Inequality and Normalising Support - Mrs Maria Lucia Teixeira Garcia (Brasil)	Co-creating Knowledge Using I-Poems in Research With Marginalised People With an Intellectual Disabilities Label - Mr Benjamin Garcia-Lee (Australia, NSW)	Reviewing and Reflecting on a Hospital's Community Work Project Working with Indigenous People in Mountainous Areas in Ren'ai Township - Experience from Nantou, Taiwan - Mr Chi Feng Lee (Taiwan)	What Do Children Want to Know About Death and Grief? - Ms Shelly Skinner (Australia, WA)	Necessity, the Mother of Invention: How Hospital Redundancy Resulted in Original Research, Co-Designed Peer Support, a Thriving Private Practice and a Movement for 'Humanised Healthcare' - Dr Martha Druery (Australia, QLD)
	14:00	Analyzing the Legislative Process on Community Psychiatric Rehabilitation in the Mental Health Act of Taiwan R. O. C - Dr Fang-Pei Chen (Taiwan)	Psycho-Social Implications of Retinoblastoma Treatments: Eye Preserving Treatment vs. Enucleation - Dr Hadas Rosenne (Israel)	Interventions with Adults Using Family Violence - Social Work Perspective - Mr Jesse Hooper (Australia, VIC)	Improving FASD Prevention Can't Wait: The Health Social Work Role in Reducing Stigma for Mothers With Alcohol Dependence - Dr Susan Evans (Australia, NSW)	How Our Art Speaks to Power: the "Nuts and Bolts" of Help-Seeking for Suicidal Distress in Rural and Remote NSW - Ms Charlotte Finlayson (Australia, NSW)	Co-Designing Child Protection Curriculum for Practice-Ready Graduates: A Participatory Qualitative Research Approach - Dr Patricia Mackey (Australia, ACT)	Walking the Walk: Implementation of the Transform Lives Program and Integrated Service Delivery With Health Care Providers and Criminalised Women - Jamie O'Donovan (Australia, NSW)	Mapping Social Work's Response to the 'Grand Challenge' of Loneliness - Miss Rachael Courts (Australia, VIC)	Healing Our Children and Young People: A Framework to Address the Impacts of Domestic and Family Violence - Miss Candice Butler (Australia, QLD)	Death is Everyone's Business: Developing and Implementing a Systematic Approach to Bereavement Support at a Major Tertiary Australian Hospital - Ms Nicola Hainsworth (Australia, VIC), Jo Di Ciero (Australia, VIC)	Understanding Shame and Blame in the World of Families and Substance Use - Mrs Claire Walsh (Australia, QLD)
	14:20	International Health & Mental Health Panel Discussion - The Intersection of Health and Mental Health: Global Perspectives- Prof Lynette Joubert (Australia, VIC), Dr Nicole Dubus (US), Dr Fang Fu (China), Prof Susan Green (Australia, NSW), Mrs Miia Stähle (Finland) & Prof Martin Webber (UK)	Using Simulation as an Educational Tool to Support Healthcare Professionals Develop Communication Skills in Paediatric Bereavement Care - Ms Leah Rotin (Australia, VIC)	Engaging the Inner Child - How Expressive Arts Therapy Addresses Complex Trauma in Vulnerable Children and Maximises the Right Brain Connection Between Child and Therapist - Dr Melissa Urquhart (Australia, VIC)	What is the Problem with Women, Alcohol, and Mental Health in Western Australia? - Dr Norah Hosken (Australia, WA)	Combating the Rise of Andrew Tate(s) to Prevent Sexual Violence Through Co-Design and Peer Education With Regional and LGBTQIA+ Young People - Mx Rhiannon Williams-Demmon (Australia, VIC)	Workshop - Shame: We Need to talk. How to Work With Shame, Without Shaming the Person - Mr Michael Derby (Australia, VIC) - Workshop themes: Stigma, discrimination and shame, forensic social work (including in criminal justice settings), child and adolescent mental health	Workshop - Improving Health Through Better Hearing - Dr Bruce Friedman (US) Workshop themes: Health inequalities, mental health social work, social work with older people	Workshop - Publishing Your Practice and Research - A/Prof Susan Gair (Australia, QLD) & A/Prof Fiona McDermott (Australia, VIC) - Workshop theme: Academia	Workshop - Ethical Research With Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities: Privileging Indigenous Epistemologies - Miss Kate Thompson (Australia, QLD), Ms Karina Maxwell (Australia, QLD) and Dr Deborah Lynch (Australia, QLD)- Workshop themes: First nations peoples/ indigenous health and emerging services for Aboriginal/Indigenous communities, Indigenous and community knowledge, health inequalities	Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD): What Are the Issues for Social Work Practice in Palliative Care? A Scoping Review - Ms Savannah Rowland (Australia, VIC)	Workshop - Maintaining Quality Support When Conspiracy Enters the Room: Share Skills and Challenges From the Field with Fellow Practitioners, - Ms Emily Bieber (Australia, VIC) - Workshop themes: Private practice, isolation and loneliness, stigma, discrimination and shame
	14:40		Addressing SDOH in an Academic Medical Center in a Major Metropolitan City - Ms Ann Rauch (US)	Effectiveness of Brief Interventions for Sexual Assault Survivors: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis - Ms Renee Burdeu (Australia, VIC)	Uniting for Elimination: Social Work Collaborates on a Multi-Stakeholder Care Model Engaging a Community Pharmacy to Overcome Barriers to Hepatitis C Testing in Regional NSW - Ms Linda Johansson (Australia, NSW)	The Knowledge and Skills Needed for Forensic Social Work in Australia: A Delphi Study - Ms Dimitra Lattas (Australia, QLD)					The Impact of Minority Stress and Intersectionality on the Experience and Research of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans* And Queer Bereavement - Ms Felicity Johnson (Australia, NSW)	
15:00		Social Work and Relationships When Viewed From My Hospital Bed: Reflections of a Social Work Academic and Survivor of Two Liver Transplants - Prof Harry Ferguson (UK)	"It's a Relational Approach, First and Foremost, With the Whole System": Social Work Perspectives on Recovery-Oriented Approaches With Children and Their Families - Dr Katherine Reid (Australia, QLD)	"REACH Is My Family": Harm Reduction Social Work Practice In An Urban Primary Care Setting - Mr Giorgio Handman (US)	Embedding Legal Education in Men's Behaviour Change Programs: Applying a Victim Survivor Lens - Ms Lisa Ward (Australia, VIC)						Building Clinician Capacity for Death and Dying Conversations: A Mixed-method Research Project - Miss Kristine Leng (Australia, WA), Ms Mary Joyce (Australia, WA) & Mrs Clara Orton (Australia, WA)	

15:20 – 15:40 Afternoon Tea – Main Foyer 2 & 3

Session	Time	Stream 1 - Plenary	Stream 2 - MR219	Stream 3 - MR208	Stream 4 - MR209	Stream 5 - MR217	Stream 6 - MR206	Stream 7 - MR216	Stream 8 - MR214	Stream 9 - MR215	Stream 10 - MR220	Stream 11 - MR218
4		Addressing Mental Health Social Work in Disability Services	Global Collaboration and Specialised Interventions in Health Social Work sponsored by Independent Living chaired by Ms Patricia Toczek	Social Work's Role in Trauma and Recovery, Creative and Systemic Responses chaired by Ms Chris Hannan	Modern Approaches to Supervision and Shaping Success chaired by Dr Fotina Hardy	Effective Practices in Corrections & Forensic Social Work chaired by Mrs Julianne Whyte	Modern Techniques for Support in Mental Health Social Work - Interactive stream chaired by Prof Sue Green	Social Work and Health Inequalities Network (SWHIN) chaired by Ms Rohena Duncombe	Inner Strength: Spiritual Approaches in Social Work - Interactive stream Chaired by Miss Dawn Logan	Empowering LGBTQIA+ Individuals Through Social Work - Interactive stream chaired by Mr Jesse Hooper	End of Life Advocacy: Social Workers as Compassionate Guides chaired by Mrs Amanda Jenkins	Social Work's Response to Adverse Childhood Experiences through Lived Experiences and Best Practices- Interactive stream chaired by Dr Sue Gillieatt
	15:40	The Impact of Peer Support Groups: Perspectives of Adults with Acquired Brain Injury - Dr Lauren Kosta (Australia, Victoria)	Possibilities and Challenges of Social Work Use of Self in the Acute Paediatric Health Context - Ms Robyn Clark (Australia, VIC)	Violence in the Health Care Workplace: Data Driven Solutions - Dr Daniel Hughes (US)	Exploring the Expectations, Practices and Challenges in Social Work Supervision: Insights from Medical Social Workers (MSWs) in Singapore - Dr Man Yi Lau (Singapore)	"Regional Mental Health and Legal Service Integrated Model of Care". Regionally Focused Mental Health Social Work Program for Those Legal Service Clients Requiring Additional Support - Ms Victoria Burford-Snow (Australia, SA)	Social Work Led Family Engagement Strategies for Enhancing Care Across Mental Health Services in Metro and Regional Southeast Queensland - Ms Catherine Renkin (Australia, QLD) & Ms Evelyn (Li) Xu (Australia, QLD)	Social Work Practice to Improve Health and Mental Health in a Disadvantaged Population in an Under- Resourced Rural Community - Ms Rohena Duncombe (Australia, QLD)	Using Brene Brown in Psychoeducation and Bibliotherapy as a Tool of Recovery and to Resist the Status Quo - Ms Megan Bayliss (Australia, QLD)	Mentorship for Young Gay Men in Hong Kong: A Pilot Mixed-Methods Randomized Controlled Trial - Dr Yu-te Huang (Hong Kong)	Relational Needs in End-of-Life Care for Chinese Older Adults: A Pilot Evaluation of the CORE-UPHOLD Model - Mr Ho Kong Chan (Hong Kong) & Ms Kin Wai Wong	"Now I Have Finally Left Care! - What About My Mental Health?" - Mr David Tracey (Australia, QLD)
	16:00	Navigating the Policy/ Practice Nexus: The Development of a Frontline Social Work Practice Model for Psychosocial Needs in Acquired Brain Injury- Dr Brooke Kooymans (Australia, QLD)	Integrating a Specialty Clinic for Substance Abuse Disorders in an Urban OB/GYN Clinic Setting - Ms Laudy Burgos (US)	Supporting Victim Survivors of Sexual Misconduct: Trauma-Informed Navigation and Support Within a National Health Practitioner Regulator - Ms Belinda Lines (Australia, SA) & Ms Jacinta Evans (Australia, QLD)	Building our Capability: Introduction to Best Practice for Supervision - Dr Anita Morris (Australia, VIC)	Unveiling the Nexus of Gendered Violence: Exploring Machiavellian Dismissing-Avoidant Attachment and Its Harrowing Impacts, Including Femicide - Prof Tanya Robinson (Australia, SA)	TreeHaus "Centre for Mind, Body and Movement". Holistic Mental Health Clinic for Children, Adolescents, and Adults. "Bridging the Gap" between Public and Private Mental Health - Mrs Justine Brogna (Australia, VIC)	Preparing Social Work Students for Using the Jellinek Curve for Addiction Assessment: A Case Study at Sultan Qaboos University - Prof Ahmed Thabet Helal Ibrahim (Egypt)	The Role of Perceived Social Support and Family Support on the Spiritual Well-Being of End-of-Life Patients in Different Care Settings - Ms Allison Wong (Hong Kong)	Colliding Worlds: The Intersectionality of - Sexuality, Gender, Culture, Ethnicity, Religion, Age and History - Ms Adele Sheridan-Magro (Australia, NSW)	Enhancing End-of-Life Care Volunteer Training: Integrating Self-Determination Theory and Functional Motives in an Online Learning Platform - Dr Zhuyun Lin (Hong Kong)	The Intersection of Trauma and other Psychosocial Factors in Complex Childhood Obesity - Ms Erin Haskins (Australia, VIC)
	16:20	The Differential Impacts of Shame and Guilt on Father Involvement in Families With Disabled Children: A Report of Mixed Methods Research - Dr Kai Chung Lo (Hong Kong)	Panel Discussion: Advancing Health Social Work Practice Through International Collaboration: The Sostyo Terva Health Social Work Audit Study - Prof Lynette Joubert (Australia, VIC) & Ms Leena Mannisto (Finland)	Experience of Maternity Care for Those Pregnant After Previous Pregnancy Loss - Ms Cecilia Judge (Australia, VIC)	Supporting New Social Work Supervisors in a Singapore Hospital - Ms Yuen Mei Won Dorcas (Singapore)	Together from the Start: Health Justice Partnership Between Monash Health and the Women's Legal Service Victoria - Mr Michael Splawa-Neyman (Australia, VIC) & Ms Carmel Lohan (Australia, VIC)	Workshop - Working Therapeutically with Teens - Integrating ACT and Family Systems Principles for Enhancing Parent-Teen Relationships Through the Connected Teens Parenting Program - Ms Marie Vakakis (Australia, VIC) - Workshop theme: Mental health social work	Culture: The Invisible Barrier to Public Mental Health - Ms Kirsty Diallo (Australia, QLD)	Workshop - The Benefits of Mindfulness Meditation Groups for Older People: An Evidence-Based, Experiential How-To Practice Workshop - Ms Beate Steller (Australia, NSW) - Workshop themes: Ageing populations, social work with older people, spirituality	Workshop - Empowering Social Workers Working With Transgender and Gender Diverse Families; Navigating the Difficult Conversations - Mrs Seanna Keeley (Australia, QLD) - Workshop theme: LGBTQIA+ folk	The Heart of Palliative Care Social Work- a Case Study - Mr Jamieson Lowe (Australia, VIC)	Workshop - Showcasing Theraplay® - Strengthening Family Systems, Attachment and Attunement Between Caregivers and Children Utilising Theraplay® - Ms Danielle Forer (Australia, VIC) - Workshop themes: Race, racialisation and ethnic disparities in health, adverse childhood experiences, adolescence
	16:40	When We Assume... A Reflection on Limiting Assumptions Imposed on People With Intellectual Impairment - Ms Sarah James (Australia, QLD)		From Shame to Self-Compassion: Helping People Understand Their Behaviour as Survival Adaptation to Trauma - Miss Jessica Epifanio Ferreira (Australia, NSW)	Exploring Social Workers Lived Experience in Supervision: A Different Kind of Trauma Informed Practice - Ms Carolyn Cousins (Australia, NSW)	Restorative Practice in Mental Health - A Journey of Learning Through Implementation, Opportunity and Outcomes to Address Harm in Secure and Community - Mr Michael Power (Australia, QLD) & Ms Catriona Harwood (Australia, QLD)		Palliative and End-of-Life Care in Adult Leukemia: Incorporating an Interdisciplinary Model and Continuous Goals of Care Discussions to Enhance Patient Outcomes - Ms Christina Lin (US) & Ms Alexa Manko (US)			Community Palliative Care Social Work: Working With Total Pain in the Dying: Encompassing the Physical, Psychological, Social, Spiritual, and Practical Struggles. What's It Really Like? - Ms Patricia Delaney (Australia, VIC) & Ms Annabel Bakes (Australia, VIC)	
	17:00	An Innovative Approach for People With Psychosocial Disability to Improve Patient Flow - Mrs Carissa Uzabeaga (Australia, QLD)		The Wisdom of Wombats: Research on Wombats Wish Grief Programs for Parentally Bereaved Children and Families - Ms Frances McAloon (Australia, VIC) & Ms Jill Crookes (Australia, VIC)	Stories of Self-Care: Sustaining Counsellors and Therapists in Their Work - Ms Lisa Spriggens (New Zealand)	From Bus Tickets to Case Formulations: The Introduction of Forensic Mental Health Social Work to an Existing Team - Mr John Ludlow (Australia, VIC)		The Stigma Status Among Family Caregivers of the Cognitively Impaired Elderly - Dr Yiqing Yuan (China)			Strategies and Challenges to Facilitate and Initiate Advance Care Planning and Decision-Making in Long-Term Care Facilities - Ms Fumin Sun (Taiwan)	
5	17:20	<b>Encore session 5 Stream 1</b> Exploring Play-Based Interventions for Refugee and Asylum-Seeking Children Affected by War and Conflict: A Scoping Review of an Often-Forgotten Population - Mrs Jemma Moody-Pugh (Australia, VIC)	<b>Encore session 5 Stream 2</b> Social Work Interventions at the Victorian Heart Hospital - 12-Month Model of Care Review - Helen Rais (Australia, VIC)	<b>Encore session 5 Stream 3</b> Addressing a social problem in a health Setting - Barbara Lang (Israel)	<b>Encore session 5 Stream 4</b> Implementing the Role of a Workforce Clinical Educator for Inpatient and Ambulatory Social Work Teams to Effectively Enhance Education and Upskilling of Practicing Clinicians - Mrs Rachel Coreia (Australia, VIC) & Mrs Jordyn Slater (Australia, VIC)	<b>Encore session 5 Stream 5</b> The Psychosocial Impacts on Long Stay Inpatients and Their Families Who Are Ready for Discharge but Waiting for National Disability Insurance Scheme Funding and Support - Miss Kate Sullivan (Australia, VIC), Ms Saskia Petris (Australia, VIC)	<b>Encore session 5 Stream 6</b> Using an Integrated Practice Framework for Effectively Engaging and Working with Vulnerable Men - Mr Simon Santosha (Australia, QLD)	<b>Encore session 5 Stream 7</b> Development of an Interprofessional Education (IPE) Program at a State University - Dr. Nicole Dubus (US)	<b>Encore session 5 Stream 8</b> Unveiling Challenges in Healthcare Social Work Assessment: Insights from Taiwan - Mr Chih Kai Yang (Taiwan)	<b>Encore session 5 Stream 9</b> An Introduction to the Safe and Together CORE Training. Making the violence visible and holding perpetrators accountable for their choice to use violence - Jackie Wruck (Australia, QLD)	<b>Encore session 5 Stream 10</b> Building Children's Sense of Identity and Belonging: Keeping Cultural Connections for Children from Multicultural Backgrounds in Out-of-Home-Care - Kathy Karatasas (Australia, NSW)	<b>Encore session 5 Stream 11</b> Enhancing Youth Mental Health Care: Onsite Youth Well-being Questionnaire Screening in Children's Emergency - Ms Li Shan Long (Singapore)

Session	Time	Opening Session											
6	08:15 - 9:15	Keynote Presentation: Global Systemic Shifts Influencing Social Work: Determining our Priorities for Future Practice - Associate Professor Heather Boetto											
	9:15 -10:00	Norma Parker Address - Mrs Julianne Whyte OAM, AASW National President											
10:00 – 10:30 Morning Tea – Main Foyer 2 & 3													
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7		Agile Social Work Practices and Strategies in Disaster Scenarios and Times of Crisis	Strengthening Connections: Family, Community and Specialist Interventions in Mental Health Social Work chaired by Dr Jessica Russ-Smith	Cultural Kaleidoscope and World Wide Wisdom: International Approaches to Social Prescribing chaired by Dr Brooke Kooymans	Diverse Strategies, Insights and Innovations on Child Protection chaired by Dr Hadas Rosenne	Research to Practice: Academic Insights and Innovations in across Social Work chaired by Dr Louise Whitaker	Young Minds Unlocked: Strategies for Supporting Child and Adolescent Mental Health - Interactive stream chaired by Dr Fiona Oates	Social Work's Impact on Community Well-being of Community - Interactive stream chaired by Dr Sue Gilleatt	Building Inclusive Social Work for LGBTQIA+ People - Interactive stream chaired by Mrs Julianne Whyte	The Realities of Migration and Survival: Social Workers Empowering Migrants chaired by Dr Fotina Hardy	Dynamic Approaches to Wellbeing and Effective Strategies for Social Workers - Interactive stream chaired by Professor Sue Green	Breaking the Cycle and Confronting Health Inequalities - Interactive stream chaired by Dr Anita Morris	
	10:30	Enablers for Attaining the Right to Adequate Housing in an Australian Disaster Recovery Context – A Macro Ecosocial Work Approach - Dr Lisa Ewenson (Australia, NSW)	Construction of the Experience in Mental Health Problems Among Adolescents and Youth of China Within the Family Setting - Ms Xuan Gao (Hong Kong)	Enhancing and Promoting the Prescription of Physical Activity to Mental Health Consumers - Mr Abiola Albert (Australia, QLD)	The Butterfly Effect: Small Things to Matter. A Churchill Fellowship to Explore Recruitment and Retention Initiatives to Increase Workforce Stability in Child Protection - Ms Alison Trehwella (Australia, ACT)	The Blueprint for Better Mental Health and Suicide Prevention in the Australian Building and Construction Industry - Mr Nick Thompson (Australia, QLD)	Self-evaluation and Sexual Self-concept of Female Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse in Hong Kong - Dr Hoi Nga Ng (China)	Healing Interpersonal Trauma Through Animal Assisted Therapy - Mrs Anita Geary (Australia, VIC)	Acknowledging and Celebrating LGBTQIA+ Identity: Trauma Informed LGBTQIA+ Affirming Social Work Interventions - Mr Oliver Wright (Australia, VIC)	Choosing Between Death by Cancer or Deportation: Barriers to Undocumented Immigrants Receiving Oncology Treatment and the Role of Social Work in Fighting for Equitable Care - Ms Claire Raizen (US)	Leading Health and Justice Wellbeing in our Community – A Partnership Across the Lifespan - Ms Jennifer Mace (Australia, WA) & Ms Alison MacLean (Australia, WA)	Nurturing Roots of Rural Resilience: Navigating the Paediatric Health Drought When Diagnosis Is Not Enough - Ms Sonia Gain (Australia, NSW), Ms Stella Rillstone (Australia, NSW) & Ms Kristen Renshaw (Australia, NSW)	
	10:50	Things We Never Imagined We Would Do! - Ms Barbara Lang (Israel) & Dr Yael Goor Kol (Israel)	Social Work and Mental Health Practice Implications - Today and Tomorrow in the Post-COVID aftermath - Dr Mayio Konidaris (Australia, VIC)	Family-based Intervention for Adolescents with Scoliosis During Brace Treatment: A Qualitative Study - Prof Mei Chun Cheung (Hong Kong)	Client Engagement in Child Protection Case Work in the Perinatal Period - Prof Sarah Wise (Australia, VIC)	An Interprofessional Simulation Workshop in Delivering Bad News in an Intensive Care Unit - Miss Ling Jiao Wong (Singapore)	A Social Work Response to the Increasing Behavioural Health Presentations to Paediatric Emergency Departments Where Discharge Is Complicated Due to Barriers Access to Existing Services - Ms Sarah Tucker (Australia, WA)	Transforming the Sense of Loneliness Among Older Adults in Hong Kong: The Effectiveness of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy Group - Ms Wai Man Lau (Hong Kong) & Mr Ho Hin Wan (Hong Kong)	Neuroqueer: Social Work in Health and Mental Health at the Intersections of Neurodivergence, Gender and Queerness - Mx Briannon Stevens (Australia, QLD)	Pivoting Practice: Building Capacity to Serve Youth Impacted by Trafficking - Mrs Chelsea Minhas (Canada)	Co-leadership of Balint Groups - an autoethnographic analysis - Ms Tamara Holmes (Australia, VIC)	The Reality for Autistic Individuals: Co-Occurring Conditions, Misdiagnosis & Barriers to Healthcare, the Role of Social Work in Addressing these Systemic Issues - Mrs Leah Heale (Australia, VIC)	
	11:10	Delivering Mental Health Services for First Responders – New Queensland State-Wide Initiatives of Fire & Emergency Services Support Network (FESSN) - Ms Jatinder Kaur (Australia, QLD)	Building Connections: Exploring How the Colocation of a Clinical and Non-clinical Mental Health Phone Service Has Supported the Integration of Referral Pathways - Miss Cristal Hall (Australia, VIC) & Miss Petra Brychtova (Australia, VIC)	Developing and Evaluating a Colloquium for University Students as Future Link Workers for a Localized Social Prescribing Program in Taiwan - A/Prof Samuel Shih-Chih Wang (Taiwan)	Panel Discussion : Developing an Evidence-Informed Child and Family Service Organisation Through Data Driven Continuous Practice Improvement - Dr Lynette Buoy (Australia, VIC), Mr Warren Cann (Australia, VIC), Mr Vincent Lagioia (Australia, VIC), Ms Kristy Morley (Australia, VIC) & Ms Monique Yeoman (Australia, VIC)	Panel Discussion : The 5+1 Model: Promoting Effective Health Social Work Research and Practice in Hospitals Through an Academic Practitioner Partnership - Prof Lynette Joubert (Australia, VIC), Ms Alison Hocking (Australia, VIC) & Ms Glenda Kerridge (Australia, VIC)	Workshop - Emotional Freedom Techniques for Anxiety including simple techniques for clients and self care - Ms Khadine Aharon (Australia, NSW) - Workshop themes: Child and adolescent mental health, mental health social work	Workshop - Effective Partnership and Collaboration for Holistic Support and Community Wellbeing - Ms Grace Leotta (Australia, NSW) - Workshop theme: Community social work	Workshop - Zines as a Feminist, Anti-Oppressive Approach to Knowledge Production and Self-Exploration with Regional/Rural and LGBTQIA+ Young People - Mx Rhiannon Williams-Demmon (Australia, VIC) - Workshop themes: Child and adolescent sexual abuse and exploitation, family, domestic and gendered violence, community social work	Work - Risk Factors for the Mental Health of Immigrants in Australia: A Systematic Review - Miss Lang Su (Australia, ACT)	Workshop - Nature Based Social Prescribing - Integrating Nature-Based Interventions for Social and Environmental Well-Being - Ms Kit Kline (Australia, VIC). Workshop themes: Supervision, mental health, social work, health – primary & community	Workshop - Expanding Biopsychosocial Assessments to Make Them Neurodiversity Affirming - Ms Freya Maberly (Australia, VIC) - Workshop themes: Mental health social work, child and adolescent mental health, disability	
	11:30	There's Enough Work for Everyone: Collaboration Between the Social Work and Patient Experience Departments During the Iron Swords War - Ms Nurit Tamsot (Israel)	Pursuing Practice Standards for Specialist Bereavement Services in New South Wales, Australia - Dr Kristin Bindley (Australia, NSW)	From Fear to Empowerment: Supporting Caregiving Preparedness in Hong Kong - Dr Sally Ka-Wing Lo (Hong Kong)						Challenges Confronting Chinese Mental Health Clinicians in Australia: Integrating Practitioners' Reflections with Literature Review - Dr Xulong Zhi (Australia, QLD) & Mrs Xuejiao Li (Australia, VIC)			
	11:50	Seeking Professional Help and Satisfaction from the Treatment Among Displaced People from War Zones - Prof Miriam Schiff (Israel)	Beyond Making Cups of Tea: The Importance and Skill of Mental Health Social Workers in Treating and Improving Mental Health Issues - Ms Ashton Hayes (Australia, NSW)	Community-Enhanced Social Prescribing: A Mixed Methods Feasibility Study of a New Practice Model - Prof Martin Webber (UK)						Pillows Filled with Tears... Syrian Refugees' Journey to Australia: Narratives of Human Courage and Resilience - Mrs Rosemary Qummouh (Australia, NSW)			
12:10 – 13:10 Standing Lunch – Main Foyer 2 & 3													

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8		Advancing Hospital Social Work: Policy, Practice and Psychosocial Innovations	Socioeconomic and Health Parity: Social Work's Role in Bridging Health & Income Inequalities chaired by Dr Bindi Bennet	Beyond Suicide Prevention: Postvention Strategies and Aftercare Practices in Social Work chaired by Ms Robyn Farrands	Cross-Cultural Approaches and Perspectives on Child Protection chaired by Ms Chris Hannan	Empowering Rural and Isolated Communities through Social Work chaired by Mrs Muriel Wymarra	Young Minds Unlocked: Strategies for Supporting Child and Adolescent Mental Health - Interactive stream chaired by Ms Carolyn Cousins	Social Work Perspectives on Navigating Trauma - Interactive stream chaired by Ashton Hayes	Integrated Care for Social Workers in Disability & Mental Health - Interactive stream chaired by Mrs Muriel Wymarra	Tech for Good: Embracing AI and Digital Tools to Make Social Work Future-Ready chaired by Prof Martin Webber	Transforming Healthcare to Address Race, Racialisation & Ethnic Disparities in Health chaired by Dr Sue Gillieatt	Human Rights Challenges and Solutions in Social Work - Interactive stream chaired by Ms Angela Scarfe
	13:10	A Missed Window of Opportunity: Perpetrators of Domestic and Family Violence Remain Invisible in the Hospital Setting - Ms Danielle Schalk (Australia, WA)	Understanding Factors Impacting Repeated Service Engagement and Employment Stability Among Individuals with Disabilities in an Urban Area of Taiwan - Ms. Hui Ching Chuang (Taiwan) & Dr Yi-Ling Wu (Taiwan)	A Renewed Approach to Hospital-Based Suicide Aftercare in a Rural-Australian Community - Mr Chris Harvey (Australia, VIC)	Development of a Youth-Engaged Scaffolding (YES) Model for Child Development: Results from a Preliminary Need Assessment - Prof Saju Madavanakadu Devassy (India)	Women Farmers: Innovation and Intuition During Drought in Australia - Prof Jennifer Martin (Australia, VIC) & Dr Lauren Zeuschner (Australia, VIC)	It's Safe to Speak up- Unusual Partnerships to Empower Children and Enhance Safety - Ms Nicola Watt (Australia, VIC) & Ms Carla Collins (Australia, VIC)	Integrating Responses to Suicidal Ideation – Enhancing Clinical Knowledge and Skills Into Health Based Social Work Student Field Placements - Ms Sandra Young (Australia, QLD) & Mrs Voirrey Brown (Australia, QLD)	National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) – The Changing Landscape for Social Work and the Untapped Potential - Dr Brooke Kooymans (Australia, QLD)	The use of video games in therapy: Supporting mental health, social navigation and executive functioning needs of neurodivergent children with mainstream games - Mrs Nicky Trussler (Australia, VIC)	The Impacts of the Black Rhinos Primary Prevention Basketball Program for the African-Australian Community in South-Eastern Melbourne - Dr Sarah Williams (Australia, VIC) and Abraham Kuol (Australia, VIC)	Barriers to Implementing Supported Decision Making in an Acute Hospital - A Qualitative Study of Clinicians' Perspectives - Ms Patrice Higgins (Australia, ACT)
	13:30	A Structured Template for Social Work Psychosocial Assessments and Formulations in Healthcare - Ms Kim Sutherland (Australia, QLD)	Financial Resilience Counteracts the COVID-19 Socioeconomic Challenges: Exploring Gender Inequality in Mediation Mechanisms Between Job Insecurity, Income Shock, and Mental Health Outcomes - Mr Zewei Liu (Hong Kong)	Removing Barriers Created by Categorisation – Reflections on a Youth Mental Health Service Embedding a New Suicide Risk Formulation Approach - Miss Melissa Stirling (Australia, WA)	The Health and Social Service Needs of Mothers with Infants Involved with Child Protection: Factors Affecting Service Utilisation, Engagement and Satisfaction - Dr Ellen Pittman (Australia, VIC)	Young Parent Coordinated Care Project: an Example From Regional Australia - Dr Fiona Oates (Australia, QLD)	Do Social Workers Have the Appropriate Knowledge and Skills to Support Victims and Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse - Ms Alisa Hall (Australia, QLD)	Working With Families to Support Youth Mental Health: A New Practice Tool Designed by and for Social Workers - Dr Elise Woodman (Australia, ACT)	Your Experiences Matter: Understanding the Experiences of People With Psychosocial Disability and Trauma Histories Accessing and Utilising the National Disability Insurance Scheme - Miss Keely Walsh (Australia, TAS)	Social Work in a Technologically Mediated World: A Theoretically Informed Exploration - Dr Campbell Tickner (Australia, NSW)	Relational Practice: Supporting Social Work and Diversity - Dr Greg Smith (Australia, VIC)	“Walk a Mile in My Shoes!” ‘Mental Health Project’ to Raise Funds and Awareness for Mental Health Related Issues and Reduce the Stigma Often Associated - Mrs Justine Brogna (Australia, VIC)
	13:50	International Hospital Social Work Panel - Hospital Social Work - Models of Care: Policy, Practice and Innovations - Prof Lynette Joubert (Australia, VIC), Ms Melissa Chew (Singapore), Ms Elisa Gordon (USA), Ms Mary Joyce (Australia, WA), Ms Leena Mannisto (Finland), Dr Hadas Rosenne (Israel) & Dr Samuel Shih-Chih Wang (Taiwan)	Social Work Practice in General Practice Settings - Dr Zuchowski Ines (Australia, QLD)	Panel Discussion: Suicide Postvention Planning, Response, and Recovery in Tertiary Education Does Not Solely Rest on the Shoulders of University Employed Social Workers - Mrs Jessica Morgan (Australia, TAS)	Panel Discussion : Enhancing the Social and Emotional Well-Being and Cultural Connections of Children in Out-Of-Home Care: Findings of Multi-Stakeholder Study - Prof Karen Healy (Australia, QLD), Ms Iryna Kolesnikova (Australia, QLD), Ms Kate Thompson (Australia, QLD) & Dr Jemma Venables (Australia, QLD)	Empowering Minds and Transforming Lives: Rural Hospital Social Work Across Health, Mental Health and Justice/Legal Domains - Dr Cynthia Holland (Australia, VIC)	Workshop - Utilising a Human Centred Design Thinking Framework to Address High Levels of Distress in Children Under 12 Years - Ms Emma Ashe (Australia, QLD) Workshop themes: Child and adolescent mental health, suicide prevention, mental health social work	Workshop - Moral Injury: The Unseen Trauma Impact for Social Work Practitioners - Ms Lauren Finemore (Australia, NSW) - Workshop themes: Trauma, disaster social work, family, domestic and gendered violence	Workshop - Application of the “Connecting the Dots” Methodology in Psychiatric Symptomatology Intervention and Prevention - Mrs Fiona Stojevski (Australia, VIC) - Workshop themes: Mental health social work, trauma, disability	Working with Technology: Development and Usability Testing of the Intelligent Medical Social Work System - Mr Tung-Hsien Chuang (Taiwan)	Whiteness as Risk: Reconceptualising Risk in Restrictive Practices and Positive Behaviour Support Plans - Dr Aniq Farwa (Australia, NSW), Associate Professor Jessica Russ-Smith (Australia, ACT) & Dr Amelia Wheeler (Australia, ACT)	Workshop - Who Holds the Power? A Critique of Power in Health and Mental Health Settings and an Exploration of Practical Methods for ‘Doing’ Strengths-Based Practice - Mr Andrew Shirres (Australia, VIC) - Workshop themes: Human rights advocacy, mental health social work
	14:10		The Three-Legged Race: Relationship Between Clubhouse and Persons With Psychosocial Disabilities Participating in Policy-Based Employment Service Program -Taking Taiwan's Eden Clubhouse for Example - Miss Chiu-Hui Chen (Taiwan)			The Social Workers Role Supporting Autistic Children From a Neurodiversity Affirming Perspective Using Therapy, Case Management and Advocacy - Mrs Nicky Trussler (Australia, VIC)				Podcasting Perinatal Perspectives: Leveraging Lived and Professional Experience for Better Mental Health Outcomes on a Global Scale - Ms Gemma Smith (Australia, QLD)	Support Groups for Sickle Cell Patients: Using New Technology to Expand Supportive Spaces - Ms Carolyn Hutson (US)	
	14:30		LGBTIQA+ Youth Peer Mentoring in Practice: Community Development with Therapeutic Wellbeing - Mr George Ioannides (Australia, VIC)				The Sexuality in Dementia Pilot Project - Ms Bronwyn Cutler (Australia, WA)			Data Science and Hospital Social Work: Utilizing EMRs to Capture Social Determinants of Health Data, Enhance Patient Care, and Support the Role of Social Work - Dr Victoria Rodriguez (US)	The Importance of Promoting Wellness and Cultural Diversity in Social Work Education for Hong Kong Chinese and Ethnically Diverse Students and Practitioners - Dr Kai Chung Lo (Hong Kong) & Prof K.W. Carrie Li (Hong Kong)	

14:50 – 15:20 Afternoon Tea – Main Foyer 2 & 3

Session	Time	Stream 1 - Plenary	Stream 2 - MR219	Stream 3 - MR208	Stream 4 - MR220	Stream 5 - MR216	Stream 6 - MR209	Stream 7 - MR217	Stream 8 - MR206	Stream 9 - MR218	Stream 10 - MR214	Stream 11 - MR215
9		From Collaboration to Innovation: Leadership and Research in Hospital Social Work	Valour and Vulnerability Social Work's Role in Veteran Support chaired by Dr Anita Morris	Empowering Change and Building Safe Communities Through Social Work Responses to Family, Domestic & Gendered Violence chaired by Ms Robyn Farrands	World Wide Guardians: International Efforts in Child Protection chaired by Ms Chris Hannan	Social Work in the 21st Century is Redefining Support and the Future of Care chaired by Professor Martin Webber	Young Minds Unlocked: Strategies for Supporting Child and Adolescent Mental Health - Interactive stream chaired by Dr Brooke Kooymans	Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Social Work - Interactive stream chaired by Mr Chris Harvey	Healing Together, Community Social Work and Mental Health - Interactive stream chaired by Mrs Muriel Wymarra	Social Work Innovations with LGBTIQ+ Communities sponsored by LGBTIQ+ Health Australia chaired by Dr Fotina Hardy	Digital Interventions in a Modern World - Interactive stream chaired by Mrs Julianne Whyte	Enhanced Care and Tailored Support for Disability and Sensory Social Work - Interactive stream chaired by Mr David Stracey
	15:20	Navigating Change in Social Work in Health Care: A Leadership Coaching Approach - Ms Elisa Gordon (US)	Navigating the Transition From Military to Civilian Life: Global Perspectives from the International Military Social Work Consortium - Ms Karen Green (Australia, QLD)	Social Work's Contribution to Collaboratively Developing Innovative Domestic and Sexual Violence Training Resources to Build Dental Workforce Capability and Facilitate Best Practice - Ms Simone Dewar (Australia, QLD)	Addressing Denial: A Case Study on Facilitating Respectful and Accountable Conversations With Perpetrators of Family Violence Using the 'Ethical Inquiry' - Mr Ryan Greenwell (Australia, WA)	The Challenge of White Fragility When Preparing Social Workers for Times of Deep Uncertainty - Dr Kate Vincent (Australia, TAS)	Exploring the Differential Response of Parental Depression on Child Eczema Severity: Insights from a Psychosocial Group Intervention in a Randomized Controlled Trial - Prof Celia Hoi Yan Chan (Australia, VIC) & Ms Alison Yik Tung Chan (Hong Kong)	A Collaborative Approach in Suicide Prevention: Clinical Practice Experiences from Social Work Perspective - Mr Edwin Alexander (Australia, VIC)	'They Are My Tribe': An Exploratory Study Into How a Self-Organising Women's Swimming Group Improved Wellbeing, Social Connectedness and the Love of Blue Spaces - A/Prof Doris Testa (Australia, VIC)	Clinical Experiences and Therapeutic Approaches of Mental Health Practitioners Serving Transgender and Gender-Diverse Adolescents - Mrs Neta Magen (Israel)	Increasing Access to Person-Centered Care with Digital Therapeutics - Miss Marie Louise Singh (Australia, NSW)	Key Findings About School Attendance Difficulties from School Can't Australia's December 2022 Survey. Implications for Practice - Ms Tiffany Westphal (Australia, VIC)
	15:40	"It's the Journey Not Just the Outcome". Reflections of an Australian Acute Metropolitan Hospital Social Worker Stepping Into Research - Mrs Charmaine Drakoulas (Australia, VIC)	Veteran Wellbeing: Insights into Help-Seeking and Access to Social Work Health Services - Mr Andrew Prevett (Australia, SA) & Dr Emma Rush (Australia, NSW)	Committing to the Future: Investing in the Health and Wellbeing of Social Workers to Navigate a Changing World - Ms Carlee Prider (Australia, WA) & Ms Gabrielle Le Bon (Australia, NSW)	Hospital-Based Healthcare at the Interface with Child Protection: Multidisciplinary Practitioner Perspectives From the Frontlines - Ms Maegan Johnsen (Australia, WA)	Teaching for Wellness: Student-led Strategies for Promoting International Student Wellbeing in Social Work Education - Ms Hanh Tu Duc Nguyen (Australia, VIC)	Advocacy and Relational Practice: Building Bridges Over Ravines? - Ms Rebecca Betts (Australia, QLD), Ms Maryanne Long (Australia, QLD) & Dr Louise Whitaker (Australia, QLD)	Falling through the Cracks: The Lessons of Establishing an Effective Service Response for People Experiencing a Suicidal Crisis - Ms Wendy Cadman (Australia, QLD)	Beyond Yoga: Integrating an Embodied Practice into Social Work - Ms Amy Brooks (Australia, NSW)	Slaying the Foundation: Building Capacity and Promoting LGBTIQ+ Safe and Inclusive Care in a Major Australian Trauma Hospital Through Clinical Lived-Experience Roles - Mx Tegan Murnane (Australia, VIC) & Mx Connor Gryffydd (Australia, VIC)	Enhancing Service-Level Data to Illuminate the Co-Occurring Needs of the Diverse Population of People at Risk of, or Experiencing Homelessness: Implications for Service Provision - Miss Jessica Dobrovic (Australia, SA)	Blooming Well: Integrating Therapeutic Horticulture into Social Work Practice - Ms Tanya Bearup (Australia, VIC)
	16:00	Panel Discussion: The Whole is Greater than the Sum of its Parts: Lessons Learned from an International Research Collaboration - Ms Sophie Cheng Xiaolin (Singapore), Dr Samuel Shih-Chih (Taiwan), Dr Fang Fu (China), Dr. Amy Chow (Hong Kong) & Prof Lynette Joubert (Australia, VIC)	Transforming Trauma with Emotional Freedom Techniques - Ms Khadine Aharon (Australia, NSW)	A Systematic Review of the Existing Social Policy and Social Services Delivery in Response to Family Poly-Victimization in East Asian Societies - Prof Edward Ko-Ling Chan (China)	Being Close to Social Work Practice: How Research Observations of Encounters Between Social Workers and Service Users Can Be Done and Produce Invaluable Knowledge - Prof Harry Ferguson (UK)	Outcomes from Development of a Graduate Social Work Education Program in a Public Hospital in Melbourne, Australia, with Implications for Student Placements and Professional Development - Ms Tess McAloon (Australia, VIC) & Ms Anna Wellington-Boyd (Australia, VIC)	Workshop - That Trust Thing. Exploring Mental Health Intervention Responses With Young Survivors of Violence, Abuse, and Neglect - Mary Jo McVeigh (Australia, NSW) - Workshop themes: Child and adolescent mental health, service user and survivor research, mental health social work	Workshop - Underneath the Masculine Mask: How to Effectively Engage and Work with Men and Fathers Experiencing Depression - Mr Simon Santosha (Australia, QLD) - Workshop themes: Gender and health, mental health social work, suicide prevention	Workshop - Grounded Therapy: Nurturing the Mother-Infant Relationship From the Floor Up - Ms Bridget Dillon (Australia, ACT) - Workshop themes: Community social work, mental health social work, trauma	Panel Discussion : Getting Transformative; The Spectrum of Social Work Practice with Trans* People - Mrs Seanna Keeley (Australia, QLD), Mx Connor Gryffydd (Australia, VIC), Mr Andy Allen (Australia, VIC) & Ms Jani Forest-Wyatt (Australia, QLD)	Workshop - From Values to Practice: Empowering Social Work Entrepreneurs in a Changing World - Mrs Allyson Smith (Australia, TAS) - Workshop themes: Mental health social work, supervision, artificial intelligence and digital interventions in social work practice	Workshop - Using a Neurobiological Lens to Identify and Reduce School-Based Stressors Experienced by Neurodivergent Students, Experiencing School Attendance Difficulties. How to Provide Neuro-Affirming Support - Ms Tiffany Westphal (Australia, VIC) - Workshop themes: School Social Work, Disability, Child and Adolescent Mental Health
	16:20		Sexual Offending: The Integration of Social Work & Trauma Informed Practice into the Joint Military Police Force - Ms Shauna Crimean (Australia, QLD)	Diffuse - Working With Men in a Correctional Setting - Mr Luke Pepperell (Australia, VIC) & Mr Luke McCord (Australia, VIC)	Perception of Parents Towards a Parenting Program Aimed at Reducing Child Physical Abuse in Hong Kong - Dr Yiu Tsang Andrew Low (Hong Kong)	Competent but Underrepresented: Exploring the Potential Clinical Leadership Through Critical Care Expansion Project in New Zealand - Ms Ai Sumihira (New Zealand)						
	16:40			Listening to the Voices of Children When Working With Families Experiencing Domestic and Family Violence and Child Protection Risk - Ms Kerry Beck (Australia, SA) & Ms Ginny Cisneros (Australia, SA)	The Benefits of Animal-Assisted Therapy When Working with Trauma and Children in Out Of Home Care - Mrs Chakera Houtby (Australia, QLD)	'My Coffee Friends that's talk about us': An Innovative Social Enterprise Using the TIC (Trauma-Informed Care) Model to Promote Mental Health in the Community - Miss Hsiao-ling Hsu (Taiwan)						

17:00 Closing

Session	Time	Stream 1 - Plenary	Stream 2 - MR218	Stream 3 - MR220	Stream 4 - MR219	Stream 5 - MR217	Stream 6 - MR206	Stream 7 - MR214	Stream 8 - MR216	Stream 9 - MR215	Stream 10 - MR209	Stream 11 - MR208	
7:45 am - 8:45 am Australian Social Work History Networking meeting													
10		Reimagining Mental Health Social Work	Intersectional Advocacy to Champion Equality: Gender Health and Social Justice in Action chaired by Dr Fotina Hardy	Innovations in Hospital Social Work: From Assessment Tools to Inclusive Practices chaired by Dr Brooke Kooymans	Beyond the Margins: Confronting Stigma in Housing and Homelessness chaired by Dr Jessica Russ-Smith	Graceful Aging Holistic Approaches in Social Work with Seniors chaired by Ms Elisa Gordon	Healing Invisible Wounds: Addressing Trauma in Mental Health Social Work and Pathways Forward - Interactive stream chaired by Ms Chris Hannan	Mindful Futures and Integrative Approaches to Child and Adolescent Mental Health - Interactive stream chaired by Ms Carolyn Cousins	Data to Action: Bridging Research and Practice in Social Work chaired by Professor Sue Green	Human Centred Design - Changing our Approach - Interactive stream chaired by Mrs Muriel Wymarra	Change Makers: Social Work and Activism through Community Development chaired by Ms Charlie Evans	Bridging Comprehensive Social Work Approaches chaired by Ms Penelope Watson	
	9:00	When, Where and by Whom? - Educating for Transformative Mental Health Social Work Practice - Dr Fredrik Velander (Australia, NSW) & Dr Louise Whitaker (Australia, QLD)	The Influence of Gender Stereotypes on Women's Quality of Life in Hong Kong: A Mediation Analysis - Ms Alison Yik Tung Chan (Hong Kong) & Prof Celia Hoi Yan Chan (Australia VIC)	Improving Bereavement Care in the Acute Hospital Setting: A Practice Research Approach to Developing an Advanced Practice Role - Ms Melanie Van Diemen (Australia, VIC)	On the Frontline of the Housing Crisis in Melbourne - Challenges Experienced by Victorian Metropolitan Mental Health Social Workers at IPU Settings - Ms Audrey Ciappara (Australia, VIC) & Ms Patricia Toczek (Australia, VIC)	Social Frailty in Older People: A Scoping Review of Assessment Tools - Prof Martin Webber (UK) & Prof Lynette Joubert (Australia, VIC)	Creating a Virtual Program for Children who have been Sexually Abused - a service system design process - Mrs Joanne Allen-Keeling (Australia, QLD) & Mr David Stracey (Australia, QLD)	Explorations of the Practitioner's Relationship with the Infant in Out-of-Home Care - Ms Robyn Kemble (Australia, QLD)	Storytelling in a safe space: Using Therapeutic Life Story Work to promote healing for children who have experienced trauma. - Mrs Jodie Mollison (Australia, NSW)	Writing a Love Letter to Your Social Work Identity - Mrs Emily Gillmartin (Australia, VIC)	From Community Development to Sustainable Community: the Development of Four Communities in Taiwan - Mr You Xiang Chen (Taiwan)	Pathway to Residential Aged Care: A Royal Melbourne Hospital Initiative - Ms Lorri Chandler (Australia, VIC) & Ms Lucy Thompson (Australia, VIC)	
	9:20	Establishment and Priority Setting for the Mental Health Family and Carer Research Advocacy Network (FaCRAN) - Ms Caroline Walters (Australia, VIC) & Dr Melissa Petrakis (Australia, VIC)	A Pilot Study of Aging, Social Support, and Loneliness among Gay Men in Taiwan - Chi-Shuo Lee (Taiwan)	No More Shame - Social Work Role in a National Research Project - Ms Gianna Renshaw (Australia, WA)	Connecting to Home in Transitional Accommodation: An Account of Consumers With Mental Health Issues in Hong Kong - Dr Jialiang Cui (Hong Kong)	A Window of Opportunity - The Royal Melbourne Hospital Response to Elder Abuse - Ms Dominique Horne (Australia, VIC)	Collaborative Creation of an Integrated Art-centered Online Platform for Perinatal Bereavement Care in Hong Kong : Multidisciplinary Design and Planning - Mr Chris Ng (Hong Kong)	The Significance of Mental Health as a Factor in Filicide: New Models of Appropriate Intervention and Prevention - Prof Thea Brown (Australia, VIC)	'Artful Doing': The Introduction of a Reflective Practice Model and Its Transformative Potential - Dr Gillian Robinson (Australia, VIC)	A Preliminary Analysis of MSW Students Attitudes Towards Neuroscience: Implications for MSW Education and Training - Ms Rochanne Honarvar (US)	Mental Health Is Hilarious! Sharing a Good News Story About Stand-up Comedy and a Place-Based Approach to Tackling Loneliness in Regional Communities - Ms Brittany Slezak (Australia, VIC)	A Practice Framework for Social Workers Responding to Elder Abuse in Hospital Settings - A/Prof Maree Petersen (Australia, QLD), A/Prof Cheryl Tilse (Australia, QLD) & Dr Gai Harrison (Australia, QLD)	
	9:40	Lived Experience Expertise and Social Work Practitioner-Administrator Leadership Engaging In Co-Design, Co-Production and Practice-Based Research During and Following Inpatient Mental Health Care - Dr Melissa Petrakis (Australia, VIC)	Understanding Elective Egg Freezing and Fertility Decisions Among Nulliparous Chinese Women in Hong Kong: A Collaborative Focus Group Study - Ms Yecheu Yao (Hong Kong)	The Early Beginnings of Finnish Health Social Work - Mrs Miia Stähle (Finland)	Enhancing Workforce Wellbeing, Attraction, and Retention in the Housing and Homelessness Sector in Queensland - Ms Fiona Cangilia (Australia, QLD)	They Need Us to Think Differently: Senior Friendly Psychotherapy - Ms Felicity Chapman (Australia, SA)	Workshop - What Is the Role of Social Work in Supporting the Victims of Scamming How to Understand the Impact of it and Best Support the Victims - Ms Patricia Toczek (Australia, VIC) - Workshop themes: Mental health social work, stigma, discrimination and shame, trauma	Workshop - Neurodiversity and Trauma - Mrs Amanda Flynn (Australia, QLD) - Workshop themes: Sensory social work, Private practice, Disability	Panel Discussion : A Professional Initiative in Practice-Based Research and Supporting Health and Social Care in Australia: The AASW Research Committee - Dr Sue Gillieatt (Australia, WA), Meagan Johnsen (Australia, WA), Prof Lynette Joubert (Australia, VIC), Lorraine Muller (Australia, QLD) & Dr Louise Whitaker (Australia, QLD)	Working with Dads - Mr Dom Alford (Australia, VIC) - Workshop themes: Family, domestic and gendered violence	Shaping for Practice: Integrating Industry Field Educators into Social Work Teams to Support Workforce Development - Ms Sacha King (Australia, NT)	Utilization of the Clinical Social Work Role on an Interdisciplinary Team Caring for Patients Managing Inflammatory Bowel Disease - Ms Amanda Hyne (US)	
	10:00	Insights from 2018 Australian Senate Inquiry: Mental Health in Rural Western Australia - Miss Amanda Wornum (Australia, WA) & Ms Janine Joyce (Australia, WA)	Young Women's Stories of Attempted Suicide in Regional QLD - Ms Paloma Cesare (Australia, QLD)	Developing the Health Social Work Assessment Tool - Mrs Leena Männistö (Finland)	Homeless Healthcare: A Unique Social Work Model Driven by Service Users - Ms Christine Strong (Australia, NSW)	Reducing Heat Risk Through Hospital Discharge Planning: Older and Health Compromised Adults During Periods of Extreme Heat - A/Prof Ros Darracott (Australia, QLD)						Social Work and the Climate Crisis: Narratives from Australian Practitioners and the Applicability of Critical Reflection to Support Climate Engagement - Dr Johanna Donkers (Australia, VIC)	They don't train you about love: Supporting the Mental Health of Modern Foster and Kinship Carers - Ms Kathryn Eberly (Australia, VIC)
	10:20	Reinvigorating Mental Health: A Codesign Approach Fostering Transformative Wellbeing Practice in the Mental Health Sector - Dr Jean Carruthers (Australia, NSW) & Mr Canice Curtis (Australia, QLD)	Consumer Research in Ovarian Cancer: a Social Worker's Lived-Experience - Ms Jacinta Frawley (Australia, NSW)	Informing Social Work Practice with Enhanced Data Management, Implications for Service Delivery and High Social Risk Consumer Groups - Ms Mary Joyce (Australia, WA) & Ms Valda Duffield (Australia, WA)	Thinking Differently About Community Service Data to Improve Our Knowledge of What Works: A Youth Homelessness Example - Ms Lydia Alexander (Australia, SA) & Miss Jessica Dobrovic (Australia, SA)	The Happy Kakis (THK): A Blended Early Intervention Approach To Social Isolation Among Older Adults - Mr Christopher Pang (Singapore) & Mr Ignatius Pereira (Singapore)						Promoting Young People's Learning by Enhancing Parental Mental Health and Well-being in Culturally Diverse Communities - Dr Melanie Wong (New Zealand)	Journey to inpatient hospice care: a qualitative study on the decision-making process of Chinese family caregivers of persons with advanced cancer - Dr Fang Fu (China)
10:40 – 11:10 Morning Tea – Main Foyer 2 & 3													
11		<b>Closing Session</b>											
	11:10	International Keynote Speaker - "Diagnosing" Resilience Across Cultures and Contexts: Seeing the Positives in Young People Even When There are Serious Problems - Dr Michael Ungar (Canada)											
	12:10	International Keynote Speaker - Standing in the Winds of Systemic Discrimination - Dr Cindy Blackstock (Canada)											
	13:10	Awards & Closing Remarks - Mrs Julianne Whyte OAM, AASW National President											
13:40 Event Ends													

# SOCIAL PROGRAM



## WELCOME RECEPTION

Join us for a cocktail reception in the exhibition area to network with peers, make new friends or reconnect with colleagues. Included in all full in-person registrations, the Welcome Reception will include drinks and canapes.

Date: Tuesday 19 November 2024

Time: 5:00 – 7:00pm

Venue: Foyer 2 & 3, Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre

Includes: Drinks & canapes

Dress code: Smart casual

## GALA DINNER

Join us for an unforgettable evening at the official Gala Dinner of the 10th International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health on Thursday 21 November 2024. This inclusive event will bring together social work professionals across the industry from Australia and all around the world for an evening of celebration, networking, and fun!

We are delighted to announce that the Gala Dinner will be held at Zinc at Federation Square; their experience and passion for creating phenomenal events will surely have delegates talking about this evening for years to come.

Date: Thursday 21 November 2024

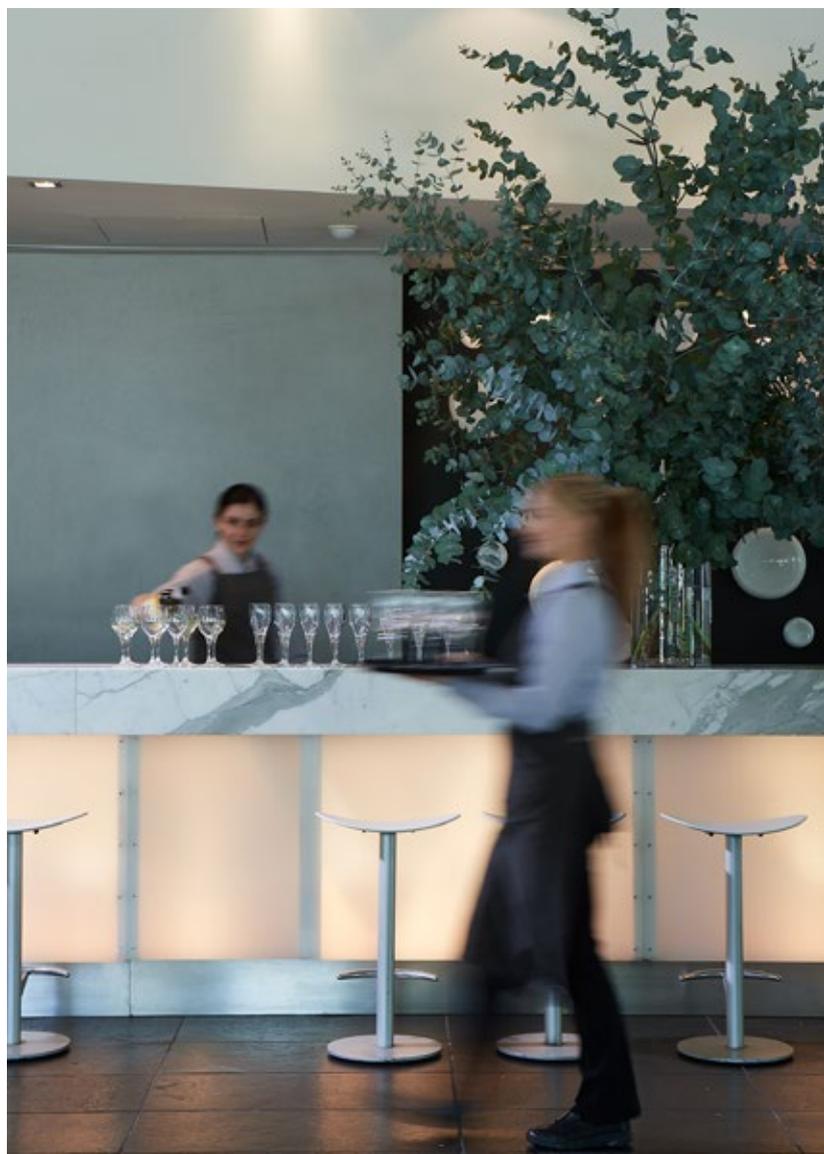
Time: 6:30pm – late

Venue: [Zinc at Federation Square](#)

Address: Cnr Princes Walk & Russell St Ext, Melbourne Victoria 3000

Includes: Drinks, canapes, dinner, dessert and music. Dancing is optional!

Dress code: Lounge suit/cocktail dress





# CPD POINTS & DIGITAL BADGES

## CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

Attend the 10th ICSWHMH to claim up to 16 CPD hours, under Category 2 Skills & Knowledge!

CPD hours will be allocated based on days of attendance, as per below:

- Wednesday 20 November 2024  
**6.5 hours**
- Thursday 21 November 2024  
**6 hours**
- Friday 22 November 2024  
**3.5 hours**

**Delegates who attend all of the conference days are eligible to claim a total of 16 CPD hours.**

## DIGITAL BADGES

Raise your professional profile with an exclusive AASW Digital Badge.

All attendees and presenters at the International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health can earn an AASW digital badge, with digital badges providing an effective way to showcase your expertise and accomplishments online.

Each badge is certified by the AASW and includes detailed metadata outlining your professional qualifications, as well as the education, training, and experience required to earn it.

Discover more about [AASW Digital Badges](#).



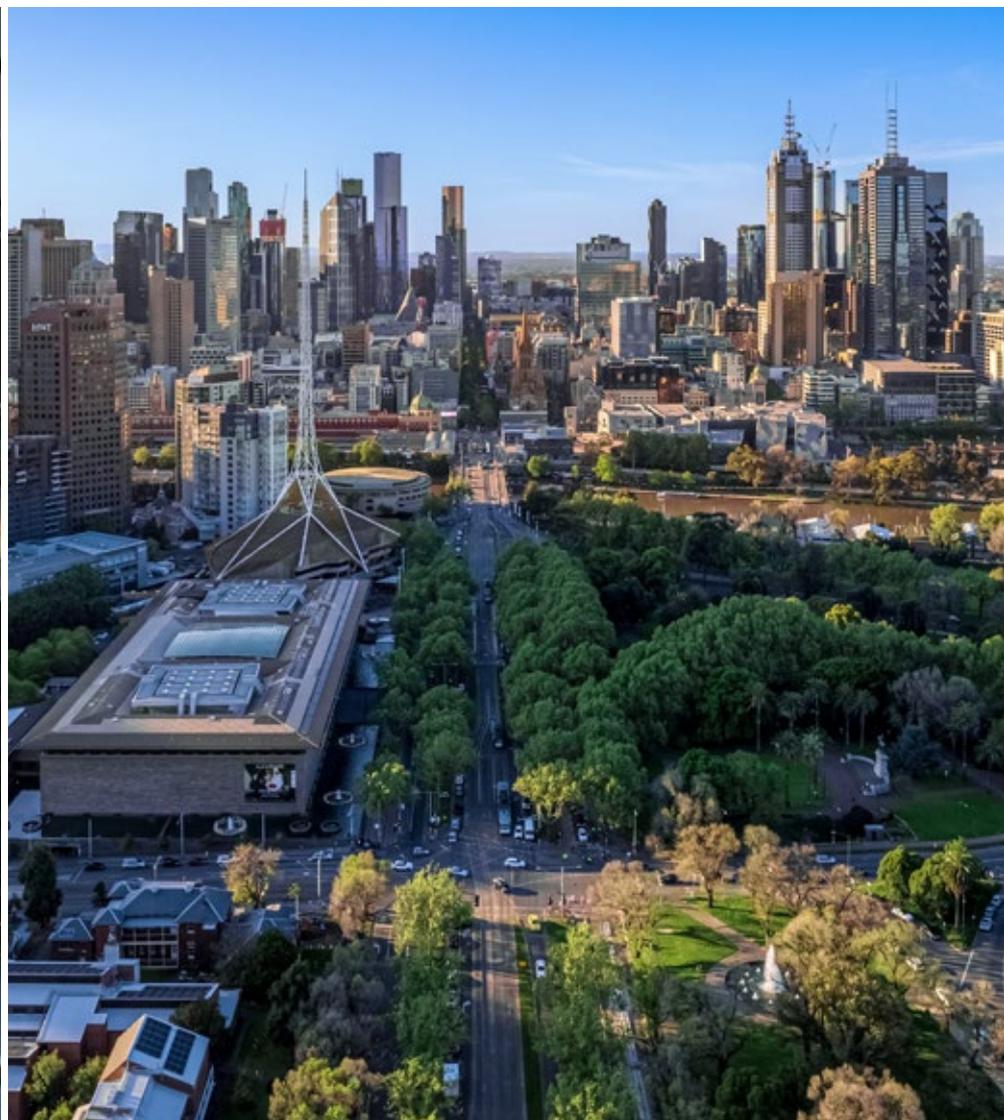


# WELCOME TO **MELBOURNE**

Melbourne's dynamic mix of style, sport and culture means you'll never want to leave. With a combination of world-class dining, art galleries, homegrown fashion and a packed sports calendar, it's no surprise Victoria's capital has been regarded the world's most liveable city for seven consecutive years.

Possessing a vibrant, multicultural population, Melbourne city serves as Australia's cultural capital. It's possible to completely immerse yourself in Melbourne's world-class food and wine scene, with options from a complete mix of international cuisines. You must, of course, experience the coffee culture Melbourne is renowned for.

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# THE VENUE & SURROUNDS

We are very excited to be holding the 10th International Conference on Social Workers in Health and Mental Health at the world class Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre (MCEC), located in the heart of Melbourne, Australia. MCEC is renowned for its state-of-the-art facilities and exemplary services making it the ideal venue for the industry to come together.

If you are attending in person or online, MCEC can bring out the best experience during your attendance at this hybrid event.



## Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

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## Getting there

MCEC is a convenient 10-minute walk from Southern Cross Station and is also accessible by catching the 96, 109 and 12 tram lines to the Clarendon Street entrance. Tram routes 70, 75 and the City Circle can drop you off at Stop 1 Spencer Street/Flinders Street. From there it is just a short walk up Clarendon Street until you reach the venue.

For those driving, you can [book a car spot online](#) with Wilson Parking, who operate a secure underground car park at the Exhibition Centre.

There are also an abundance of convenient secure car parking available around MCEC. Nearby, you can find parking at South Wharf Retail car park, Siddeley St car park, Freeway car park and Montague Street car park.

## Accessibility and inclusion

ICSWHMH celebrates diversity and we aim to make an inclusive experience for our delegates. The conference venue, MCEC, has a fantastic positive impact policy that places a high priority on creating an accessible and inclusive venue.

## Wheelchair access and hire

MCEC is a wheelchair accessible venue with ramp access, elevators, and dedicated parking. MCEC does have a limited number of wheelchairs that can be loaned for the day.

Delegates can book a wheelchair by calling +61 3 9235 8000.

## Assistance and companion animals

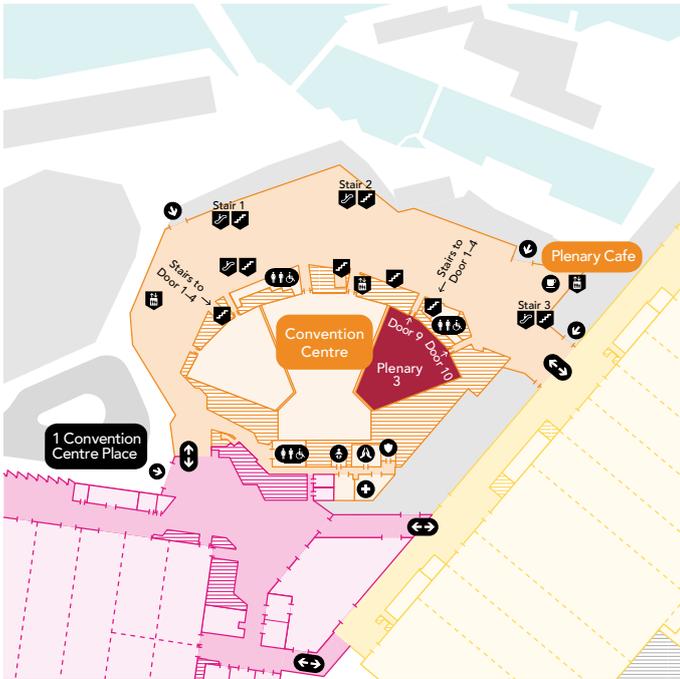
MCEC welcomes delegates with their registered assistance and companion animals.

## Hearing loops

MCEC offers free-of-charge loop hearing assistance devices for delegates which are available from the MCEC Customer Service Desks.

## Religious observation

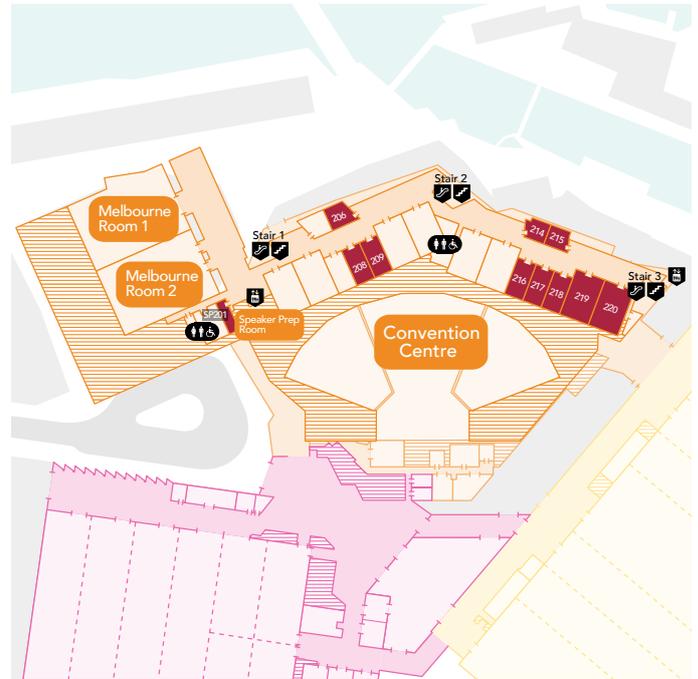
Prayer rooms for males and females can be accessed from Melbourne Convention Centre behind the main Plenary Theatre.



### Ground

Plenary 3 access via:

- Door 4 (lower ground floor)
- Doors 9 & 10 (ground floor)



### Level 2: Breakout Rooms

- 206
- 207
- 208
- 209
- 210
- 211
- 212
- 213
- 214
- 215
- 216
- 217
- 218
- 219
- 220
- SP201: Speaker Prep Room

## Registration and Information Desk

The Conference Registration and Information Desk is operational during the following times:

- Tuesday 19 November 2024, 3:30pm – 5:30pm
- Wednesday 20 November 2024, 8:00am – 2:00pm
- Thursday 21 November 2024, 7:00am – 1:30pm
- Friday 22 November 2024, 8:30am – 11:30am

## Speakers' Preparation Room

The Speakers' Preparation Room is operational during the following times:

- Tuesday 19 November 2024, 1.30pm – 5.30pm
- Wednesday 20 November 2024, 8:00am – 6:00pm
- Thursday 21 November 2024, 7:00am – 6:00pm
- Friday 22 November 2024, 7:00am – 2:00pm



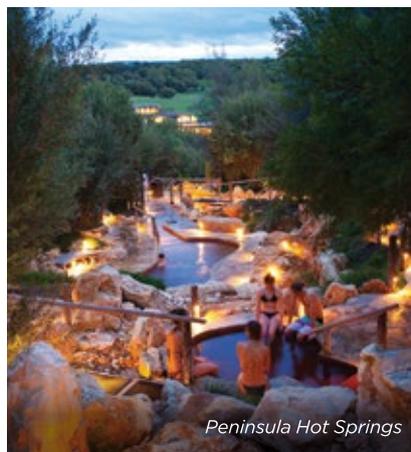
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# DELEGATE APP

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### CONFERENCE PROGRAM

View the full program with session and speaker details.

### MY AGENDA

View your bookmarked sessions and take session notes.

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View all speaker details including their biography, details of their session and links to their abstracts.

### EPOSTERS

View all Conference ePosters.

### POSTER VOTING

Vote for your favourite poster from the posters on display in the exhibition area.

### EXHIBITORS

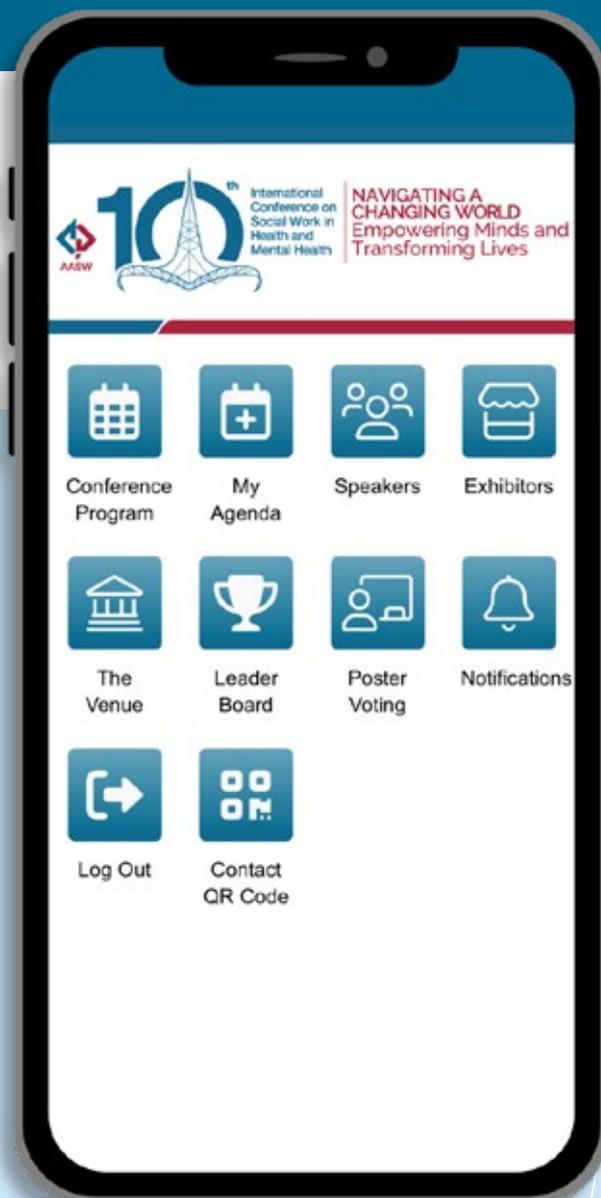
View a list of exhibitors and their location on the floorplan.

### THE VENUE

View a map of the venue and useful information like how to get there and where to park.

### NOTIFICATIONS

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## STATIC POSTERS

Static posters will be displayed for the duration of the event in the Exhibition Area. If you would like to know more about any of the posters, the authors will be available at their posters during the lunch break on Thursday 21 November between 1:10pm – 2:10pm.

You will also have the chance to vote for your favourite poster to win the Best Poster prize. Voting will be done through the event app and will close at 4pm on Thursday 21 November. The Best Poster prize will be announced at the closing session on Friday 22 November.

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# GENERAL INFORMATION

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## Certificates of attendance

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## Dress code

The dress standard for the conference is smart casual.

## Daily catering

The following catering is included in your conference ticket:

- Wednesday and Thursday: Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea
- Friday: Morning Tea

All catering will be served in the Exhibition Hall located in Main Foyer 2 & 3.

## Delegate list

The list of delegates is available in electronic format via the Conference App. Please note that the list only includes delegates who have opted in to share their contact details.

## Disclaimer

In case of industrial disruption, the AASW accepts no responsibility for loss of monies incurred by delegates.

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## Name badges & tickets

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## Workshops

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## Privacy statement

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Ask your driver to drop you off at Convention Centre Place, next to Pan Pacific Melbourne and DFO South Wharf. There are two nearby taxi ranks – Crown, Clarendon Street and DFO, Convention Centre Place.

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## Tram

Tram routes 96, 109 and 12 (Stop 124A Casino/MCEC) will all take you to our Clarendon Street entrance.

Otherwise, tram routes 70, 75 and the City Circle (Stop D5) take you to Flinders Street. From there, it's just a short walk up Clarendon Street until you reach us. For tram timetables or further trip planning, use Public Transport Victoria's Journey Planner, or download the tramTRACKER smartphone app.

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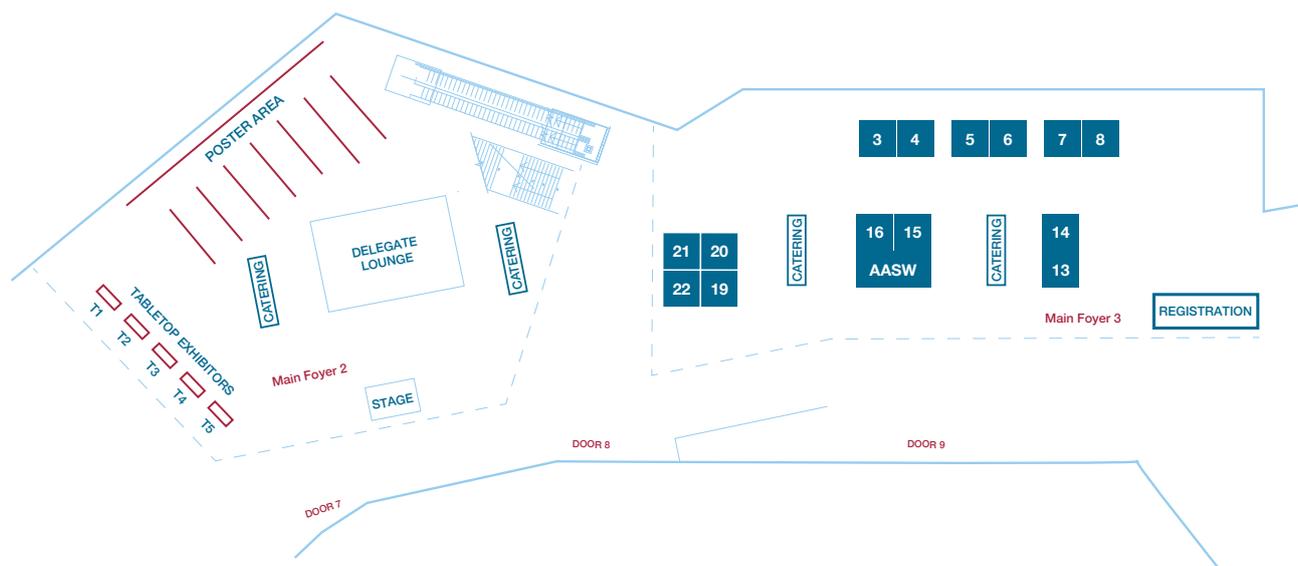


## CONCURRENT SESSION PARTNERS

## SEAT DROP PARTNER



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# SPONSOR & EXHIBITOR DIRECTORY

## The Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW)

### AASW Booth

The Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) is the professional body representing social workers. Our mission is to advance wellbeing and social justice in Australia, empowering social workers to make a difference, to foster change and advocate for the community.

## Care Guidance

### Booth 6

Care Guidance was established in 2015 as a direct response to the difficulty experienced by a colleague in accessing, sourcing and financing appropriate aged care for a loved one, all during a time of emotional vulnerability.

Now nine years later, Care Guidance has assisted and provided support to over a thousand families along the aged care journey.

## Charles Sturt University

### Booth 3

At Charles Sturt University we understand the importance of Australia's regional communities – because we call them home. For more than a century, we've championed those communities, starting with the Bathurst Experimental Farm in 1895. Now, we thrive in the heart of NSW's most vibrant regional cities – and beyond.

Because we see distance as an opportunity to connect, to

share what we've learned from our unique regional experience. And our alumni, researchers and industry partners use that experience to foster knowledge, drive positive change, and fuel growth all over the world.

## Cornerstone Medical Recruitment

### Booth 20

Founded in 2012, Cornerstone Medical Recruitment (CMR) is passionate about placing people, connecting communities and inspiring happiness. Redefining the way healthcare professionals connect and collaborate, we're setting the standard for delivering exceptional, tailored recruitment services. At CMR, we're committed to a happier healthier workforce that inspires better health for us all.

## DV-alert, Lifeline Australia

### Tabletop Exhibitor 1

DV-alert is a nationally recognised training program with training and assessment delivered by Lifeline Australia and approved third parties on behalf of Lifeline Australia (RTO 88036). The program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services as a key initiative under the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032. Since 2007, we have been working to build the knowledge and capability of frontline workers to reduce and prevent domestic and family violence. DV-alert is led by experienced trainers dedicated to ending violence against women

and children. Our workshops provide a safe space for frontline workers to learn, connect and be empowered to recognise and respond confidently to those in crisis.

## Eden In Oz & NZ

### Booth 5

The Eden Alternative® in Oz & NZ is a not-for-profit organisation, operating across the Asia Pacific region.

At the heart of the Eden Alternative is transformative education, leading to a change in clinical practice. We are addressing the dominance of institutional care practices in care settings which are detrimental to human health and wellbeing.

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## headspace

### Booth 15

headspace is supporting the next generation of youth mental health clinicians by increasing our capacity to support clinical student placements. We're looking for students studying social work, occupational therapy, and psychology who want to gain valuable skills and experience, develop their career, and make a difference; to undertake their student placement at headspace.

## Independent Living Victoria

### Concurrent Session Sponsor

At Independent Living Victoria (ILV), we specialise in providing high quality in-home care and personalised support for clients with complex needs. Our team of dedicated professionals are trained to deliver person centred support, ensuring each client receives care tailored to their individual goals and preferences. We understand that complex care requires a unique approach, often involving multidisciplinary collaboration to address physical, emotional, and social needs. As a NDIS registered provider, we adhere strictly to NDIS Practice Standards, ensuring our services are of the highest quality, safe, and effective. Our commitment to ongoing training and development ensures that we are always equipped to meet the evolving needs of our clients.

## Innovative Resources

### Booth 13

Innovative Resources is the publishing arm of Anglicare Victoria, a community services organisation providing child, youth and family services. We create and publish strength-based resources for counsellors, educators, social workers, mentors, wellbeing

staff and parents. Over the past 30 years, we have published more than 60 card sets designed to enrich conversations about feelings, strengths, relationships, values and goals. Trusted by over 50,000 professionals worldwide, our resources are known for their originality, practice wisdom and striking visual styles. We also offer strengths approach training and 'tools' workshops, both online and in-person.

## LGBTIQ+ Health Australia

### Booth 22 and Concurrent Session Sponsor

LGBTIQ+ Health Australia (LHA), founded in 2010, is the national peak body for LGBTIQ+ health and wellbeing. LHA members contribute a wealth of diverse expertise, capabilities, and capacities to the organisation. Together, we serve as a formidable and trusted voice. LHA is guided by four foundational pillars of work: policy and influence, member engagement and support, partnerships and collaboration, and the national facilitation of capacity building programs.

As the national peak body for LGBTIQ+ health and wellbeing our purpose is to amplify the voices and expertise of our members and the communities we collectively represent. Through rigorous research and expert insights, we lead efforts to effect change and improve policy, system designs and service provision, thereby ensuring equitable access to services and resources for our communities.

## Queensland Corrective Services

### Booth 19

Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) is committed to improving community safety by supporting individuals address their mental

health and wellbeing to reduce offending risk and improve engagement with the wider community upon release.

Incarcerated individuals experience higher rates of mental health problems, self-harm, addiction, and other chronic conditions. This is often complicated by a range of social and personal issues such as unemployment, low literacy, and homelessness.

QCS has teams dedicated to providing mental health and disability services, including social workers, who play an integral role in rehabilitation and reintegration by providing evidenced based and trauma informed mental health services.

## Relationships Australia Victoria

### Booth 21

Relationships Australia Victoria is a community-based, not-for-profit organisation that has provided family and relationship support services since 1948.

Our diverse services include counselling; family dispute resolution; family violence services; relationship education; mental health services; royal commission support services; and workplace services.

Our vision is for positive, respectful, safe and fulfilling relationships for all.

As an experienced, sector-leading training provider, we understand the unique needs of community, health, and social services professionals. Our professional development and customised training programs are designed to meet these needs - for workplaces, employees and clients. We also offer nationally-accredited training, clinical supervision and leadership coaching.

## Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme

### Booth 16

The Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme seeks to recognise the harm and trauma experienced by Stolen Generations survivors who were removed from their families or communities in the Northern Territory or the Australian Capital Territory before self-government, and the Jervis Bay Territory. The Scheme is a financial and wellbeing package that provides payment and a Personal Acknowledgement to eligible applicants. The Scheme is managed by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA).

## Zaparas Lawyers

### Booth 4

Zaparas Lawyers have been helping people who have been injured at work, on the roads and in public for over 40 years. We know a great deal about personal injury. As a family business, we have seen the impact they have on people's lives and what that can mean for you and your family.

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# ABSTRACTS

## MAIN PROGRAM

### Wednesday

#### Plenary

11:00 – 12:00

#### Ms Christine Clark

*Assure Programs*

Gods of the Court

#### Session Summary

‘GODS OF THE COURT’ the power of social work in the courts Welcome to country and Candlelight Ceremony conducted by Uncle James Widdy Welsh and Aunty Leslie Franks Presentation by Uncle Widdy Welsh, Kinchela Boys Home Survivor and Chairperson Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation, Aunty Lesley Franks, Descendant of a Kinchela Boys Home Survivor and Kin Connect Worker, Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation and Christine Clarke Critical Incident Clinician BSW, former President Monash University Student Social Work Association, Advocate for the Kinchela Boys Home and Aboriginal children, seeking justice for children placed in out of home care. This presentation will critically examine the role social work has played in the ongoing removal of Aboriginal children from their families and communities. A Truth telling session will begin this presentation. Kinchela Boys Home Survivor Uncle Widdy Welsh and Descendant of a Kinchela Boys Home Survivor, Aunty Lesley Franks’ sharing the ongoing legacies of the Stolen Generations and yarning about the crisis we are in with the Aboriginal children being removed now at higher rates than when the policies that created the Stolen Generations were in place. This is not a ‘second wave of the Stolen Generations’ but rather a continuation of a system that does not support Aboriginal children, young people and families and families looking after their children. This part of the presentation will feature a short film, ‘We were just little boys’ created by the Kinchela Boys Home Survivors and Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation. Christine Clarke will then

provide an overview of how social work has played a significant role in the removal of Aboriginal children, both in the past and now. In 2022 The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare stated that 19,400, Aboriginal children were in out of home care (published February 2024). This is notwithstanding the strong evidence that ‘children and young people who have been in out of home care are at higher risk for developing long-term psychosocial challenges, including poor mental health outcomes in adulthood’ (Mendes & Chaffey, 2023; Seker et al., 2022). Where have we gone wrong? Have we been right in all 19,400 cases? This presentation seeks to understand this question. There will be a Q and A session at the end of the presentation where you will have the opportunity to engage with Uncle Widdy, Aunty Lesley, and Christine. We thank Dr Tiffany McComsey CEO Kinchela Boys Home for her guidance in this presentation. (Mendes & Chaffey, 2023; Seker et al., 2022), self-harm and risk for suicide (Gabrielli et al., 2015; Palmer et al Christine Clarke will then provide an overview of how social work has played a significant role in the removal of Aboriginal children, both in the past and now. In 2022 The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare stated that 19,400, Aboriginal children were in out of home care (published February 2024). This is notwithstanding the strong evidence that ‘children and young people who have been in out of home care are at higher risk for developing long-term psychosocial challenges, including poor mental health outcomes in adulthood’ (Mendes & Chaffey, 2023; Seker et al., 2022). Where have we gone wrong? Have we been right in all 19,400 cases? This presentation seeks to understand this question. There will be a Q and A session at the end of the presentation where you will have the opportunity to engage with Uncle Widdy, Aunty Lesley, and Christine. We thank Dr Tiffany McComsey CEO Kinchela Boys Home for her guidance in this presentation.

#### Plenary

12:00 – 12:20

#### Dr Elise Galloway

*Alan Webster Consultancies*

Stepping into the sacred: Building partnerships of maternal and social care with First Nations’ women of the Northern Peninsula Area.

#### Session Summary

In Queensland, children birth – 4 years are 6.3% of the population. In the Northern Peninsula Area (NPA), comprising five Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, they are 14.4%. There are no birthing facilities in the NPA. Women must leave their community to give birth. This presentation focuses on the processes used in the NPA, during 2023 - 2024, across communities, women, men, and Elders; and midwifery and social services, which resulted in a co-designed NPA model of maternal and early years care - from pregnancy to the second birthday of the youngest child. Part of the Model of Care included building a competent and capable First Nations’ maternity care workforce. Processes used and data collected through this study will be shared as a means for explicating the final Model of Care that arose from consultation with 148 First Nations’ community members, and one deadly reference group. A key finding of the study was the complementarity of social work and midwifery continuity of care in achieving the aim of the study which was to propel the vision that, “All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies in Queensland are born healthy into strong, resilient families”.

#### Plenary

12:20 – 12:40

#### Dr Chien-Chou Hou

*Chung Shan Medical University*

Analysis of Successful Elements in Network Collaboration for Long-term Care in Indigenous Areas in Taiwan: Implications for Health Care Social Work.

### Session Summary

This research, conducted in Taiwan by Dr. Chien-Chou Hou, focuses on long-term care, health care social work, and indigenous cultural care, with an emphasis on network management and self-management. The study investigates the successful elements of long-term care networking in indigenous areas of Taiwan and proposes several implications for health care social work based on its findings. To better understand successful long-term care networking in indigenous areas, this study identifies key elements including organizational characteristics (such as complementary effects, distinct organizational niches, and friendly relationships), similar ideologies, partnership facilitation methods (including adopting an integration concept, demonstrating a transdisciplinary attitude, utilizing cooperative skills, and employing collaborative tools), and complementary approaches (such as fostering healthy competition and implementing market segmentation). The insights for health care social work derived from these successful elements of network collaboration are as follows. Utilize organizational characteristics to enhance collaboration and service quality in health care settings; social workers should work towards aligning ideologies to improve consensus and service delivery; employ methods such as integration concepts, transdisciplinary attitudes, and cooperative skills to foster effective partnerships; promote healthy

competition and strategic market segmentation to enhance collaboration and prevent destructive practices in health and mental health social work fields.

### Plenary

13:40 – 14:00

#### Mr Bani Aadam

UNSW

Listening in mental health clinical settings: An exploration of listening, listening practices and the role of power.

### Session Summary

This presentation examines listening in mental health clinical practices. It looks at what listening is, what listening practices are used, and how power underlies these listening practices. We discover that listening's highest form of virtue within a clinical setting is compassion, where compassion is understood to be an action orientated response. Further, a multi-modal approach that combines active, just, reflective and instrumental listening (to name several) is applied with service users. Moreover, for practitioners, interpreting and directing conversation through listening practices makes listening to the more influential counterpart to speaking. When understood and used correctly, clinicians will be able to enhance the use of listening to improve the healing process and the application of the therapeutic alliance. This means, though, understanding what listening is about, particularly to service users,

learning how the different forms of listening practices can take shape, knowing how listening impacts service users, and knowing how listening can silence and dismiss service users. This presentation will discuss, and in some way, start a discussion on how listening practices can be improved in the clinical workspace.

### Plenary

14:00 – 14:20

#### Dr Fang-Pei Chen

National Chung Cheng University (Taiwan)

Analyzing the Legislative Process on Community Psychiatric Rehabilitation in the Mental Health Act of Taiwan R. O.C.

### Session Summary

Community psychiatric rehabilitation is essential for people with mental illness in recovery, and how "community psychiatric rehabilitation" is specified in the mental health legislation is pivotal regarding resource allocations. In this session, I will present the research analysis of the legislative discussions on "community psychiatric rehabilitation" during the 2022 amendment of the Mental Health Act in Taiwan. This presentation aims to provide social work and mental health researchers and practitioners with the following: (a) knowledge of the dynamics among stakeholders (grassroots partnerships, policy-makers, and administrators) regarding community psychiatric rehabilitation legislation, (b) an approach to analysing policy process, and (c) an



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understanding of discursive positions regarding community psychiatric rehabilitation.

### Plenary

14:20 – 15:20

**Prof Lynette Joubert (Aus), Dr Fang Fu (China), Prof Alun Jackson (Australia), Mrs Miia Ståhle (Finland) & Prof Martin Webber (UK National Chung Cheng University (Taiwan)**

International Health & Mental Health Panel Discussion - The Intersection of Health and Mental Health: Global Perspectives.

### Session Summary

An opportunity has emerged for global thought leaders to share their experiences on how public health can help prevent diseases and how integrating social work care into healthcare can help reduce the stigmatization of mental health patients. The panel will also explore the relationship between people living with chronic health conditions and their mental health needs.

### Plenary

15:40 – 16:00

**Dr Lauren Kosta**

*The University of Melbourne*

The Impact of Peer Support Groups: Perspectives of Adults with Acquired Brain Injury

### Session Summary

This session will present findings from a co-designed research study that explored lived experiences of community-based, peer-led, peer support groups and the impact these groups have on the lives of adults with an acquired brain injury (ABI). Elements of the co-design approach will also be discussed. Insights from this session are widely applicable to social workers. This is because ABI is a leading cause of disability globally and it can take years for someone to adjust to living with an ABI. As such, social workers in many different practice settings are working with people who have an ABI regardless of whether it is an explicit focus in their role. The session will also be relevant to social workers who work specifically with people who have an ABI, those running group-based interventions

or peer interventions, as well as researchers interested in co-design.

### Key takeaways:

- Recognise the relevance of ABI awareness in many social work practice contexts, and gain insight into aspects of living with ABI.
- Understand the impacts of communitybased, peer-led, peer support groups on the lives of adults with ABI.
- Examples of techniques used to co-design elements of the research.
- Implications for social work practice

### Plenary

16:00 – 16:20

**Dr Brooke Kooymans**

*AASW*

Navigating the Policy/Practice Nexus: the development of a frontline social work practice model for psychosocial needs in acquired brain injury.

### Session Summary

In my presentation, “*Navigating the Policy/Practice Nexus: The Development of a Frontline Social Work Practice Model for Psychosocial Needs in Acquired Brain Injury*,” I will examine how frontline social workers navigate the complex intersection of policy and practice while addressing the psychosocial needs of individuals with acquired brain injury (ABI). Through interviews with social workers and organisational managers in Australia, I will share the challenges they face in defining and responding to psychosocial needs, influenced by legislation, policy, and funding structures. The presentation will introduce a frontline practice model that captures the strategies and skills social workers employ to meet the needs of adults with ABI, offering insights into navigating this intricate policy/practice nexus effectively.

### Plenary

16:20 – 16:40

**Dr Kai Chung Lo**

*Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

The differential impacts of shame and guilt on father involvement in families

with disabled children: A report of mixed methods research.

### Session Summary

The study aimed to explore the emotions experienced by Chinese fathers who rear children with special needs, specifically shame and guilt, and how these emotions affect their involvement in parenting. The study adopted a mixed-method research design, including semi-structured interviews with 31 fathers and a cross-sectional online questionnaire completed by 437 fathers. The study found that fathers’ emotions were ambivalent, mixed, and fluctuating throughout different stages of rearing their children. The study developed and validated four scales to measure father involvement and conformity to masculine norms, with all proposed variables being significant except for the negative relationship between shame and father involvement. The study identified that shame and guilt emotions have a reciprocal relationship that affects father involvement in parenting and is mediated by avoidance and compensatory behaviour. The study has societal implications, highlighting the need to address the limitations of fathers’ expression of inner emotions and accessibility to social services, and to review research and services to address their needs. The study provides insights for stakeholders, including social workers, social science researchers, and policymakers, to support fathers’ involvement in parenting children with special needs.

### Plenary

16:40 – 17:00

**Ms Sarah James**

*Community Lifestyle Support Ltd*

When we assume... a reflection on limiting assumptions imposed on people with intellectual impairment.

### Session Summary

How many times as a child were you asked what you wanted to be when you grew up? And how many times did your answer change; ranging from fanciful to pragmatic? How many times does a child with an intellectual impairment get asked this same question? Assumptions start impacting a person with a disability

long before adulthood where the fabled concept of choice and control is introduced. Assumptions, whilst inherently human, have the ability to hinder the outcomes people can achieve where we do not have structured mechanisms for checking and challenging our own assumptions, and those held by others. People with intellectual impairments are often impeded by the assumptions of others that they can't understand, can't develop skills or can't change. If not challenged, such assumptions can result in limiting opportunities for growth for the client, therapeutic relationship, and holistic practice of the practitioner. The presentation will provide insight into the risks of imposing assumptions in the assessment and intervention phases of implementing positive behaviour support with people with intellectual impairment. It will offer a framework through which assumptions can be routinely challenged and reassessed.

### Plenary

17:00 – 17:20

#### Mrs Carissa Uzabeaga

*Metro North Health*

An innovative approach for people with psychosocial disability to improve patient flow.

#### Session Summary

This session is an opportunity to learn about an innovative allied health approach to support people with complex psychosocial disability to be discharged from public mental health hospitals utilising NDIS supports. You will learn about why the team was initiated and how the team works to achieve successful outcomes supporting people with psychosocial disability to return to community settings and improving their quality of life. You will also learn about how we work together as an interprofessional team to benefit from each disciplines strengths and what they bring to the discharge process. This session will benefit people who are interested in understanding the role of social work in navigating the mental health and NDIS systems to achieve positive outcomes. It will also benefit people who have an interest in discharge planning for complex psychosocial disability and supporting successful community transitions.

### Plenary

17:20 – 17:40

#### Mrs Jemma Moody-Pugh

*Deakin University AASW*

Exploring Play-Based Interventions for Refugee and Asylum-Seeking Children Affected by War and Conflict: A Scoping Review of an Often-Forgotten Population.

#### Session Summary

Play is a child's natural means of communication and the primary way through which they make sense of their internal world. The right to play is a basic universal right of all children, everywhere. However, refugee and asylum-seeking children are often denied this right. In this presentation, Jemma Moody-Pugh will present the findings from a scoping review exploring play-based interventions with refugee and asylum-seeking children who have experienced trauma associated with war and conflict. This research explores play-based interventions across all stages of the refugee process. Practitioners interested in the importance of play in their work with children, particularly refugee and migrant children would benefit from joining this presentation, along with anyone who is curious about play-based interventions and advocating for the right to play.

Key takeaways:

- Understand how play offers opportunities for practitioners and communities to support the mental health and wellbeing of refugee and asylum-seeking children.
- Explore how we may reinstate children's right to play.
- Consider a post-disaster response to titrate play-based interventions with refugee children.

### Stream 2

11:00 – 11:20

#### Dr Brooke Kooymans

*AASW*

The Ambiguity of Psychosocial Needs in Acquired Brain Injury: Understanding from the grass roots up - a social work perspective.

### Session Summary

In my presentation, "*The Ambiguity of Psychosocial Needs in Acquired Brain Injury: Understanding from the Grass Roots Up - A Social Work Perspective*," I will explore how frontline social workers identify and define psychosocial needs in individuals with acquired brain injury (ABI), highlighting the challenges and complexities of this task. Drawing on research conducted through interviews with social workers in neurorehabilitation settings across Australia, I will discuss the ambiguity surrounding psychosocial needs, how these are interpreted in practice, and the implications for policy and care outcomes. This presentation will offer valuable insights into shaping a more nuanced understanding of psychosocial needs in ABI care.

### Stream 2

11:20 – 11:40

#### Mr Reyna Ka Kin Ma

*Stewards, Crossland Life Adventure Centre*

Effects of Makuranage on Stress and Happiness among Hong Kong Adolescents: An Examination of Mediating Effects.

#### Session Summary

Makuranage, or Pillow Fight Battle, is a popular recreational activity in Japan where participants engage in competitive pillow fights. This activity encourages physical exertion and social interaction and brings enjoyment to all involved. Mr. Reyna Ma will share his experience of using Makuranage as a counseling tool to alleviate stress and enhance happiness among adolescents.

### Stream 2

11:40 – 12:00

#### Mr Johnny Choi

*University of Queensland*

Exploring Recovery Journeys of NDIS Participants with Psychosocial Disability in Australia

#### Session Summary

This presentation highlights the author's PhD study to explore NDIS participants' recovery experiences and meanings throughout their life trajectories, including their

interactions with the NDIS. While the NDIS has transformed disability support in Australia, particularly for those with psychosocial disability understanding how participants navigate the scheme, and its recovery support remains limited. The study, conducted through life story interviews with NDIS participants, employed ecological systems theory, a key social work theory, to explore the multidimensional elements of recovery, including personal, relational, social and temporal domains. Findings emphasise several key areas for consideration. First, the NDIS's focus on user choice and control should be evaluated through a person-in-environment perspective to ensure equitable outcomes for participants with psychosocial disabilities. The NDIS's neoliberal approach, which stresses individual choice and responsibility for recovery, may neglect the broader meaning of recovery, such as meaningful relationships and social contribution. Second, participants' narratives reveal a misalignment between the NDIS's eligibility criteria for permanent disability and its goal of supporting recovery through capacity building. Finally, the findings suggest that the meaning of recovery is subjective, varying among individuals, over time, and across locations, highlighting the need for the NDIS to accommodate diverse recovery dimensions

## Stream 2

12:00 – 12:20

### Prof Karen Healy

*The University of Queensland*

A Longitudinal Approach to Exploring the Social and Emotional Well-being of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Children in Out-of-home Care: A research innovation.

### Session Summary

In this presentation we describe a qualitative longitudinal approach to understanding the experiences of carers and children involved with the OOH system. We outline what the approach involves and our application of this methodology to investigating the lived experiences of carers and children in the OOH system. We compare this methodology to quantitative longitudinal methods and single "point-in-time" methods for understanding experience.

Participants will gain an understanding of the potential and challenges of this approach for gaining in-depth understanding of lived experience of people involved with child welfare and other health and social service systems.

## Stream 2

12:20 – 12:40

### Ms Sheryl Hateley

*University of New England*

The Silencing of Innocence: A Social Work Perspective on Media Portrayals of Murder-Suicides Involving Children.

### Session Summary

This session presents findings from a study that adopts a holistic child and family social work perspective to explore how Australian media portrayals of filicide-suicide involving children and family members shape public understanding. Attendees will gain insight into how media narratives often prioritize adult perspectives, leading to the silencing of children's voices and the oversimplification of family life. Employing a mixed methods approach, the study reveals crime framing centred on three main issues: mental health, domestic and family violence, and family separation. These individualized portrayals frequently reduce children to passive victims, obscuring the intricacies of family systems, particularly in cases where families are not traditionally identified as "at risk." By cross-referencing media reports with factual sources, the study highlights opportunities for improving news reporting and fostering more informed public discourse. This session invites attendees to reflect on how media narratives influence public perception and the support available to families. Attendees will be encouraged to consider how amplifying children's voices and adopting a more accurate, compassionate approach to the issue can effectively raise awareness and strengthen support systems for children, families, and communities.

## Stream 2

13:40 – 14:00

### Mrs Rachel Corea

*Monash Health*

Introducing Workloads Management System to Inpatient and Ambulatory

Social Work teams at Monash Health

### Session Summary

With the increase in complexities in caseload and demands on social workers, it becomes more important to standardise workload processes across different sites and disciplines to improve visibility of clinical resources and workload demand to enable efficient and equitable allocation of resources. The implementation of Workloads Management System (WorMS) for Social Work at Monash Health, has been informed by the experience and knowledge of the other allied health disciplines that put it into practice first. Social Workers, however, have been resistant to using WorMs; and arguably so with their interventions not able to be compartmentalised into structured appointment blocks like their other allied health colleagues whose focus are on the treatment of medical conditions and injuries. The social work profession's person-in-environment framework and unique skillset, particularly around addressing social determinants of health, impacted by complex social, psychological, family and institutional dynamics, is much harder to be measured and contained. In our presentation, we want to discuss how we used a mixed methods study inclusive of focus groups, comparison data and observations, and looked at the average time for each occasion of service across 12 months for all sites to develop and implement WorMS within inpatient and ambulatory social work teams.

## Stream 2

14:00 – 14:20

### Dr Hadas Rosenne

*Hadassah Medical Center*

Psycho-Social Implications of Retinoblastoma Treatments: Eye Preserving Treatment vs. Enucleation.

### Session Summary

As hospital social workers, we often help patients and family members prepare for treatments and cope with their implications. When choosing between different treatment options, the best medical outcome is guiding the choice. Psychological implications are usually not part of the consideration. In some cases, the best medical outcome

in physical terms is not necessarily the best one in psychological and emotional terms. Moreover, when new treatments are involved, there is not enough knowledge regarding all their implications. The presentation is focusing on one example of that. A new treatment, Intra Arterial Chemotherapy (IAC), is available for infants with eye cancer (Retinoblastoma). This treatment can often substitute enucleation (removing of the eyeball), offering a chance to preserve the eye. However, it seems that this treatment is also having a considerable emotional toll on families, for a long period. In the presentation, we will share vignettes of patients who underwent different treatments and discuss the differences between them in terms of length of treatments, psychosocial implications and the uncertainty involved. Retinoblastoma treatments demonstrates a wider phenomenon of medical developments that on one hand give hope and expand options, and on the other hand carry with it different kinds of burdens.

## Stream 2

14:20 – 14:40

### Mr Luke Backovic

Eastern Health

Application of Single Session Therapy principles in a clinical acute hospital setting.

#### Session Summary

The session will provide an overview of what single session therapy is and how it came about, the purpose of using single session therapy in a hospital setting and how to incorporate single session therapy practice skills in a hospital setting by exploring the single session framework. I will also cover the pros and cons of using the single session framework in the hospital setting.

## Stream 2

14:40 – 15:00

### Ann Rauch

Mount Sinai Hospital

Addressing SDOH in an Academic Medical Center in a Major Metropolitan City.

#### Session Objectives

Define Social Determinants of Health

(SDOH) & their importance in efforts to overcome barriers to patient access to care in health care settings Describe the imperative for social workers to find optimal ways to respond to the growing emphasis on SDOH in health care as exemplified by the Department of Social Work Services at The Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City Present R.E.A.P. , a specialized social work program at The Mount Sinai Hospital, as a model for how social workers in health care settings can respond to the growing recognition of the importance of addressing SDOH in health care Share case examples from R.E.A.P. to demonstrate the impact of a specialized social work program in a health care setting in overcoming barriers to care for patients experiencing the impacts of SDOH Suggested Audience: Social workers in health care and other health care professionals concerned about equity in health care and addressing patients' social needs as an essential part of health care

## Stream 2

15:00 – 15:20

### Prof Harry Ferguson

University Of Birmingham, England

Social Work and relationships when viewed from my hospital bed: Reflections of a social work academic and survivor of two liver transplants.

#### Session Summary

Social Work and relationships when viewed from my hospital bed: Reflections of a social work academic and survivor of two liver transplants

I have been in social work for 45 years, 11 years in practice and 34 in academia. I've devoted a lot of time to researching social work practice which has taught me a lot about what social workers do, multi-agency working and service users' experiences (eg Ferguson, 2011; 2022). The focus of this paper however is on the view of social work I've had from my hospital bed. I've had two liver transplants, one in 2004 and the other in August 2023. The medical care on both occasions was exemplary, while the practical and emotional social work response I received in 2004 was dreadful, in 2023 excellent. One lacked generosity and intimacy and the other was infused with it. I will follow Arthur Frank (2004) and argue that best practice in health

and social care requires that the most basic of human practices are infused with generosity, an important part of which is the kind and considered use of touch and always looking the service user in the face.

## Stream 2

15:40 – 16:00

### Ms Robyn Clark

Royal Children's Hospital

Possibilities and Challenges of Social Work Use of Self in the Acute Paediatric Health Context.

#### Session Summary

This presentation will discuss Use of Self in social work practice. It will draw on findings from a research project on social work bereavement practice at the time of child death and learnings from a social work clinical education role. Research participants spoke about their lived experience of providing psychosocial bereavement care in an acute paediatric setting. They identified how both professional and personal experience is utilized to conduct and sustain this emotionally impacting field of work. "Use of self" is one way in which these clinicians interpret and translate their knowledge base and provide nuanced bereavement interventions. Clinician self-awareness of what they bring to bereavement practice (including personal experiences, boundaries, knowledge, sensitivities and style), is crucial to the work. The research findings underline the importance of providing reflective spaces in the work environment to support clinicians who provide bereavement care. The presentation will also outline current reflective spaces utilized in the RCH social work department which assist in the development of Use of Self skills. This session will be of interest to social work practitioners, researchers and educators engaged with bereavement care or other emotionally impacting fields of practice, to consider practice opportunities for individual, supervisory and group reflection.

## Stream 2

16:00 – 16:20

### Ms Laudy Burgos

Mount Sinai Hospital

Integrating a Specialty Clinic for Substance Abuse Disorders in an

Urban OB/GYN Clinic Setting.

### Session Summary

Pregnancy can be a time of happiness and motivation but, for birthing parents struggling with a SUD, it can be challenging. Stigma, shame, and the potential legal consequences present obstacles to individuals seeking the care they need. Good medical care and psychosocial support are needed to address the individual's pregnancy and addiction issues. By integrating substance misuse treatment services in their prenatal care, providers facilitate timely access to care. At Mount Sinai Medical Center in NYC, the Bridge clinic offers a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach to support pregnant individuals with SUD. Interventions include support, education, case management, and mental health counseling. By providing optimal prenatal care early on, pregnant individuals with SUD can receive the care that they need so that they can achieve medical and psychological stability once their baby is born, which ultimately has better outcomes for the individual and child's health and wellbeing.

### Stream 2

17:20 – 17:40

#### Mrs Helen Rais

*Monash Health*

Social Work interventions at the Victorian Heart Hospital – 12-month Model of Care Review.

### Session Summary

The Victorian Heart Hospital is the only dedicated hospital in the southern hemisphere specialising in cardiac care. Opening in partnership with Monash Health and Monash University in February 2023 to provide clinical care to inpatient, education, research and ambulatory services. Social Work services are critical to this cohort of patients their families, providing advanced Social Work interventions to safely transition patients back into the community.

This presentation will showcase how using a quantitative study design and use of data mining techniques it was demonstrated that Social Work plays an integral part of the Australia's dedicated cardiac hospital using advanced Social Work skills

and therapeutic support to address complex issues such as mental health issues (cardiac blues), end of life and bereavement support across the emergency department, intensive care unit and public wards, in addition to income support payments and adjustment to illness.

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### Stream 3

11:00 – 11:20

#### Ms Jacinta Chavulak

*Monash University*

Emergency Department and Crisis Community Mental Health Clinicians' Perspectives Regarding Innovations Required To Reduce Restrictive Interventions: An Australian Cooperative Inquiry.

### Session Summary

This session explores clinician perspectives of ways restrictive interventions can be reduced in crisis and emergency mental health settings. It also explores the challenges of engaging in practice-based research in these settings, and the ways these barriers can be overcome. Crisis and emergency mental health settings are key areas of reform, however clinicians often are limited by existing hospital policies and resources when it comes to utilising more progressive practices, such as ways to reduce their restrictive interventions. This innovative study engaged a unique methodology to ensure that not only were their perspectives presented in research – often these perspectives are overlooked in research – but were also engaged as researchers by analysing the data and presenting the findings. Social workers are a key part of crisis mental health service delivery; however this is often not reflected in research or general knowledge of these systems. This research was social work led and engaged multidisciplinary clinicians. Many solutions for safer mental health care for all will be found in allyship. We look forward to presenting this research as both a step towards finding solutions in imperfect systems and an example of research that can be engaged in by all.

### Stream 3

11:40 – 12:00

#### Ms Alison Baillie

*The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne*

'Beneath the Burns' A case study exploring the use of a trauma-informed care approach for major paediatric burns patients

### Session Summary

This presentation delves into the implementation of a trauma-informed care approach for paediatric burn patients at The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne. Through an illustrative case study, we explore our multidisciplinary team's adoption of a trauma-informed and child-centered treatment approach. We analyse the challenges our team faced and reflect on our collective experiences of moral distress and vicarious trauma. The presentation emphasises how adverse childhood experiences

can impact on hospital stays and recovery, complicating engagement in therapy and care. As a paediatric health service, we often grapple with balancing strict treatment protocols and a flexible, family-centered approach. Trauma-responsive care requires adaptability, which may not always align with the demands of an acute hospital setting. We also underscore the crucial role that social workers play within an acute hospital environment. Social workers help the treating team understand the layers of complexity underlying a patient's injury. This presentation will enable social workers practicing in healthcare settings to reflect on their own current practice and how they further integrate trauma-responsive strategies into all aspects of a patient's hospital journey.

### Stream 3

12:00 – 12:20

#### Chow, Ms Yue Yan Ann

*Singapore General Hospital*

Waiting for a Deceased Donor Liver Transplant in Singapore: Uncertainty, Destiny and Challenges.

#### Session Summary

This session is relevant for healthcare professionals, transplant coordinators, social workers, and researchers interested in the emotional and psychological dimensions of liver transplantation. The study sheds light on the profound pain and multi-faceted challenges faced by patients awaiting for a deceased donor liver transplant. This session will share findings on the complex emotional experiences of patients awaiting liver transplantation, including feelings of diminishing hope and survival uncertainty, in Singapore context. This session would also touch on the factors influencing patients' decisions for a living donor liver transplant, such as beliefs about harm and feelings of indebtedness. These findings showed that the healthcare professionals in the transplant programs need to ensure adequate psychological and emotional support for patients, to improve patient support strategies and to enhance communication with patients and families.

### Stream 3

13:40 – 14:00

#### Dr Fiona Oates

*The Cairns Institute - JCU*

Trauma Informed Support and Supervision: A Model to Support Social Workers Working with Children and Families Where Child Protection Concerns Are Present

#### Session Summary

Working with children, young people and families where child protection concerns are present is one of the most complex fields of social work practice. While exposure to occupational trauma is an occupational inevitability, organisations have struggled to adequately provide for the wellbeing needs of social workers in their employ. Struggles pertaining to wellbeing are established in the literature as a key reason for social workers leaving their positions, contributing to workforce churn across jurisdictions. This presentation seeks to explore the experience of occupational trauma, what it is and what the symptoms might look like in the workplace. The TISS (Trauma Informed Support and Supervision) model will be introduced as an alternative to traditional social work supervision practices. The TISS model framework is trauma-informed, evidence-based, and practitioner-centred. The model acknowledges the uniqueness of practice environments within social work, the importance of locational and organisational context and is designed to be responsive to the needs of the individual practitioner. Key learnings include that although exposure to occupational trauma is an inevitability, scaffolded supervision and support models can be implemented as an early intervention strategy as well as a framework to support social workers during and post their experience of occupational trauma symptomology.

### Stream 3

14:40 – 15:00

#### Ms Renee Burdeu

*Eastern Health/Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault*

Effectiveness of Brief Interventions for Sexual Assault Survivors: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.

### Session Summary

Sexual assault is a pervasive social and public health issue worldwide, with significant harmful impacts on survivors' mental health and well-being. In Australia, there has been an increase in demand on specialist sexual assault services which has led to longer wait times, delaying critical support for survivors. To address these wait times, brief interventions have emerged as a potential response to provide more timely care and improve accessibility to meet the advocacy and therapeutic support needs of survivors. This presentation will provide a summary of the current literature that investigates the efficacy of brief interventions with people who have experienced sexual assault via a systematic review and meta-analysis. It will outline the benefits of brief interventions for survivors, challenge the idea that trauma care needs to be long term to be effective, and proposes an alternative model of service implementation. This session will benefit those who deliver direct practice to survivors of sexual assault as well as leaders who are looking at improving service flow and accessibility.

### Stream 3

15:00 – 15:20

#### Dr Katherine Reid

*Griffith University*

"It's a relational approach, first and foremost, with the whole system": Social work perspectives on recovery-oriented approaches with children and their families

#### Session Summary

Title: "It's a relational approach, first and foremost, with the whole system": Social work perspectives on recovery-oriented approaches with children and their families The translation of recovery-oriented social work practice with children identified with 'mental health concerns' and their families remains contested and poorly understood. The presentation shares the findings from an Australian study. The session will explore the complex practice terrain social workers traverse in attempting to work in partnership with children, navigating systemic pressures to pathologise children's distress and intervene at an individual level to address the identified

'behaviours of concern'. During the session we will show how social workers have drawn on multiple lenses to reconceptualise adult-centric and individualised notions of recovery to incorporate systemic, developmentally responsive, and trauma and attachment informed ways of working. The importance of understanding what is occurring for the child in the context of their wider socio-cultural political system will also be discussed. The presentation will conclude by investigating potential tensions to relational recovery approaches when working with children and their families. Critical clinical social work skills will be discussed to challenge adult-centric recovery models and engage in systemic advocacy

### Stream 3

15:40 – 16:00

#### Dr Daniel Hughes

*Mount Sinai Health System*

Violence in the Health Care Workplace: Data Driven Solutions.

#### Session Summary

In 2022 the Mount Sinai Health System (MSHS) began collecting WPV data from an online safety reporting system called Safety Net. This system allows any employee who is involved or observes an incident of WPV to file a report. This along with information from our Security Department and our Worker's Compensation Claims Manager forms the data base for the WPV Dashboard. Exposure to WPV impairs effective patient care, leads to psychological distress, job dissatisfaction, absenteeism, high turnover, and increased costs. Accordingly, new accreditation standards have been established by the Joint Commission (TJC) for U.S health care institutions. The following presentation will discuss the Mount Sinai Health System's (MSHS) plan to address the issue of WPV by constructing a WPV Dashboard to drive data-based solutions. This PP presentation will use WPV Dashboard data to provide attendees a descriptive outline of the dimensions of WPV in the healthcare workplace. It will address a range of solution focused responses including WPV policies, technological safeguards, increased security measures, training programs designed to increase staff communication skills and situational

awareness, personal protective equipment and lastly innovative EAP engagement strategies for injured or harmed employees. Ample time will be allowed for Q&A.

### Stream 3

16:00 – 16:20

#### Ms Belinda Lines

*Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency*

Supporting Victim Survivors of Sexual Misconduct: Trauma-Informed Navigation and Support Within a National Health Practitioner Regulator.

#### Session Summary

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has implemented a new social work led service to provide trauma-informed navigation and support to victim survivors involved in sexual boundary complaints. The Notifier Support Service is unique to this regulatory context and supports victim survivors to engage throughout the process of a complaint. This engagement is key for effective regulation and to protect the public, the paramount objective for AHPRA and the National Boards which help regulate health practitioners. This session will outline the service and its creation and share findings from an ongoing mixed-methods evaluation. You will learn what worked well in the successful implementation of this service, hear participants' experiences of being supported by social workers in this setting, and where opportunities for future work exist. The presentation will provide firsthand reflections about developing the service and the complexities of implementation within a national organisation. Social workers with an interest in innovative social work within a combined investigative and legal framework will learn about service development and implementation in this unique setting. More broadly, audiences will gain an understanding of the trauma-informed service framework, and how collaborative evaluation processes can contribute to real-time improvements.

### Stream 3

16:20 – 16:40

#### Ms Cecilia Judge

*The Royal Women's Hospital*

Experience of Maternity Care for those

Pregnant After Previous Pregnancy Loss.

#### Session Summary

Parents who lose their baby due to late term stillbirth, medical termination or neonatal death need to navigate a significant life-event that is shrouded in stigma and isolation. Many of these parents will re-conceive another pregnancy within 12-18 months. Evidence suggests that this cohort can experience significant distress in subsequent pregnancies including higher rates of anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress syndrome and delayed attachment. Additionally, aspects of antenatal care can trigger distress or provoke conflicting emotional responses. It has recently been acknowledged the need to improve evidence and care in this area, with Stillbirth CRE and PSANZ including "Care in Subsequent Pregnancies" as a new section in their 2024 updated Care Around Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Clinical Practice Guideline. Hospital Social Workers have unique skills and expertise that can significantly contribute to this emerging specialist area. This session will explore early research findings on the care experiences of patients who received care at The Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne, for subsequent pregnancies. The purpose of this research is to inform clinical care, improve the healthcare experience for this patient group, build evidence-based practice and inform the development of the new Pregnancy After Loss Clinic Antenatal Clinic at The Royal Women's Hospital.

### Stream 3

16:40 – 17:00

#### Miss Jessica Epifanio Ferreira

*Odyssey House*

From Shame to Self-Compassion: Helping People Understand Their Behaviour as Survival Adaptation to Trauma.

#### Session Summary

This presentation explores the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on individuals, emphasizing how survival-driven behavioural adaptations are often stigmatised by society, increasing feelings of shame. This presentation brings a summary of key researchers, highlighting the crucial role of self-

compassion in helping individuals reframe these behaviours, reduce shame, and enhance recovery. Practical applications in social work settings are discussed, demonstrating how integrating self-compassion can improve psychological well-being for those with complex trauma.

### Stream 3

17:00 – 17:20

#### Ms Frances McAloon

*Wombat's Wish Inc*

The Wisdom of Wombats: Research on Wombats Wish Grief Programs for Parentally Bereaved Children and Families.

#### Session Summary

Wombat's Wish Inc. is a leading not-for-profit organisation providing specialised grief support to families across Victoria who have experienced the death of a parent.

Valuing the stories of people who have let us in to their most vulnerable moments is critical. In 2024 we conducted a research project involving a review/ analysis of four years of the flagship grief weekend program data to ensure the program is an evidence-based, effective grief service. This comprised a literature review of theoretical frameworks underpinning bereavement services for children/ youth, analysis of demographic data of four years of Wombat's Wish weekend programs, and qualitative review comparing best practice evidence to the components of our weekend program.

We found that despite there being few gold-standard measures for childhood grief, all the elements and activities of the residential program such as memory jars, grief expression through telling their story, exploring difficult feelings, candlelight ceremony and dove release and more align with current grief theory and a strong evidence base.

Parent attendance and support to them is vital. Grief services for families are a powerful resource promoting resilience, coping and growth. Wombats Wish provides psychoeducation, weekend grief programs, 1:1 counselling, online lounge chats and Family days.

### Stream 3

17:20 – 17:40

#### Mrs Barbara Lang

*Ministry Of Health, Israel*

Addressing a Social Problem in a Health Setting.

#### Session Summary

Social workers operating within healthcare settings face challenges integrating the issue of domestic violence, a social problem, into the healthcare system. Individuals experiencing domestic violence often have complex health needs that require a comprehensive approach. The aim of integrating domestic violence awareness and intervention into healthcare is to enhance early identification, support, and intervention for individuals experiencing domestic violence. Strategies and practices, based on Ministry of Health guidelines, are employed by social workers in integrating the issue of domestic violence into healthcare including development and implementation of resources aimed at equipping healthcare professionals with knowledge and skills to effectively address domestic violence within their practice. Challenges include lack of awareness and knowledge of healthcare professionals regarding violence and available resources, their fear of destroying relationship of trust with patients and their willingness to recognize their clinical role only. Despite challenges, domestic violence has become part of the discourse in the healthcare system. Integrating the issue of domestic violence into the healthcare system represents a critical step in addressing this social problem. Social workers play a vital role in advocating policy changes, providing training and support to healthcare professionals, and facilitating multidisciplinary collaboration to ensure a holistic response to domestic violence.

### Stream 4

12:00 – 12:20

#### Miss Sin-ying Tan

*Eastern Health*

Is Brief Admission Effective for People with Borderline Personality Disorder? A Mixed Method Systematic Review.

### Session Summary

Individuals with borderline personality disorder (BPD) are likely to seek support from mental health services while experiencing crises. Lengthy admission is not recommended due to possible iatrogenic harm. In contemporary practice, brief admission has been utilized although its effectiveness is uncertain. A previous 2014 systematic review indicated that brief admission may reduce BPD symptoms. This review aims to synthesize the current evidence, with the goal of determining if brief admission is effective in improving the clinical outcomes for individuals with BPD. The study demonstrated that brief admission resulted in strongly positive subjective outcomes including improvements in self-responsibility, sense of security and self-esteem. The impact of brief admission on objective outcomes such as self-harm and readmissions was less clear, with conflicting findings. At the conclusion of the talk, you will gain an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the current evidence for brief admission for individuals with BPD.

### Stream 4

12:20 – 12:40

#### Ms Margaret Dietz

*Monash Health*

Older Adults Presenting with Dementia and BPSD in an Older Adult Acute Mental Health Unit, Barriers to Discharge and Implications for Social Work Practice.

#### Session Summary

Title: Older Adults presenting with dementia and BPSD in an older adult acute mental health unit, barriers to discharge and implications for social work practice

Authors: Jenny Kats, Margaret Dietz and Marcelo Maghidman

Target Audience: An interest in Mental Health and/or Dementia, SW Practice, Inpatient & Community Mental Health Programs, Policy Makers and Program Managers In acute mental health units, social workers have a central role in supporting patients with behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD) and their family with discharge planning. We completed a retrospective audit over two years

(Nov 2019-2021) of discharges from our metropolitan facility. From clinical to demographic factors, the investigation shed light on preventive processes such as early engagement and the role of social workers to mitigate the complexities around progression through the acute mental health inpatient unit. This study will support better discharge outcomes for patients and their families. Policy Impact Early engagement of the Older Adults Community Mental Health services can help reduce mental health inpatient admissions. Practice Impact Coordination, communication, and consultation provided by the SW in the Older Adult inpatient unit can decrease length of stay in acute care, and lead to safer and sustainable discharge destinations.

#### Stream 4

13:40 – 14:00

#### Dr Anna Nelson

*Emerge Aotearoa*

The Nīkau Practice Framework: A focused framework for social work practice with substance use.

#### Session Summary

The Nīkau Practice Framework is a focused framework for social work practice with substance use and was developed as part of Dr Nelson's PhD research. Using the Delphi method to bring a group of experts to consensus on the skills, knowledge, values and attributes required for generalist social work with substance use, this presentation will be especially useful for social work educators who are looking to integrate and embed substance use knowledge and skills into qualifying social work programmes. The session will also be useful for all frontline social workers and leaders seeking to better understand how they can strengthen practice with people using substances.

#### Stream 4

14:00 – 14:20

#### Dr Susan Evans

*Acap*

Improving FASD Prevention Can't Wait: The Health Social Work Role in Reducing Stigma for Mothers with Alcohol Dependence.

#### Session Summary

Better practice with families living with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) is an important arena for social work; with ability to educate, reduce stigma, and improve access to supports. In Australia stigma placed on birth mothers of children with prenatal alcohol exposure is a major barrier to the goals of FASD prevention and family support. Currently, people with FASD and families report feeling misunderstood by health and welfare providers, who in turn are not educated or equipped to respond.

This presentation reports on a research project collaborating with child and health clinicians in the Northern Sydney Health District to investigate the preparedness of workers to identify and respond to suspected FASD presentations. Through survey and interviews the research team learned what clinicians know, understand, and already do in response to FASD. Key challenges and more effective strategies to engage with birth mothers and family members of children with FASD in health settings are a focus in this presentation.

#### Stream 4

14:40 – 15:00

#### Ms Linda Johansson

*Hunter New England Health*

Uniting for Elimination: Social Work Collaborates on a Multi-Stakeholder Care Model Engaging a Community Pharmacy to Overcome Barriers to Hepatitis C Testing in Regional NSW.

#### Session Summary

In New South Wales, Australia, the goal is to eliminate Hepatitis C (HCV) by 2028. Regional areas can face significant barriers in accessing HCV care, but social workers can drive innovative care models to address these barriers. A multi-stakeholder approach was created, involving a regional community pharmacy, a public health unit, our liver clinic and peer workers. Supported by Gilead Sciences, a Point of Care Testing Machine was utilized, and the HCV screening was incentivized.

#### Key Points:

- Screening and Testing: Over eight weeks, 48 individuals were screened for risk factors, 38

proceeded to POCT, and four tested positive.

- Implementation: POCT was conducted by a nurse and social worker, with support from pharmacy staff, an Aboriginal health worker and a peer worker.
- Barriers Identified: Patients faced difficulties with pathology collection, cost concerns, reluctance from prescribers to prescribe antivirals, affordability of GP reviews, lack of bulk billing services and limited knowledge about antiviral treatments.

#### Outcomes:

The pilot successfully cured all four positive cases and improved awareness, education and community engagement. The project demonstrated that a collaborative model effectively overcomes HCV care barriers in regional NSW and highlighted the need for ongoing support to sustain and expand these efforts.

#### Stream 4

15:00 – 15:20

#### Mr Giorgio Handman

*Mount Sinai Hospital*

“REACH Is My Family”: Harm Reduction Social Work Practice in an Urban Primary Care Setting

#### Session Summary

The session will provide participants with a comprehensive overview of the social worker role as part of an interdisciplinary harm reduction addiction medicine program based within a large urban hospital in New York City. The session will focus on the relational aspects of social work and how to provide care and support for individuals navigating substance use that centers respect, present moment awareness, and unconditional positive regard. Participants will be familiarized with a broad range of interventions for people who use drugs and provided with a framework on how to develop rapport and engage clients in a way that supports self-determination, positive change, and healing.

#### Stream 4

15:40 – 16:00

##### Dr Man Yi Lau

*Changi General Hospital*

Exploring the Expectations, Practices and Challenges in Social Work Supervision: Insights from Medical Social Workers (MSWs) in Singapore.

##### Session Summary

This session will unravel the complex dynamics of social work supervision within a hospital setting in Singapore. Delving into the real world of Medical Social Workers (MSWs), our study aims to uncover the expectations, practices, challenges, and coping strategies of both MSW supervisees and supervisors. Additionally, we aim to provide insights that can help shape the future trajectory of social work supervision practices. By adopting the lens of MSW supervisees and supervisors, we have unmasked the complexities of supervision in the real world: from diverse expectations to the poignant struggles of reconciling ideals with realities. We also observed practitioners' whirlwinds of emotions and were impressed by their resilience and innovative strategies in navigating the demands and challenges in supervision. In this engaging session, we want to spark discussion in the landscape of social work supervision and practice quality, promoting practitioners' well-being, and inspiring future collaboration. We invite social work practitioners with supervisory roles, as well as those interested in social work supervision, to join us in this session.

#### Stream 4

16:00 – 16:20

##### Dr Anita Morris

*Solutions Together*

Building our Capability: Introduction to Best Practice for Supervision.

##### Session Summary

The session discusses a supervision best practice professional development course and describes how supervision is evolving to meet complex practice and workforce needs. Those who attend will experience: - new or renewed interest in supervision professional development - insights into contemporary social work supervision themes and practices.

#### Stream 4

16:20 – 16:40

##### Ms Won Yuen Mei Dorcas

*Changi General Hospital*

Supporting New Social Work Supervisors in a Singapore Hospital

##### Session Summary

In the dynamic environment of a fast-paced hospital, transitioning to the role of a Social Work Supervisor presents unique challenges. New supervisors often grapple with feelings of inadequacy as they step into this role. The urgency of patient care, constant demands, and rapid decision-making can intensify the learning curve for new supervisors. Despite these challenges, targeted training programme to equip supervisors becomes paramount. This session will outline a comprehensive training programme for new supervisors, designed to support their learning needs and equip them with knowledge of supervision theories, practical processes, effective communication skills for engaging supervisees and self-care in the supervisory role. The programme not only supports new social work supervisors, it marks a pivotal point in their professional growth and contributed to building a competent supervisory workforce in the hospital.

#### Stream 4

16:40 – 17:00

##### Ms Carolyn Cousins

*Tuned In Consulting*

Exploring Social Workers Lived Experience in Supervision: A Different Kind of Trauma Informed Practice.

##### Session Summary

This session will explore findings from interviews with social workers who have lived experience of the mental health system. It will consider how they make sense of their own experiences in relation to their work within the system, and decisions they have made as to whether to reveal this to their supervisors or not. The interviews confirm that as the system has increasing integrated peer workers, employed for their lived experience, this has raised questions for those carrying their own experience as to where their own expertise might fit. The session will be useful for supervisors and social

workers who wish to explore how to integrate lived experience discussions into supervision in safe, trauma informed ways. It will ask participants to consider the risks, boundaries and benefits of exploring lived experience in supervision, as well as propose the organisational conditions required to make this discussion possible. Trauma informed supervision aims to equip social workers manage vicarious trauma which means that supervision will increasingly need to explore the impacts of lived experience. Agreed ways to do this are not clear and this session hopes to progress the dialogue.

#### Stream 4

17:00 – 17:20

##### Ms Lisa Spriggens

*University Of Melbourne*

Stories of Self-Care: Sustaining Counsellors and Therapists in Their Work.

##### Session Summary

With social practitioners experiencing increasing demand for services and more complex situations, self-care is highlighted in practice and literature as critical to ensuring ongoing safe practice. Current research remains primarily focussed on identifying self-care practice, and how it is undertaken. Exploring the relationship a practitioner has with self-care, through the medium of story, can make visible a more nuanced and potentially richer understanding of how we are sustained in our work. This session draws on the results of PhD research engaging with stories of self-care from counsellors and therapists. Stories of self-care reveal the influence context (setting) and relationships (character) have in the relationship the counsellor has with self-care. Evident in this research is that counsellor well-being is not solely dependent on the self-care activities undertaken, but includes the self and the context within which they know themselves and carry out their work. The stories of counsellor-participants invite consideration of how we might collectively and individually sustain counselling, and related professions, moving forward.

## Stream 4

17:20 – 17:40

### Mrs Rachel Corea & Ms Jordyn Slater

*Monash Health*

Implementing the role of a Workforce Clinical Educator for inpatient and ambulatory social work teams to effectively enhance education and upskilling of practicing clinicians.

#### Session Summary

The Social Work (SW) Workforce Clinical Educator (WCE) role is dedicated to upskilling and supporting junior and new staff transitioning into the public health care setting. As we know, teaching SW is not simply a matter of passing on the key elements of the knowledge base; there is the need to equip social workers to be able to make use of that knowledge in practice and in the context of relevant professional values. Effective communication, being the cornerstone of social work practice, is the key focus for the WCE. In our presentation, we will discuss how we used a mixed methods approach, inclusive of focus groups, comparison data of the post and pre survey, to develop, implement and evaluate this role's effectiveness. We will present on how we develop the monthly training program, and initiated the WOWIE (Watching Others Work In Environment) program which provided "hands on" "1:1" at the bedside education; instrumental in improving clinicians' confidence, and showcase the applicability of this role in other health care settings, to support development of clinical skills especially with junior staff in completing effective SW interventions and assessments, which in turn promotes excellence in clinical and service delivery for the organization.

## Stream 5

11:00 – 11:20

### Lucas-Smith, Ms Tina

*Transform Lives Program, Griffith University*

The Cost of Exclusion: Incorporating Lived Experience into Practice.

#### Session Summary

Social Workers (SW) with lived experience may display increased levels of relatability and empathy, and be better able to connect,

understand, and advocate for those they support. Whilst lived experience is increasingly recognised as an invaluable asset, those who have been incarcerated face significant barriers to Social Work study and employment. The exclusion from helping professions of those who have been criminalised results in a broad loss of lived experience knowledge, not just the lived experience of prison itself. Tina will share her journey from studying in prison to becoming a practicing SW returning to prison to support criminalised families as part of the Transform Lives Program (TLP). She will describe the personal cost of entering a profession that espouses the value of transformative change, social justice, and inclusivity, whilst actively excluding pathways for incarcerated people to enter the profession. She will examine barriers to inclusion in Social Work, including membership of the AASW and difficulties obtaining a Working with Children Card, along with subsequent advocacy, appeals, and ultimate success in achieving change. She will conclude with a challenge for all human service organisations, professional associations, funding bodies and government to dismantle barriers for criminalised workers.

## Stream 5

11:40 – 12:00

### Ms Helen Makregiorgos

*Independent Mental Health Advocacy - Victoria Legal Aid*

Safeguarding the Human Rights of Mental Health Consumers: Lessons for Social Workers from the Independent Mental Health (IMHA) in Victoria, Australia

#### Session Summary

The Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA) service provides non-legal advocacy to consumers who are subject to or at risk of involuntary treatment within the Victorian Mental Health System. The service provides individual and systemic advocacy to ensure that consumers' human rights are promoted and protected. An RMIT evaluation in 2018 conducted by Maylea et al found that non-legal advocacy did achieve the service's goals. The evaluation recommended that all consumers subject to restrictive interventions including involuntary treatment have access to

non-legal advocacy. Consequently, the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health system recommended that access to non-legal advocacy be a right under the new Mental Health and Wellbeing Act. In 2023 IMHA expanded and became an opt out service. The non-legal advocacy model was developed by a social worker and the service has embedded lived experience expertise across it including in service design, delivery and evaluation. The service model has also successfully been replicated in the child protection space. The service's role in assisting consumers to explore and access their rights, as well as how this impacts on their sense of self-determination and how the service influences systemic change will be explored.

## Stream 5

12:00 – 12:20

### Afrouz, Dr Rojan

*RMIT University*

Promoting Women's Voices: Understanding the Online Opportunities and Risks Faced by Women in Activism.

#### Session Summary

Digital platforms provide a unique avenue for feminist activists to cultivate collective action, amplify their voices and connect with the global community to dismantle the patriarchy. To explore this further, a small-scale study was conducted to explore opportunities and risks for activists on gender justice through online platforms. The research employed a mixed-method design, including an online Qualtrics survey with a follow-up semi-structured interview option. 62 surveys were completed, and eight semi-structured interviews were conducted, transcribed, and analysed. The study found that online platforms significantly increased the opportunities for women's activism and increased women's knowledge of women's rights and gender justice. However, online abuse, trolling, threats, and harassment also impacted the health, safety, and well-being of activists and their decision whether to continue their activism. The negative impacts of online abuse, including mental health challenges, safety concerns, and threats of violence, are not often taken seriously in legislation,

policies and support systems. Participants indicated that reporting abuse is only the first step to acting against online abuse and longer-term, sustainable and effective measures to maintain safety are needed. As such, women activists' lived experiences, voices, and experiences must be brought to the table when designing services, programs and policies.

### Stream 5

12:20 – 12:40

#### Ms Angela Scarfe

*Australian Association of Social Workers*

Protection From Harm Vs Duty of Care: AASW Interventions into the Social Determinants of Young People's Mental Health.

#### Session Summary

Our social policy practice deserves the same rigorous analysis and critical reflection as do the other forms of social work practice. Accordingly, this paper will identify factors that contribute to and detract from the success of the AASW's interventions in the social determinants of the mental health of children and young people. This presentation will compare 2 instances of social policy advocacy by the AASW's SPA team. One was successful and one is still in play. By contrasting the policy environment, the content of the change that was sought, and the workforce implications of each, it will identify factors that contribute to success. It will demonstrate how this work drew on structuralist and post structuralist social work theories to guide the team's actions. On the one hand, the AASW participated in reforms to Australia's Family Law System, to improve its capacity to protect children from the harm of family violence. On the one hand, the AASW participated in reforms to Australia's Family Law System, to improve its capacity to protect children from the harm of family violence. This contrasts with the campaign to formalise a Duty on the Australian Government, to protect children and young people from the climate emergency.

### Stream 5

13:40 – 14:00

#### Ms Yi-En Hsieh

*National Taiwan University*

Needs and Coping Strategies in Mental Crises: The Viewpoint of Caregivers in Taiwan.

#### Session Summary

This session will introduce the experiences of caregivers of individuals experiencing mental health crises in Taiwan, highlighting the specific issues of medicalization and familialization within this context. Through in-depth interviews with 19 caregivers, this research uncovers their experiences, needs, and coping strategies they develop under the strain of limited mental health resources. We try to explore the often-overlooked dimensions of mental crises, which extend beyond mere safety risks to include symptoms, relationships, and resource availability. The session will also explore the nine critical decision factors that caregivers consider when managing mental crises, offering a redefined understanding of what constitutes a 'mental crisis' and its diverse impacts on families. This session is particularly beneficial for mental health professionals, policymakers, and caregivers who wish to understand the complexities of crisis management better and improve support systems for families in mental health contexts.

Key takeaways include:

- Rethink the diverse dimensions of mental crises.
- Identify gaps in current mental health services and the policy for caregivers.
- Understand the caregivers' experiences of dealing with mental crises.

### Stream 5

14:00 – 14:20

#### Ms Charlotte Finlayson

*University Of Sydney*

How our Art Speaks to Power: the "Nuts and Bolts" of Help-Seeking for Suicidal Distress in Rural and Remote NSW.

### Session Summary

Social Workers have a professional commitment to advocacy and social change. The aim of this presentation is to explore how visual participatory methods can be used to advocate for social change in the community and policy setting, using an example from my PhD research. This presentation will present artworks created by people with a lived experience of suicidal distress living in rural and regional NSW. The artworks were part of a Photovoice project. Photovoice is a participatory research method which aims to create social change. The project aimed to explore what it was like to seek help for suicidal distress in rural and regional parts in inland NSW. The artworks were originally presented at a public event attended by the local community and decision makers. The presentation will discuss the artworks as well as how they were used to at the community event with members of the public and key decision-makers.

### Stream 5

14:20 – 14:40

#### Mx Rhiannon Williams-Demmon

*Centre Against Sexual Assault Central Victoria*

Combatting the Rise of Andrew Tate(s) to Prevent Sexual Violence Through Co-Design and Peer Education with Regional and LGBTQIA+ Young People.

#### Session Summary

In 2022, the Centre Against Sexual Assault Central Victoria (CASACV) received a grant from the Victorian Government to increase understanding of new affirmative consent laws. This coincided with a surge in requests for CASACV to respond to increased misogynistic and sexist attitudes and behaviours. These behaviours were frequently linked to online influencers such as Andrew Tate(s). CASACV responded to these challenges and took the lead on the 2-year project aiming to prevent sexual violence among regional and LGBTQIA+ youth aged 12-17.

#### Key Messages

This presentation will provide an overview of how young people, particularly young men, are pulled into the world of masculinity influencers before providing practical strategies used in the Young People as Agents

of Change (YPAC) project to limit this. Attendees will get an overview of how co-designed, peer-led and tactile/art-based workshops can foster healthy relationships, address attitudes and behaviours that underly sexual violence and build resilience against online misogyny. The implications from these findings reach beyond primary prevention, and into service design, mental health and advocacy.

Who should attend?

Practitioners working with young people, in mental health, community development, research, service design, and advocacy.

### Stream 5

15:00 – 15:20

#### Ms Lisa Ward

*First Step Legal*

Embedding Legal Education in Men's Behaviour Change Programs: Applying a Victim Survivor Lens

#### Session Summary

Contact with the legal system is an opportunity to work with men who use family violence to build insight into their behaviour and motivation to change. However, many men have unrealistic expectations about the court process and/or fail to engage with the requirements of court orders. This can increase risk for victim survivors. In an Australian first, Better Health Network has partnered with the First Step Legal community legal centre to embed legal education within the Men's Behaviour Change Program. The aim of the initiative is to increase men's compliance with orders and their understanding of how the legal system works.

This session will review emerging learning from the pilot project and key enablers of success including:

- the value of expert led codesign and a focus on victim survivors
- the development of trust and a shared practice framework across social work and legal professionals
- the merits of formal process evaluation in identifying and resolving emerging issues in pilot service delivery.

The session will be valuable for people working to ameliorate the impact of family violence as well as those seeking to develop and test integrated, cross-disciplinary responses across traditionally siloed services.

### Stream 5

16:20 – 16:40

#### Mr Michael Splawa-Neyman

*Monash Health*

Together from the Start: Health Justice Partnership Between Monash Health and the Women's Legal Service Victoria

#### Session Summary

This presentation will delve into what exactly is a Health Justice Partnership (HJP) and describe "Together from the Start" within which the presenters work. "Together from the Start" HJP is a partnership between a Community Legal Service (Women's Legal Service Victoria) and large metropolitan hospital (Monash Health). It focusses on pregnant women experiencing family violence and/or at risk of child protection involvement post birth. Presenters will discuss how one comes about including identifying the need, sourcing funding and getting it off the ground. The presenters will share insights into the highs and lows of a HJP and how social workers, midwives and lawyers combine with a shared goal of having mums retain care of their babies. The presentation will take you through the lifespan of a client within the HJP. It will also touch on hopes for the future including evaluation. Key learnings include an understanding of a HJP, how lawyers, social workers and midwives can combine to provide holistic service to vulnerable women and an understanding of what that looks like in practice.

### Stream 5

16:40 – 17:00

#### Mr Michael Power

*Metro North Health*

Restorative Practice in Mental Health – A Journey of Learning Through Implementation, Opportunity and Outcomes to Address Harm in Secure and Community Mental Health Services

### Session Summary

Presentation: Restorative Practice in mental health - a journey of learning through implementation, opportunity and outcomes to address harm in secure and community mental health services

*Presenters: Michael Power and Catriona Harwood (social workers)(Co-authors: Dr Diana Beere, Dr Kylie Burke, Dr Tessa Clarkson)*

This presentation outlines how Social Work led the way developing and implementing a model of Restorative Practice responding to violence and threats of violence in mental health services at The Prince Charles Hospital, Brisbane since 2019. This is the first time Restorative Practice has been implemented in public mental health services in Australia. The model includes a continuum of Restorative Practices from those used daily to more formal Restorative Meetings. Attendees to the session will be provided with an understanding of the aims of the model responding to harm and building community to reduce potential for further harm. Information on the model, implementation strategies, challenges, and recommendations for improvement are shared together with outcomes of an external 2.5 year evaluation. Implementation of Restorative Practice was extended in 2023 to three community mental health services. Supporting this work was context assessment and measurement of confidence in the use of restorative practice three months after training and mentoring.

### Stream 5

17:00 – 17:20

#### Mr Michael Power

*Metro North Health*

From Bus Tickets to Case Formulations: The Introduction of Forensic Mental Health Social Work to an Existing Team.

#### Session Summary

Forensic mental health social work is a wonderfully diverse, challenging and complex sector of social work. Seen across this landscape are not only examples of drastic inequality, mental ill-health and confronting offending behaviour, but also resilience, compassion and hope. Here, social

work offers a unique skillset to address both individual recovery and community safety. In mental health, the discipline faces issues of role clarity, recognition of clinical skills and the perennial question “what does social work do?”. This presentation shares an insight into the experience of introducing forensic mental health social work to an existing multidisciplinary team. This process has brought some of these issues and questions into the spotlight as we cover the ‘forensic mental health social work identity’, rights-based practice in a carceral environment and fighting for a seat at the table. Evident throughout all of this is that whilst social workers can develop their skills to ‘fit-in’ to a team and complex systems, we also need to hold on to and assert what makes our perspective and practice unique. At the crossroads of mental health and the justice system, social work thrives. Anyone with an interest in forensic practice and growing social work are welcomed to attend.

### Stream 5

17:20 – 17:40

#### Sullivan, Ms Kate

*Monash Health*

The Psychosocial Impacts on Long Stay Inpatients and Their Families who are Ready for Discharge but Waiting for National Disability Insurance Scheme Funding and Support.

#### Session Summary

*Presenters: Kate Sullivan and Saskia Petris*

Kate Sullivan and Saskia Petris discuss their research project, that explores the psychosocial impacts faced by patients and their families who are ready for discharge but remain in hospital due to delays in National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), which prevents them from accessing the required funding and supports to leave hospital. The study investigates how extended hospital stays impact emotional wellbeing, mental health, financial stability, independence, choice and control, and social connectedness. The research aims to build on existing literature by examining real-world experiences of long-stay patients and their significant others. Key findings highlight challenges associated with prolonged hospitalisations and the need for improved coordination

between hospital and external service providers. The session emphasizes the importance of understanding these impacts to enhance patient experiences and reduce unnecessary hospital stays. Kate and Saskia aim to offer insights into patient and family experience and highlight areas for further exploration to improve the NDIS pathway from hospital to home.

### Stream 6

11:00 – 11:20

#### Ms Michelle Brown

*St Mary's College Adelaide*

Creating successful school based placements for social work students.

#### Session Summary

Increasingly schools are drawing on social work expertise and roles to support the ever complex and changing world of child and adolescent mental health, this has also seen an increase in schools taking on social work placement students. We will share our experiences of how best to create successful school-based placements and emphasise the key elements of lessons learned over a five-year period of having social work students. We will discuss the importance of having clear processes, social work models of intervention and supervision to provide structure and guidance for students undertaking their placements in the, often nuanced and complex, environment of schools. Attendees interested in setting up school based social work placements would benefit from joining this presentation and will be able to take away some key learnings and recommendations that can be applied within their own institutions.

### Stream 6

11:20 – 11:40

#### Ms Tina Acevska

*CatholicCare Wollongong*

Enhancing Resilience in Early Childhood: The Impact of the ‘Kindy Kids Connect’ Program

#### Session Summary

In this session, we delve into how our school counselling service utilises a social-ecological framework to understand and measure student resilience, guiding our service

outcomes and early intervention strategies. We’ll highlight the results of the “Kindy Kids Connect” wellbeing program, which focuses on fostering resilience by enhancing connectedness, promoting a sense of belonging, and teaching practical skills. The session will cover the role of social work in school counselling, how a social-ecological approach to resilience shapes our work, the data driving our initiatives, the tool used to measure child resilience, and future directions for the program. This session is ideal for social workers and professionals interested in early childhood resilience strategies and implementing outcomes measurement in their services to drive data-informed initiatives.

#### Key Takeaways:

1. Understand the critical role of resilience in early childhood development and its long-term impact.
2. Explore how connectedness, belonging, and supportive resources influence resilience.
3. Learn how to use data to design targeted initiatives, featuring the “Kindy Kids Connect” program as a model for early intervention.

### Stream 6

11:40 – 12:40

#### Mrs Lynne Buttler

*Education Queensland*

School Social Work - Not for the Faint Hearted! An Examination of the opportunities for Effective Social Work Practice in Schools

#### Session Summary

We are frighteningly friendly and passionate about school social work (SSW). Our aim is for world domination – a social worker in every school in the world! Everyone is welcome, experienced school social workers looking to share practice or those wondering if SSW is for them. Expect to contribute and challenge ideas, with a healthy mix of learning, groupwork, and SW case discussion! SSW is classic systems work, it’s like riding a bike, that is on fire, and everything around you is on fire... So why do we do it? It’s hard, but what area of social work isn’t? We do it because it’s rewarding. That feeling when get a

positive outcome for all stakeholders, when a teenager has the first person in their life to advocate for them, when they graduate and give you that smile, they know they made it... and you played a part.

Participants will:

- understand the multiple tasks and roles of SSW, identifying gaps with data
- identify the unique position of SW in attending to current and future mental health needs of adolescents
- understand key legislation relating to educational social work
- partake in a case study scenario discussion regarding LGBTQIAP+ advocacy

### Stream 6

13:40 – 14:00

#### Mrs Joanne Allen-Keeling

*Yourtown*

Social Workers as Mental Health Service Designers

#### Session Summary

In this session, we will explore the pivotal role social workers can play in leading service design initiatives within organisations to drive system level change. Jo will highlight how social work skills—empathy, collaboration, holistic thinking, and engagement—can be leveraged to involve young people in co-designing services that truly meet both their needs as well as their preferences. Jo will demonstrate these principles through the Kids Helpline redesign case study, showcasing methodologies for involving young people in designing services they want to use. Emphasising the importance of authentic lived experience participation, the session will offer practical tools for human-centred design. Attendees will gain insights into creating inclusive and accessible services and practical human-centred design methods. This session is ideal for social workers interested in innovative service design, fostering empathy, and driving systemic change.

### Stream 6

14:20 – 15:20

#### Mr Michael Derby

*Sexual Assault & Family Violence Center/  
Anchor Point Therapy*

Shame: We Need to Talk. How to Work with Shame, Without Shaming the Person

#### Session Summary

In partnership with Innovative resources, we have considered the difficulties practitioners face when working with children, young people, adults and families who are experiencing shame. This workshop is for practitioners working within family violence, sexual assault, trauma, mental health, schools, community, child protection and justice settings. The workshop will examine how and why shame occurs, different shame presentations for survivors of trauma, as well as how shame presents when someone has caused significant harm. The workshop is capped at 25 participants and will showcase practical tools that can be used with people and families who are facing shame. The format of 'Shame we need to talk' will also include the presentation of various media clips to demonstrate different shame responses followed by small group discussions and role plays where participants can practice using tools to support someone experiencing shame. The primary purpose of this workshop is to provide practitioners with the essential knowledge, skills and tools to work with people, who are experiencing shame, resulting in shame being felt and released, creating a sense of recovery for people who use our services.

### Stream 6

15:40 – 16:00

#### Ms Catherine Renkin

*Metro South Health Addiction and Mental Health Services*

Social work led family engagement strategies for enhancing care across mental health services in metro and regional Southeast Queensland

#### Session Summary

This presentation describes the role social work can play and the processes used to promote family work across metro and regional public

mental health and addiction services. We will present the logic models behind the planning and application of an evidence-based framework – Single Session Family Consultation (SSFC) - and the benefits and challenges of taking a systemic approach to the implementation in each of our local hospital and health services. Shared reflections include that Social Workers have scope of practice and core skills for working relationally and systemically and are therefore uniquely placed to enhance service-family engagement in individual, team, and organisational/strategic work. Social work advocacy for enhancing family engagement in care should also acknowledge the diverse values and experience that staff from across disciplines bring to practice.

### Stream 6

16:00 – 16:20

#### Mrs Justine Brogna

*Treehaus Pty Ltd*

TreeHaus "Centre for Mind, Body and Movement". Holistic Mental Health Clinic for Children, Adolescents, and Adults. "Bridging the Gap" between Public and Private Mental Health.

#### Session Summary

TreeHaus Clinics

Introducing TreeHaus – Centre for Mind Body and Movement.

Hear from the Founder and CEO of TreeHaus Justine Brogna, who created this allistic clinical approach to servicing people impacted by mental health related issues and for people wanting to enhance their health and wellness.

TreeHaus commenced in 2014 with one small clinic in Melbourne's west and has grown to 4 extensive clinics across Victoria, hosting over 40 practitioners that offer more than 15 different modalities of health care services.

Justine utilised her many years of practice as an Accredited Mental Health Social Worker in various settings across public and private sectors to formulate TreeHaus which attempts to bridge a gap between these two sectors of practice.

Attend this presentation to hear about the TreeHaus one stop shop model,

its central intake service, it's therapies and assessments, how it's helping to build strong communities and create social change. Also, about the ways it provides allied health practitioners a place to work that is collaborative with a team environment yet enables practitioners to still feel autonomous.

TreeHaus treats 1000-2000 patients weekly across its clinics and is enabling positive patient outcomes, catching people that may have otherwise fallen between the gap.

## Stream 6

16:20 – 17:20

### Ms Marie Vakakis

*The Therapy Hub*

Working Therapeutically with Teens - Integrating ACT and Family Systems Principles for Enhancing Parent-Teen Relationships Through the Connected Teens Parenting Program

#### Session Summary

Target Audience: Social Workers and Professionals Assisting Teens and Their Families

Workshop Overview: This 60-minute introductory workshop introduces social workers to the "Connected Teens" parenting program, which combines Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) with Family Systems principles. The session offers a foundational understanding of how to help parents build stronger relationships with their teenage children.

Key Outcomes: Introduction to ACT and Family Systems: Learn how these approaches can positively influence parent-teen dynamics.

Managing Parental Stress: Discover practical techniques to help parents reduce stress and improve family interactions.

Enhancing Communication: Gain insights into fostering open and empathetic communication between parents and teens.

This workshop will provide you with basic tools and strategies to support families more effectively during the adolescent years.

## Stream 6

17:20 – 17:40

### Mr Simon Santosha

*Men & Family Counselling*

Using an Integrated Practice Framework for Effectively Engaging and Working with Vulnerable Men

#### Session Summary

Using an integrated practice framework for effectively engaging and working with vulnerable men. Working with men can be difficult and complex and requires a specific skill set. Men often resist engagement and have poor uptake on referrals for support. They are also more likely to present to services when things are at crisis point and can present as demanding, angry, or unable to communicate well about their situation. These behaviours can often mask unresolved trauma, grief and loss, or mental illness. A critical challenge for the social work profession is how to work with, engage and support vulnerable men in times of need to prevent harm and achieve better outcomes for men and their families. This presentation will provide an overview of the effectiveness of using an integrated practice framework to engage and work with vulnerable men. This framework developed over 20 years of direct practice experience draws on various theories and evidenced-based approaches and provides a blueprint for practitioners to work more effectively with men. Creating change, recognising opportunities for early intervention and harm prevention, and building the capacity of social workers to improve outcomes for men, women, families, and our broader community is the basis of this presentation.

## Stream 7

11:20 – 11:40

### Dr Emma Rush

*Charles Sturt University*

Promoting the Well-Being of Non-Government Organisation Rural Mental Health Staff: A Pilot Study

#### Session Summary

The rural mental health sector is facing challenges in staff recruitment, retention and wellbeing. We will be presenting on our co-designed research with rural mental health non-government organisations. This

research draws on the experience of people delivering mental health services to provide knowledge about previous workplace interventions that were effective for promoting rural mental health staff wellbeing.

Learning objectives:

- Learn about the co-operative inquiry methodology – accessible to practitioners and a perfect research tool for those who value social inclusion
- Learn from the lived experience of NGO rural mental health staff regarding the challenges of recruitment, retention and wellbeing.

What previous workplace interventions have staff experienced as beneficial? This session will be of benefit to all working in delivery or management of mental health services, and especially of interest to those located in a rural area and/or a non-government organisation.

## Stream 7

11:40 – 12:00

### Dr Ndungi Mungai

*Charles Sturt University*

Climate Change and Mental Health in Rural Australia

#### Session Summary

Climate change has been described as the challenge of a generation as shifts in heat and weather patterns create global upheavals for people. There is consensus that humans have been the main drivers of climate change, principally by using fossil fuels that generate greenhouse gases. Climate change poses many challenges including mental health and wellbeing. The aim of this presentation is to explore the mental health aspects of climate change in rural areas and what is being done and can be about it. We have used a systematic review of literature to explore the impact of climate change on mental health in rural Australia. The impacts of climate change on mental health are both direct and indirect, they are monumental and will be felt for a long time to come. Rural areas depend on primary production and therefore contribute significantly to greenhouse gases. They also bear the brunt of climate change as it affects agriculture.

Ending the use of fossil fuels also affects the rural areas that depend on those industries. The review also indicates the need for action at all levels from individuals, governments, and international bodies.

### Stream 7

12:00 – 12:20

#### Prof Elizabeth Beddoe

*University Of Auckland*

Healthcare or a 'Necessary Evil'? Exploring Social Worker Beliefs on Abortion Using a Qualitative Survey

#### Session Summary

This presentation will draw on a qualitative survey that explored the thoughts, beliefs, and the meaning-making that social workers engage in when they consider abortion in their professional practice, following changes to the abortion law in Aotearoa New Zealand. The survey was completed by 122 participants with 14,000 words in open responses related to abortion. These data were explored within a reproductive justice theoretical framework using thematic analysis. While reported views on abortion varied from strongly 'pro-life' to strongly 'pro-choice' many social workers noted a clash between personal and professional values in relation to abortion. Generally, regardless of their stated personal positions participants called on professional ethical principles such as self-determination, neutrality and being non-judgemental to reconcile any tensions. Our findings suggest that social workers would benefit from more learning opportunities focused on the development of a more nuanced understanding of reproductive justice in order to be able to position abortion as health care.

### Stream 7

13:40 – 14:00

#### Mrs Maria Lucia Teixeira Garcia

*Federal University of Espirito Santo*

Suicide in Brazil: Reducing Inequality and Normalising Support

#### Session Summary

The paper, using multiple Brazilian government data sources, explores suicide and sociodemographic characteristics including marital status, gender, age, and level of education

through quantitative and time series study analysing reported suicides from exogenous self-intoxication and physical self-harm. These results are considered alongside the outcomes of a systematic literature review socioeconomic and political contexts of suicide. Suicide rates have increased by 69% to an all-time high, especially during 2016-2022. Cases between 1999-2022 have increased by 143% for men and 188% for women. Gender differences continue (3.6 men per women), with the growth in gender cases requiring attention and further research. The challenges of living are crucial in the consideration of suicide, highlighting the need for community dialogues, expand community-based mental health to monitor and identify the risk factors, training for health professionals to increase the identification of individuals suffering from psychological distress. Improving understanding, data collection, universal service access, support and easy access to support services are all required.

### Stream 7

14:00 – 14:20

#### Miss Jaime O'Donovan

*Transform Lives Program - Griffith University*

Walking The Walk: Implementation of the Transform Lives Program and Integrated Service Delivery with Health Care Providers and Criminalised Women.

#### Session Summary

The Transform Lives Program (TLP) was co-created by researchers, mothers who were or are incarcerated in Queensland, and service providers and agencies who engage with mothers in prison or their children in the community. This presentation examines how the Program Manager and Coaches implemented service delivery within the criminal justice system and community in Southeast Queensland, while listening to the voices of mothers as well as the researchers evaluating the program. It will focus on the barriers to, and impacts of, delayed health care on psychosocial outcomes for women who are in prison and upon their release. We will discuss the steps taken to develop integrated service delivery between our program, health

care services, and the criminal justice system. We examine the importance of listening to the women's voices in goal setting and case planning, the challenges of working across complex and often siloed systems and settings, and the need to balance the psychological and physical health and safety of women in prison while developing an evidence base to create future change.

### Stream 7

15:40 – 16:00

#### Ms Rohena Duncombe

*Charles Sturt University*

Social work practice to improve health and mental health in a disadvantaged population in an under-resourced rural community.

#### Session Summary

Homelessness in Australia is increasing fastest in non-urban areas putting pressure on older, less healthy, and less resourced rural communities. Homelessness negatively affects both health and mental health resulting in 35 years less life expectancy. Community social work practice can improve access to health care in under resourced rural communities. We are positioned to link people in need with resources. This position and the closer relationships in rural practice enable local action on social justice. This community practice and research used organisational documents to support a novel practice within agency goals. It brought health service providers and people living homeless into conversation using social work communication skills. Sharing knowledges of homeless health cogenerated local knowledge for local action. The cogenerated knowledge produced practice and policy changes improving accessing to medications, and the public dentist, benefitting the town's whole homeless community. Community practice and communication skills can address the concerns of people living with disadvantage, improving the use of limited resources and the impact of our organisation in its sector. Homeless health is a human rights issue and so core business of social work. Using our organisation's goals can help us achieve our professional goals of social justice and human rights.

## Stream 7

16:20 – 16:40

### Ms Kirsty Diallo

*West Moreton Mental Health Service*

Culture: The Invisible Barrier to Public Mental Health

#### Session Summary

People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds face unique access and equity issues when it comes to public mental health care. This disparity results in poorer outcomes for both the individual and their family members. This case presentation examines the use cultural humility and anti-oppressive practice to improve mental health outcomes and reduce inequity for CALD people

## Stream 7

16:40 – 17:00

### Ms Alexa Manko

*Mount Sinai Hospital*

Palliative and End-of-Life Care in Adult Leukemia: Incorporating an Interdisciplinary Model and Continuous Goals of Care Discussions to Enhance Patient Outcomes

#### Session Summary

In the setting of acute leukemia, palliative and end-of-life care can play a vital role in managing symptoms and providing support to patients and caregivers. The main purpose of this presentation is to identify opportunities over the disease trajectory to introduce palliative goals and appropriately refer patients to the palliative care team. This presentation will

1. review the literature on palliative care and its utilization for acute leukemia patients;
2. describe symptoms and socioeconomic challenges;
3. present the protocol followed at The Mount Sinai Hospital's Adult Leukemia Program; and
4. review case studies and outcomes.

#### Learning Objectives:

1. Identify the impact of acute leukemia symptoms and treatment side effects on patients and further strengthen integration

of palliative care in the treatment;

2. Discuss cultural and socioeconomic factors impacting patient quality of life and access to palliative care, while identifying clinical skills in engaging patients and caregivers in goals of care discussions.
3. Provide the interdisciplinary team with guidelines and resources on palliative care interventions to use in their daily practice.

## Stream 7

17:00 – 17:20

### Dr Yiqing Yuan

*Fudan University*

The Stigma Status Among Family Caregivers of the Cognitively Impaired Elderly

#### Session Summary

In this session, we will explore the complex stigma faced by family caregivers of individuals with cognitive disorders, particularly Alzheimer's disease. As the aging population increases, understanding the emotional and social challenges caregivers encounter is vital. Key points will include the types of stigma identified—structural, courtesy, and self/affiliate—and their impact on caregivers' mental health and family dynamics. Attendees will benefit from this session if they are healthcare professionals, social workers, family caregivers, or advocates for the elderly. By attending, participants will gain a deeper understanding of how stigma can deter caregivers from seeking help, often until crises arise.

Learning objectives include: Identifying the various forms of stigma experienced by caregivers. Understanding the implications of stigma on caregivers' quality of life and their relationships. Developing strategies to mitigate stigma and promote supportive resources for caregivers. This session aims to foster awareness and equip participants with realistic, tangible approaches to support caregivers, ultimately enhancing their well-being and caregiving effectiveness. Join us to discuss solutions that can make a meaningful difference in the lives of caregivers and the families they support.

## Stream 7

17:20 – 17:40

### Dr Nicole Dubus

*San Jose State University*

Development of an Interprofessional Education (IPE) Program at a State University

#### Session Summary

This presentation shares the challenges and opportunities to develop an interprofessional education curricula that combines the health allied disciplines within a university to teach future integrated healthcare workers in any field, effective ways of operating as a team. I will share how we are building bridges among the siloed disciplines to better prepare students to be leaders in moving healthcare to a more person-centered integrated model. In the United States, our healthcare has become more specialized. These specializations combined with the regulations from health insurance companies, and the influence of pharmaceutical companies has created unintended gaps in health and behavioral health care. Interprofessional care is an approach to improve person-centered behavioral and health care. In this presentation, we will discuss: How do you identify and tap into the resources of the university? How do you generate interest among separate departments? How to develop the curricula that will help students be competent to work and lead? How to work with community partners?

## Stream 8

11:00 – 11:20

### Mrs Louisa Dent Pearce

*The Voice Sanctuary*

The Sanctuary in the Forest: An Australian Peer-led Respite Model for Post-Psychosis Integration Using a Bio-Psycho-Social-Spiritual Approach

#### Session Summary

The Sanctuary in the Forest is a five-day respite model for people who have experienced psychosis, mania or non-ordinary states of consciousness. The service was inspired by the presenter's own lived experience of psychosis, her early career in peer support, and trauma-informed models of care. This presentation discusses the challenges and benefits of this

respite model which embraces diverse worldviews of psychosis, and helps people to reflect on their own journey, reduce internalised stigma, and learn grounding skills. We use an adapted bio-psycho-social-spiritual framework, along with Intentional Peer Support, the Hearing Voices Approach, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, somatic therapy, grief and loss theory, and non-psychoactive spiritual and shamanic practices, appropriate to the participants' worldviews. Within the therapeutic milieu of a rainforest, we guide participants through the scaffolded activities of discussion, teaching, story-telling, ceremony, creative arts and celebration. Our healing map invites deeper connection to six domains: self/body; nature/earth; family/friends; community/society; ancestors/guides; and God/Universe. The map can be adjusted for different worldviews and language preferences. This respite may provide a learning template for other such services or research which seeks to bridge the gap between mainstream mental health and broader cultural and spiritual views of non-ordinary states of consciousness.

### Stream 8

11:20 – 11:40

#### Dr Sacha Jamieson

*The University of Sydney*

Human Rights and Neoliberalism in Eating Disorders Services: A Critical Social Work Approach to Ethical Practice

#### Session Summary

This presentation reports on a collaborative project on critically reflective approaches to ethical decision making for 'Severe and Enduring Eating Disorders', 'Severe and Enduring Anorexia Nervosa', and longstanding eating disorders in neoliberal health policy contexts. The impacts of neoliberalism on health systems have received limited attention in discussion on the ethics of treating eating disorders, even though neoliberal policy has significant influence on the prevention of mental distress, professional practice, who has access to care, and the type of care received if you are able to access it. This presentation will discuss: - System harm as a mechanism of health inequity- Dominant discourses

and the interpretation of rights in the treatment of eating disorders - Professional decision-making processes as a site for resisting the force of neoliberal priorities in health systems. The presentation will also introduce a critical approach to ethical decision making that social workers and other professionals can deploy to assist people in attaining their rights in eating disorders services and mental health services more broadly.

### Stream 8

11:40 – 12:40

#### Ms Chantel Kleiner

*Monash Health*

Building the Bridge to Recovery: Co-Designing Services, Training, & Treatment for Eating Disorders with a Lived Experience Workforce

#### Session Summary

Eating disorders are complex mental illnesses where effective treatment requires a collaborative approach, inclusive of the lived experience workforce. This interactive workshop supports people with the necessary skills to integrate this expertise into the creation of more effective services and training programs.

Objectives:

- To effectively utilise co-design and co-production principles to create more impactful services and training programs.
- To explore the unique strengths that those with lived experience bring to the table, including insights into challenges faced by those living with an eating disorder.
- To learn practical strategies for effectively involving individuals with lived experience in the entire process, from identifying needs to crafting training modules and service delivery models.
- To showcase a real world example of how the lived experience workforce partners with professionals to create effective training for carers through the Collaborative Carer Skills Workshop (CCSW) .

### Who will benefit?

This workshop is designed to be inclusive and will benefit anyone engaged in the field, whether through social work or lived experience, as well as those at the intersection of both. It hopes to empower social workers to build a stronger bridge between professionals and the lived experience workforce by fostering meaningful collaboration in training and service development.

### Stream 8

13:40 – 14:00

#### Mr Benjamin Garcia-Lee

*UNSW*

Co-Creating Knowledge Using I-Poems in Research with Marginalised People with An Intellectual Disabilities Label

#### Session Summary

People with intellectual disabilities are increasingly becoming involved in the co-production of academic research. The study reported in this paper sought to democratise the research collaboration with participants. In the research encounter I actively sought to position participants as knowers. We conceived the research encounter as a space to collaboratively generate new knowledge about belonging and social inclusion. In part, this was achieved through the development and analysis of I-poems.

In the paper I will:

- introduce I-poems as a way of representing and analysing qualitative data
- share some examples of the I-poems created
- discuss co-produced conceptual insights and knowledge about belonging developed through the production and analysis of the I-poems
- demonstrate the added value and depth the approach produced

I argue that collaborative research approaches to belonging focussed on the co-production of knowledge can provide novel insights not otherwise accessible or possible for academic researchers alone.

## Stream 8

14:00 – 14:20

### Miss Rachael Courts

*La Trobe University*

Mapping Social Work's Response to the 'Grand Challenge' of Loneliness

#### Session Summary

Loneliness is recognised as a 'grand challenge' for social work, given its negative impact on health and well-being. But there has been limited progress on how social workers should respond. This is the first review of the literature to explore the scale and scope of social work's contribution to research on loneliness. Rachael Courts, Research Associate of La Trobe University, and owner of Private Practice, Lighter Tomorrow will present the reviews results, highlighting that social workers are engaged in research and action on loneliness, but ensuring this expertise is visible, led by social workers and accessible, remains a challenge.

## Stream 8

14:20 – 15:20

### A/Prof Susan Gair

*Adjunct Associate Professor; Editor Australian Social Work*

Publishing Your Practice and Research

#### Session Summary

Publishing your practice wisdom and research findings contributes to our professional body of knowledge. This workshop is about helping attendees to make sense of the publishing process and begin to generate writing for publication with a focus on publishing in 'Australian Social Work' and similar professional journals.

Why is it important

- To contribute to service delivery based on emerging evidence/ practice wisdom
- To make practice wisdom/ research findings available to other practitioners, policy makers, researchers and students
- To inform future critical practice and research
- To help raise the voices of service users/research participants.

What can workshop attendees expect: Attendees will participate in activities in pairs and small groups, write a title and abstract, and draft an outline of their next article. Thinking ahead we will share ways to address Editor/ Reviewer feedback - to progress your manuscript towards publication. Level of workshop: Beginner to intermediate.

## Stream 8

15:40 – 16:00

### Ms Megan Bayliss

*Coach Bayliss*

Using Brene Brown in Psychoeducation and Bibliotherapy as a Tool of Recovery and to Resist the Status Quo.

#### Session Summary

Resistance is useful in creating change. Some people prefer action-oriented acts of resistance but some who have faced a life changing mental wellbeing challenge prefer more personal acts of change, like craftivism or resistance through reading to help learn about and heal their pain. Bibliotherapy, the use of the written word to help solve a problem, is an evidenced based passive form of psychoeducation: a useful between session intervention that can help your clients integrate their experience while encouraging empowerment. It is an underutilised personal change agent in case planning and intervention. This presentation is based on my PhD research that resisted the devaluing of popular psychology as read and used by everyday people. Using Brene Brown's popular books, the research linked Brene Brown to the Focused Psychological Strategies (FPS) so that Mental Health professionals can use Brown as evidenced based psychoeducation. Learn how you also can use online or face to face book clubs with adults who experienced a life changing challenge to help integrate those challenges.

## Stream 8

16:00 – 16:20

### Ms Allison Wong

*The University Of Hong Kong*

The Role of Perceived Social Support and Family Support on the Spiritual Well-Being of End-of-Life Patients in Different Care Settings

## Session Summary

Learning Objectives:

Knowledge and cultural exchange on the spiritual well-being (SWB) aspect of palliative care Session Summary:

This session will introduce a holistic care model developed by The Jockey Club End-of-Life Community Care Project to address the needs, including spiritual well-being (SWB), of patients with terminal illnesses and their families in Hong Kong.

The speaker will present an evaluation of perceived social support, family support, and SWB in a research project and explore the role of perceived social support and family support on SWB of patients with terminal illnesses in the Chinese population. This session aims to enhance social workers and healthcare professionals' cultural competence in providing palliative care in a culturally diverse community.

Take Home Message:

While a sense of hope in patients with terminal illnesses is often associated with expectation adjustments in the Western culture, our research results suggested that family connection can play an essential role in SWB among patients with a Chinese background.

## Stream 8

16:20 – 17:20

### Ms Beate Steller

*Beate Steller Training Consultancy*

The Benefits of Mindfulness Meditation Groups for Older People: An Evidence-Based, Experiential How-To Practice Workshop

#### Session Summary

This workshop offers a practical experience on how to facilitate a Mindfulness Meditation Group (MMG) for older people living in an aged care or in the community. Experience the group process, discover elements that make MMGs a meaningful experience for older people, hear stories from elders that participated in MMG research project and learn about the published research behind this group. Older people do benefit from being in a safe group space that practices mindfulness meditation and provides a space for reflection in a

nonjudgmental inclusive manner. At the end of the workshop, you receive a PDF copy of Mindfulness Meditation for Older People: A How to Guide for Mindfulness Meditation Groups. Beate will refer to her published research.

Learning objectives:

- Know the research supporting Mindfulness Meditation as being beneficial in frail age.
- Listen to stories of elders that inform us about the benefits of these MMGs and how they promote emotional and spiritual-meaning making- wellbeing.
- Know the elements of the 6-week MMG
- Experience a group session of the MMG
- Understand how to use the How-To Guidebook
- Familiarize the challenges and issues of facilitating a MMG and problem solve potential concerns together.

### Stream 8

17:20 – 17:40

#### Mr Chih Kai Yang

*Social Work Dept. at Puli Christian Hospital*

Unveiling Challenges in Healthcare Social Work Assessment: Insights from Taiwan

#### Session Summary

In recent years, Taiwan has encountered ongoing difficulties in providing direct healthcare social work services, resulting in gaps in problem-solving assessment and intervention processes. This issue hinders the professional development of medical social workers and contributes to their marginalization within the healthcare system.

Recognizing the necessity for focused research on assessment practices in Taiwan, a study was conducted to clarify the concept of “assessment” through in-depth interviews with 31 experienced medical social workers.

Key themes emerged regarding their approach to assessment:

- Problem-Solving Focus

- Contextual Insight

Resource Integration Factors contributing to assessment difficulties were identified, including:

- Insufficient life experience
- Limited professional knowledge and skills
- Shallow problem analysis
- Misunderstood team awareness of social work contributions and misconceptions about social worker roles
- Inadequate staffing ratios as stated in the hospital appraisal regulation, which mandates one social worker per 100 hospital beds

These challenges result in superficial information gathering and limited psychosocial support. Practitioners are at risk of losing their core professional values and focusing on their obstacles rather than patient needs.

Therefore, it is urgent to redefine and emphasize the importance of assessment to enhance practitioners’ assessment capabilities through continuing education and supervision.

### Stream 9

11:00 – 11:20

#### Ms Wing Sheung Chu

*The Salvation Army*

Beyond the Long-term Care Model: Hong Kong Experience of The Eden Alternative®

#### Session Summary

The Eden Alternative® strives to decrease loneliness, helplessness, and boredom by developing healthy habitats in a home-like environment. This paper explains how it was developed by The Salvation Army in Hong Kong over the past 5 years. It also explains the effect of planting and change of culture in the Chinese aged care community. The Salvation Army started learning about the Eden Alternative® in 2019 with the professional support from Ms Sally Hopkins, Eden in Oz & NZ. A pilot scheme applied the framework in one residential care home from 2020 to 2023. By 2023, eight care homes joined the “Eden Alternative in Residential Care Homes Project” to

practice and implement the concepts through a series of staff training, experiential groups and broader programmes. Despite pandemic-related challenges, care homes that embraced the Eden Alternative® have demonstrated resilience. Staff transformed from mere caregivers to active companions, improving overall care quality and fostering meaningful relationships with elders. Elders experienced reduced loneliness, increased happiness and have created a shared sense of purpose. Implementing the Eden Alternative® in the Chinese aged care setting requires management support and buy-in, continuous staff training and family commitment to person-centered care. This model of care is our future.

### Stream 9

11:20 – 11:40

#### Ms Sally Richmond

*Mindfulness for Well-being*

The Utilisation of Mindfulness-Based Interventions to Improve Self-Regulation and Promote the Well-Being of Socially Marginalised and Isolated Populations

#### Session Summary

1. Introduction

a) Learning objectives:

- Location of mindfulness-based interventions as a mental health modality to improve self-regulation and promote the well-being of socially marginalized and isolated people.
- Understanding the potential adaptations of mindfulness-based interventions to respond to the distinct needs of different socially marginalized and isolated populations.
- Implications for Social Work practice in the context of mental health assessments and interventions.

b) Key definitions:

- Mindfulness-based interventions, self-regulation, wellbeing, drawing on the evidenced-based definitions developed by Jon Kabat-Zinn.
- Socially marginalized and isolated populations for this presentation

include Older Adults, First Nation peoples, AOD and people experiencing mental health conditions.

2. Overview of learnings from current research and case studies, which report on the utilization of mindfulness-based interventions to facilitate greater client self-regulation and well-being.

3. Implications for practice – key takeaways:

- Social Work practitioners – potential role of mindfulness-based interventions within mental health assessments and to compliment existing interventions.
- Program development – emerging directions and implications for the design of appropriate mindfulness-based interventions for socially marginalized and isolated populations.
- Policy makers – role of mindfulness-based interventions in mental health prevention and primary, secondary and tertiary levels to improve client self-regulation and well-being.

### Stream 9

11:40 – 12:40

#### Mr Mark Silver

*Swinburne University of Technology*

The Transformative Nature of Storytelling Across the Generations- Reflections on PADSIP (Positive Ageing Digital Storytelling Intergenerational Project) - Impact on Emotional Wellbeing

#### Session Summary

The idea for this Workshop is to reflect on an Intergenerational Storytelling program that has been running continuously for over 15 years and to demonstrate experientially the transformative nature of this storytelling work: that it can be both powerful and empowering. Firstly we will provide an overview of the Program that has been running for 15 years called PADSIP (Positive Ageing Digital Storytelling Intergenerational Program). This includes presenting a PADSIP FRAMEWORK & TOOLKIT, sharing reflections on which elements of the program have been working well. A website is being built so that we can support others to embrace and

develop such programs more broadly in the community and in residential age care settings. The second part will involve a short EXERCISE where participants can experience taking part personally in creating their own stories. This will be a brief experiential learning task where participants will be asked to create a story and move into a “Storycicle” where we will briefly discuss the experience. We have found that such storywork based intergenerational programs focused on building relationships, identity and community have an impact on psychological & mental health as well as in breaking down stereotypes such as ageism, between the generations.

### Stream 9

13:40 – 14:00

#### Mr Chi Feng Lee

*Puli Christian Hospital*

Reviewing and Reflecting on a Hospital’s Community Work Project Working with Indigenous People in Mountainous Areas in Ren’ai Township.

#### Session Summary

Ren’ai Township is a vast sparsely populated mountainous area in Nantou County, Taiwan. Combined with its natural/physical environment, there are inherent limitations on healthcare resource allocation and service delivery. Puli Christian Hospital is one of the major healthcare providers to this area. Besides participating in the “Integrated Delivery System Scheme” from the National Health Insurance Administration, MOHW, the hospital and its social work department developed the “Good Samaritan Community Work Project” to link up relevant resources, fill the gaps, and meet healthcare needs under the specific living and cultural context.

Services such as regular home visits, financial assistance, community resources referrals, case management, discharge planning, psychosocial assessment and intervention, and environmental safety improvement have been provided for over three years. The outcomes are mostly beyond numerical figures. While reflecting on the experiences, a well-crafted program or “Standard Operating Procedures” didn’t seem to be as critical as continuous understanding and learning from

the people whom we worked with, sufficient authorization and trust from the hospital, creativity and flexibility of the work team, and insights rendered from the community/tribes. This article also shares the reflexive learning points of the social worker from the concept of cultural humility.

### Stream 9

14:00 – 14:20

#### Miss Candice Butler

*Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak*

Healing Our Children and Young People: A Framework to Address the Impacts of Domestic and Family Violence

#### Session Summary

The framework, Healing our children and young people: A framework to address the impacts of domestic and family violence is designed to be implemented in local contexts, to meet local needs. Children are placed at the centre of this trauma informed, strengths-based framework that upholds self-determination and will support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to experience increased physical, social, emotional, cultural and spiritual safety in their homes and communities.

This joint presentation will guide participants through the development of the framework and provide practical examples of how this framework can be implemented in their daily practice across all system levels.

### Stream 9

14:20 – 15:20

#### Dr Deborah Lynch

*University of Queensland*

Ethical Research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities: Privileging Indigenous Epistemologies

#### Session Summary

The topic of this intermediate level workshop is ethical research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and their custodianship of the lands on which we meet. We welcome all researchers and practitioners working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities. Participants

will have the opportunity to become familiar with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Quality Appraisal Tool (QAT) and apply it to their own area of research/practice. The workshop will develop participants' confidence to use the QAT to critically appraise existing research and/or guide new research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to improve health outcomes. The topic is important to improve the way all researchers work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to promote safe, respectful and high quality research scholarship.

#### References:

NHMRC. Ethical conduct of research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities. Guidelines for researchers and stakeholders. Canberra: NHMRC; 2018.

Harfield S, Pearson O, Morey K. et al. Assessing the quality of health research from an Indigenous perspective: The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander quality appraisal tool. BMC. 2020 20:79.

#### Stream 9

16:00 – 16:20

#### Ms Adele Sheridan-Magro

*St Vincents Health Network Sydney*

Colliding Worlds: The intersectionality of - sexuality, gender, culture, ethnicity, religion, age and history

#### Session Summary

This presentation is a critical reflection by a domestic violence trauma counsellor and her experience of working with an Aboriginal gay man during a time of significant trauma for him. Throughout the presentation we will explore areas such as; the intersectionality of sexuality, gender, culture, ethnicity, race, religion, age and history within a therapeutic space of healing. As participants you will be invited to reflect on the values and social constructs underpinning the discourses of; woman centred domestic violence services and non-aboriginal identified therapeutic service provision. Indeed, through these critical challenges we will aim to discover a reflective space where one is able to challenge the notion of a singular identity – a space to sit

and see beyond black and white into the beauty of grey. In the concluding of the presentation, participants will be asked to self-reflect on their own knowing of 'colliding worlds' including an invitation to reflect on one's own necessity for resilience and tolerance for that which is colliding and perhaps unknown.

#### Stream 9

16:20 – 17:20

#### Mrs Seanna Keeley

*The Courageous Space*

Empowering Social Workers working with transgender and gender diverse families; navigating the difficult conversations

#### Session Summary

Empowering Social Workers Working with Transgender and Gender Diverse Families: Navigating the Difficult Conversations

This workshop explores the vital role of Social Workers in supporting transgender and gender-diverse families, emphasising the importance of navigating complex and often challenging conversations. Research indicates that Social Workers are key to fostering understanding and acceptance within these families, providing evidence-based strategies to facilitate sensitive discussions about gender identity.

Through comprehensive assessments, Social Workers can identify the specific needs of each family member and customise their approach to ensure a supportive environment. The workshop will highlight the significance of empathy, active listening, and cultural sensitivity in guiding these conversations, ensuring that all voices are acknowledged and respected.

Additionally, the workshop underscores the critical need for self-care among Social Workers, recognizing the emotional demands of this work. It will offer practical self-care strategies to help professionals maintain their well-being and resilience while working in this sensitive area.

Finally, an interactive Q&A session will invite participants to engage in a collaborative dialogue, sharing their experiences and insights. This session aims to empower Social Workers with

the knowledge and tools needed to effectively support transgender and gender-diverse families.

#### Stream 9

17:20 – 17:40

#### Mrs Jackie Wruck

*Safe And Together Institute - Australia*

An Introduction to the Safe and Together CORE Training. Making the Violence Visible and Holding Perpetrators Accountable for Their Choice to use Violence.

#### Session Summary

The Safe & Together Model's goal is to create systems and practice change that is child-centered and helps to keep children safe and together with the protective parent.

It helps services become more domestic violence informed and more efficient and effective by partnering with survivors.

It gives you a common language and framework to support the safety and well-being of the adult & child survivor.

The 3 main Principles which are:

1. Keeping the child Safe and Together with the non-offending parent.
2. Partnering with non-offending parent as a default position.
3. Intervening with perpetrator to reduce risk and harm to the child.

Our 5 Critical Components highlight the direct link of the perpetrator's behaviours, to children's trauma, safety and housing stability. It will focus on the direct harm to the children; re: school attendance or health issues.

S&T demonstrates how his behaviour affects her parenting and general functioning.

The S&T Model is strengths based and looks at the survivors' actions to keeping her and the children safe, without blaming her for his behaviours. It holds perpetrators accountable for their choice to use violence and makes them visible. This child-centered approach sets high standards for men as parents.

## Stream 10

11:00 – 11:20

### Mr Chia Te Lin

*Medical Social Work Association*

A Study of Use the Brief Symptom Rating Scale (BSRS-5) for Screening Inpatients' Needs for Social Work Services in a Tertiary Medical Center in Taiwan.

#### Session Summary

nǎhǎo~Welcome to my research presentation! This study examines how medical social workers at a medical center in New Taipei City, Taiwan, use the Brief Mental Health Rating Scale (BSRS-5) for universal screening of hospitalized patients.

The goal is to understand patients' psycho-social needs and offer timely social work interventions.

Why do social workers perform universal screening? In this medical center, influenced by Buddhist principles, aims for holistic care and great love, providing not only medical treatment but also social and psychological support.

How is the screening done? At first nurses administer the scale to all inpatients, and social workers review the scores in the Healthcare Information System (HIS) and conduct interviews. This helps us understand high scores and tailor social work services accordingly.

Through this screening method, medical social workers can reach more inpatients beyond traditional consultations, conduct interviews, and provide care using social work methods. This enables them to identify patients who need social work services, allowing collaboration with the medical team to fulfill the hospital's mission and achieve holistic care goals.

## Stream 10

11:20 – 11:40

### Ms Aiyu Li

*Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore*

An Evidence-Informed Information Guide for Family Caregivers of Ventilator-Assisted Individuals (VAIs): A Proposal

#### Session Summary

In this session, the speaker will share the findings that were drawn from data collected from twelve caregivers including parents, spouses, children, and siblings of Ventilator-assisted individuals (VAIs). In this life-changing and resource-laden event, family caregivers of VAIs sharing points to a need for a guide that outlines family psychosocial needs and coping to coincide with key phases in the illness trajectory.

In the acute-onset phase, due to steep learning curves from illness-related caregiving tasks, participants enhanced sense of mastery at the expense of psychosocial needs. During the chronic phase, participants drew strength from family bonds to maintain "a normal life" and continuity of care.

While gradually accepting the illness as permanent, coping is affected by uncertainty of the duration of this phase and lack of nuanced understanding from the larger society. For the terminal phase, participants actively constructed new meanings and perspectives in life through positive experiences, which may benefit coping with bereavement.

The study would also like to propose a guide that

1. help participants better prepare for an evolving caregiving role and
2. facilitate building a cohesive relationship amongst VAIs, FCGs and healthcare team. Suggestions for critical healthcare decision-making will be included as well.

## Stream 10

12:00 – 12:20

### Ms Glenys Wilkinson

*Insight Coaching*

A Social Worker and a General Practitioner Walk into a Bar... A Tantalising Tale of Interprofessional Collaboration and its Ripple Effects.

#### Session Summary

This presentation will share a tale of intellectual humility adopted by an Accredited Mental Health Social Worker and a General Practitioner as an exemplar of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), definition and

strategic direction of interprofessional collaboration.

AHPRA governs 15 health professions and has announced a definition and strategic directions for the development of collaborative health practitioners. We will explore this definition as the policy context for social work practice within multidisciplinary health teams and the expectations for the capabilities of future health practitioners. We will highlight recent research that illuminates consumers' expectations of a collaborative practitioner and present an exemplar of innovative social work practice that illustrates AHPRA's strategic direction in action.

We submit social workers inherently possess the skills and capabilities required to be collaborative practitioners while understanding the nuances of interprofessional collaboration and demonstrating them within healthcare settings. A highly successful practice model to address the supervision and wellbeing needs of practitioners in primary health settings will be shared. It demonstrates how a 'collaborative health practitioner' aligns with AHPRA's definition, and can enhance patient outcomes. This innovative approach underscores the importance of contextual awareness and ongoing education in facilitating effective collaboration across disciplines.

## Stream 10

12:20 – 12:40

### Ms Alana Cowan

*Metro South Hospital and Health Service*

Digital Empowerment: Transitioning a Hospital Social Work Department from Anecdotal to Data-Driven

#### Session Summary

This presentation describes how a Metropolitan Hospital Social Work Department's clinical and operational processes went from arbitrary to systematic through the tactical use of quantitative data. It comes direct from the perspective of frontline clinicians and management with the aim of showcasing how Social Workers in acute facilities can use data and digital technology to both inform and improve practice and service delivery, as well as improve clinicians' individual sense of well-being and

value whilst providing tangible evidence of the contribution Social Work makes in the delivery of quality patient care.

The aim of the presenters is to share with our fellow Social Workers situated within complex bureaucratic health systems our own experiential learnings over the past decade of how we were able to quantify the often intangible work that we do every day and the positive long-term impacts of these alterations to our practice and services.

Choosing to embrace rather than avoid data and digitisation has had a truly affirmative impact on a busy hospital Social Work Department and equipped us with a greater ability to articulate and advocate for ourselves and our profession, which is an all too familiar struggle for many of us.

### **Stream 10**

14:00 – 14:20

#### **Ms Nicola Hainsworth**

*Austin Health*

Death is Everyone's Business: Developing and Implementing a Systematic Approach to Bereavement Support at a Major Tertiary Australian Hospital

#### **Session Summary**

This session benefits Social Workers working in hospitals, palliative care, and those with an interest in bereavement support.

Bereavement support is a critical element of end-of-life care and a frequent intervention in hospitals; however formalised and systematic approaches are lacking within this setting.

While grief is a normal emotional reaction to bereavement, for a subgroup of individuals the symptoms are more intense and persistent. These individuals are at risk of complicated grief, which can result in healthcare utilisation, frequent hospitalisation, and reduced psychosocial functioning, in the absence of early identification. The developed evidence-based model has a two-tiered approach, ensuring a sustainable and systematic approach to identifying and providing bereavement support to families.

Social Workers play an essential

role in bereavement support through the completion of a bereavement risk screen to identify those at risk of complicated grief. Intervention is provided on a trajectory from pre death to six months following death.

Learning Objectives: Learn the developed Bereavement Support Model and associated tools, and how to apply it to clinical practice. Understand differences between normal grief reactions and complicated grief. Identify key risk factors and protective / resilience factors considered when screening for risk of complicated grief.

### **Stream 10**

14:40 – 15:00

#### **Ms Felicity Johnson**

*Sydney Local Health District*

The Impact of Minority Stress and Intersectionality on the Experience and Research of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans\* and Queer Bereavement

#### **Session Summary**

This session presents the findings from a scoping review of LGBTQ+ bereavement research from 2003-2023.

The aim of this scoping review was to map existing understandings of the ways in which a sexual and/or gender minority identity impacts bereavement experiences, and how minority stress and intersectionality interact with these experiences.

Findings are presented in four themes: Systemic barriers, Complexities of (not) disclosing identity, Minimising of loss, and LGBTQ+ community dis/connection.

Consideration of the choices made in the recruiting, conducting and reporting of LGBTQ+ bereavement research will also be discussed; in particular, how these choices often perpetuate the prototypical image of an LGBTQ+ person as White, cisgender, middle-class and urban.

If we are to further our knowledge of LGBTQ+ bereavement experiences, we must depart from the myth of the homogenous 'LGBTQ+ community' and investigate how intersections such as gender, race, religion, (dis)ability, geography and age influence how sexual and gender minorities

experience and navigate bereavement.

This presentation is directly relevant to social workers who support bereaved and/or LGBTQ+ persons, but also speaks to broader interests of social workers, such as structural disadvantage, discrimination, intersectionality and research.

### **Stream 10**

15:00 – 15:20

#### **Ms Kristine Leng**

*SCGOPHCG*

Building Clinician Capacity for Death and Dying Conversations: A Mixed-Method Research Project

#### **Session Summary**

This presentation describes how a small research grant has enabled a social work department to carry out a skills and knowledge audit of workers perceptions, practices, and confidence in undertaking death and dying conversations within hospital and community settings.

Some social workers identified barriers such as an inability to provide privacy and a lack of confidence in undertaking this work. Enablers were also highlighted such as effective multidisciplinary teamwork and acknowledging the 'lived experience' of the worker. Social workers were able to identify the significance of the Voluntary Assisted Dying act and its implications for social work practice. This research has guided evidence based planning for future training in this area.

Attendees will also hear about the collaborative work between the tertiary hospital and university in securing and carrying out this research, aimed at enabling and building research capacity.

### **Stream 10**

15:40 – 16:00

#### **Mr Ho Kong Chan**

*The Salvation Army*

Relational Needs in End-of-Life Care for Chinese Older Adults: A Pilot Evaluation of the CORE-UPHOLD Model

#### **Session Summary**

The CORE-UPHOLD model -

Configuration, Rejuvenating, and Upholding of Relational Personhood is a culturally sensitive psychosocial step-care model developed by The Salvation Army and Sau Po Centre on Ageing of the University of Hong Kong that aims to identify and sustain the personhood of older adults in residential care homes of Hong Kong to optimize end-of-life care. This study recruited 92 Chinese older adults and utilized the CORE-UPHOLD assessment to capture their end-of-life needs, which were conceptualized as a nine-aspect construct within the framework of Individual-Relational-Societal (IRS) personhood and Sensory-Emotional-Existential (SEE) support. Relational-emotional needs (REm) were reported by 59.8% of participants, while 55.4% reported relational-sensory needs (RS) and 50.0% reported individual-sensory needs (IS). Demented individuals had significantly higher relational-emotional needs (REm) and societal-existential needs (SEx). Correlation analyses revealed significant associations among various end-of-life needs, specifically, relational-emotional needs (REm) were significantly associated with individual-sensory (IS), relational-sensory (RS), societal-sensory needs (SS) and individual-emotional needs (IEm). Results confirmed the efficacy of the CORE-UPHOLD model as a validated assessment tool for capturing the end-of-life needs of Chinese older adults. The high prevalence of relational-emotional needs (REm) highlighted its importance to older adults during the last journey of their life, alongside individual and existential needs.

**Stream 10**  
16:00 – 16:20

**Dr Zhuyun Lin**  
*The University Of Hong Kong*

Enhancing End-of-Life Care Volunteer Training: Integrating Self-Determination Theory and Functional Motives in an Online Learning Platform

### Session Summary

Learning Objective:

Grasp the association between motivation and satisfaction in online learning.

In this session, we will explore an online self-learning platform designed

for end-of-life care volunteers. We will investigate the factors that influence learners' satisfaction in an online learning environment, discovering that motivation plays a crucial role in their overall satisfaction.

Key Takeaway:

The quality of motivation is essential for volunteer satisfaction in the learning process. Greater autonomy in decision-making leads to increased satisfaction in their actions.

**Stream 10**  
17:20 – 17:40

**Ms Kathy Karatasas**  
*Western Sydney University*

Building Children's Sense of Identity and Belonging: Keeping Cultural Connections for Children from Multicultural Backgrounds in Out-of-Home-Care

### Session Summary

It is the right of every child to grow within their own cultural traditions, yet many children from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds in Australia's statutory care system lose connection to community and consequently their sense of identity

The presentation provides an overview of international and national learnings.

Research from a Churchill Fellowship in US, England, Scotland, Ireland and Norway highlights how approaches to concepts of race, colour-blindness and permanency are influencing how social workers are exploring and responding to children's cultural care needs.

Key themes from a three-year national project explores such questions as:

- whose responsibility is it to nurture cultural connections... birth family, carers or social workers?
- how to encourage cultural reflections with social workers and carers to better understand what influences their approaches to attending to children's cultural care

Finally, the paper provides an overview on the SELF cultural framework

which provides guidance to explore culture through four core elements: settlement, ethnicity, language and faith, and better understand what culture may mean for children and families.

Social workers will be encouraged to consider intentional approaches to understanding, valuing and responding more meaningfully to supporting children from multicultural backgrounds in care stay connected to their cultures.

**Stream 11**  
11:00 – 11:20

**Ms Irene Economou**  
*Complex Psychology*

Working from a Positive Behaviour Support Framework with People Experiencing Serious Mental Illness from a Social Work Perspective.

### Session Summary

This presentation explores the efficacy of positive behaviour support when working with clients experiencing complex psychosocial disability and engaging in behaviours of concern. We include a case study analysis of Complex Psychology clients experiencing psychosocial disability with associated severe behaviours of concern. These complex presentations often result in restrictive interventions, a perceived loss of client's autonomy, choice and control and frequent cross-sector involvement, including the justice system and area mental health services. This analysis identifies clients experiencing severe mental illness presenting with significant behaviours of concern are well supported through a holistic Positive Behaviour Support approach. Complex Psychology implements this model from a trauma-informed lens, enabling community-based supports to better respond to individual needs influencing positive systemic outcomes. This approach subsequently influences a reduction in restrictive practices over time, enhanced client agency, overall improvements to human rights and quality of life. We will incorporate reflections on how social work ethics and values intersect with the delivery of positive behaviour support services. This presentation is aimed at social workers from various service sectors working in collaboration with National Disability Insurance Scheme services

and clients presenting with multiple and complex needs.

### Stream 11

11:20 – 11:40

#### Ms Naomi Kikkawa

*Qld Centre For Perinatal and Infant Mental Health, CYMHS, CHQ HHS*

Building Connections, Capacity, and Collaborative Care – A Statewide Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Telepsychiatry Service in Queensland

#### Session Summary

This session will focus on a statewide telepsychiatry service working with service providers in regional, rural and remote areas across Queensland. The service works to build local connections and referral pathways, workforce capacity and a collaborative care system around families in the perinatal (preconception to two years post birth) and infant (0 – 4 years) mental health period. The goal is to provide timely specialist psychiatry advice and guidance, close to home, to ultimately support infants and/or young children to have strong, positive and enjoyable relationships with their parents, caregivers and communities to help them experience the best possible start in life. The service works across sectors and government departments.

Evaluations by the Centre for Online Health, UQ (2020 and 2023) demonstrated:

- Increased workforce confidence in understanding and working with Perinatal and Infant Mental Health (PIMH) issues
- e-PIMH is meeting an unmet need for specialist PIMH assessment and advice
- Reported improved outcomes for consumers
- Improved clinician confidence and reduced sense of isolation

Importance of a clinical facilitator to support consultations.

### Stream 11

11:40 – 12:40

#### Mr Michael Power

*Metro North Health*

Discovering the Opportunities to use Restorative Practice in Mental Health Services

#### Session Summary

Facilitators:

*Michael Power and Catriona Harwood (social workers)*

Social Work led the way developing and implementing a model of Restorative Practice in 2019 to respond to violence and threats of violence in mental health services at The Prince Charles Hospital, Brisbane.

The model includes a continuum of Restorative Practices from those used daily to more formal Restorative Meetings facilitated by an external Restorative Practitioner. The workshop provides participants with a brief overview of the model, its aims, implementation strategies, challenges, and outcomes.

This includes highlights from an external 2.5 year evaluation followed by a Context Assessment and evaluation which informed an extension to other mental health services in 2023. Workshop participants will be provided the key elements of the model and success factors for future implementation and sustainability.

This workshop will demonstrate and provide the opportunity for participants to use Restorative Practice processes of Circles, the Social Discipline Window and Restorative Questions. Information will be provided on how these interventions have been used in secure and community mental health services.

A resource will be provided to participants to inspire their learning in this area.

### Stream 11

13:40 – 14:00

#### Dr Martha Druery

*Lumos Trauma Institute Pty Ltd*

Necessity, the Mother of Invention: How Hospital Redundancy Resulted in Original Research, Co-Designed Peer Support, a Thriving Private Practice and a Movement for 'Humanised Healthcare'.

#### Session Summary

The winner of the ICSWHMH 2024

Best Abstract Award, this paper reflects the diversity of roles available to social workers in health and mental health. The breadth presented will span inpatient hospital settings to private practice psychotherapy (in an ocean of psychologists), original quantitative research (without an aptitude for maths), charity work in co-designed peer support programs, supervision, education and training, and beyond, into the world of online entrepreneurial endeavours whilst tackling the challenge of charging to earn a living. This presentation demonstrates that the scope for social work career progression extends beyond rising the ranks in public sector management. For those who are curious about opportunities for social workers outside employed work in an organisation, attending this session will share how one social worker created a fulfilling career following an unexpected detour when she was made redundant from her 'permanent' hospital position. Perhaps this session will inspire you to expand your own vocational future.

### Stream 11

14:00 – 14:20

#### Mrs Claire Walsh

*Queensland Health, Metro South, Child & Youth Mental Health Service, Evolve Therapeutic Services*

Understanding Shame and Blame in the World of Families and Substance Use.

#### Session Summary

In Queensland, families facing mental health, alcohol, and drug challenges endure significant stigma and shame, particularly impacting mothers who are often unfairly blamed. This presentation examines how pervasive social isolation and negative societal perceptions hinder access to essential support services, perpetuating disadvantage. Participants will hear firsthand accounts from mothers sharing their lived experiences of stigma and discrimination, providing invaluable insights into their challenges and resilience, through an exploration of the various layers of stigma—internal, community-expressed, and structural—and how social workers, through core principles of social justice, respect, and integrity, can actively work to shift this landscape. Highlighting the initiatives of Clarence

Street, a youth alcohol and other drug service, the presentation will showcase how integrating family support has empowered participants and fostered connection, culminating in a co-authored book that redefines the narrative around motherhood in these contexts. This presentation is ideal for social workers in health and mental health settings, particularly those intersecting with addiction issues. Attendees will gain valuable insights into fostering resilience, reshaping narratives around addiction, and understanding the power of connection and empowerment. Join us to explore strategies for systemic change that can lead to improved outcomes for families in our communities

### Stream 11

14:20 – 15:20

#### Ms Emily Bieber

*La Trobe University*

Maintaining Quality Support When Conspiracy Enters the Room: Share Skills and Challenges from the Field with Fellow Practitioners.

#### Session Summary

Not provided

### Stream 11

15:40 – 16:00

#### Mr David Stracey

*Arc Therapy*

“Now I have Finally Left Care! – What About my Mental Health?”

#### Session Summary

Not provided

### Stream 11

16:20 – 17:20

#### Ms Erin Haskins

*Royal Children's Hospital*

Showcasing Theraplay® - Strengthening Family Systems, Attachment and Attunement Between Caregivers and Children Utilising Theraplay®.

#### Session Summary

The joyful sound of a child engaged, fully present and delighting with their parent/caregiver is one of the key goals of a Theraplay® intervention.

Theraplay provides an accessible approach for Social Workers wanting to strengthen family systems and improve the emotional and mental health of children and caregivers.

This workshop is targeted to Social Workers with an interest in child, adolescent and family work. Theraplay provides practical interventions with a strong evidence base and theoretical underpinnings in child development, attachment and family systems theories. Participants will deepen their understanding of the importance of play and attuned parenting in the development of secure attachments.

Case examples will demonstrate the versatility of Theraplay with different client populations and organisational contexts. Experiential demonstrations of Theraplay interventions will be provided along with a discussion of the core principles of Theraplay and its intersection with Social Work theories. We aim to have a fun, engaging and stimulating session together.

### Stream 11

17:20 – 17:40

#### Ms Li Shan Long

*KK Women's and Children's Hospital*

Enhancing Youth Mental Health Care: Onsite Youth Well-being Questionnaire Screening in Children's Emergency

#### Session Summary

The Temasek Foundation Youth Connect Services is developed to meet the growing needs for youth mental health care in Singapore. It aims to provide early recognitions and brief interventions for adolescents who presented at Children's Emergency (CE) with psychosocial stressors. The programme encompasses three main components: Youth Well-being Questionnaire (YWBQ), Youth Connect Associates (YCA's), and Process-based Brief Intervention.

When youth patients present at CE with psychosomatic symptoms, physicians will administer the YWBQ to them. YCA's will then follow-up with an outpatient referral to deliver brief interventions. However, this workflow resulted in a fragmentation of services where patients see different individuals for the same reason of providing psychosocial support. Thus,

this results in higher default rates for YCA appointments. After reviewing data trends, Youth Connect Services implemented for YCA's to be available at CE to administer the YWBQ instead and provide follow-up services at the get-go. This would allow for clearer communications with patients and families, promoting more focused patient-centric care in tandem with their medical consultations.

Providing in-person support is an inaugural step towards patient-centric care in acute settings such as CE. Data findings also presented a lower rate of defaulting on YCA appointments upon the new implementation.

## Thursday

### Plenary

08:15 – 09:15

#### Associate Professor Heather Boetto

*Charles Sturt University, Australia*

Keynote Presentation: Global Systemic Shifts Influencing Social Work: Determining our Priorities for Future Practice

#### Session Summary

A backdrop of global crises denotes current and future priorities for social work. This presentation will explore global systemic shifts shaping the future of social work, including geopolitical tensions, technological acceleration, demographic reorganisation, and climate change. Amid these contemporary global challenges, there exists unique opportunities for social work to enact dialogical, localised, collective, and decolonised solutions. The profession's call to action embodies optimism and transformative change towards a more secure, safe, socially just, and sustainable future.

### Plenary

10:30 – 10:50

#### Dr Lisa Ewenson

*UNSW, HowWeSurvive*

Enablers for Attaining the Right to Adequate Housing in an Australian Disaster Recovery Context – A Macro Ecosocial Work Approach.

## Session Summary

Australia, due to its location on our warming planet, is experiencing an increase in the frequency and intensity of environmental hazards which result in disaster. This largely dry continent, beset by widespread bushfires, floods and droughts, is also a land of deep inequality. The aftermath of disaster spotlights these inequitable landscapes which make recovery from disaster so difficult and prolonged. Australia, like many other 'developed' nations, is experiencing an escalating housing crisis. The cost of purchasing a home is out of reach for many, rental increases and rental tenure insecurity prevail, and we have limited social housing provision. We also know that older women are the fastest growing group in Australia facing housing precarity and homelessness, and we know that disasters, as worsened by climate change, compound upon this dire situation.

This presentation considers the call for embracing a critical ethics of care in this era of climate change, and links this with efforts aimed at progressing the recognition and implementation of the right to adequate housing within Australia, with a focus on women. This linking of theory and legal frameworks shapes what is here positioned as a relational rights-based approach to achieve the right to adequate housing for all.

## Plenary

10:50 – 11:10

### Mrs Barbara Lang

*Ministry Of Health, Israel*

Things We Never Imagined We Would Do!

## Session Summary

On October 7, terrorists infiltrated Israel and murdered hundreds of children, elderly, women and men; burned houses; abused, raped, and kidnapped 240 Israelis and foreigners. Since then, the State of Israel has been dealing with an epic security, nationalistic and social disaster. The National Social Work Service in the Ministry of Health was involved in three processes responding to the disaster and its consequences:

1. Accompanying families of those murdered to the Shura identification center.

2. Namal: matching therapists to families of those kidnapped, missing and murdered.
3. Receiving those kidnapped, upon their release, as they arrived at hospitals.

These processes tell a human story about people meeting in dramatic moments, but beyond this - they tell about us, social workers in the healthcare system; our commitment to professional values and sense of duty to the public in emergency situations overriding our sense of duty to ourselves and our families. Going beyond regular duties and willingness to adapt existing models and develop new intervention methods, responding to the needs of patients in the changing environment. Mental flexibility, courage to stand at the forefront and to see the "connective tissue", essential to working as part of the team in healthcare institutions.

## Plenary

11:10 – 11:30

### Ms Jatinder Kaur

*Qld Fire & Emergency Services*

Delivering Mental Health Services for First Responders – New Queensland State-Wide Initiatives of Fire & Emergency Services Support Network (FESSN)

## Session Summary

Accredited Mental health Social Workers (AMHSW) play a pivotal role in delivering mental health services, training and providing psychological support to first responders and rural brigade members. Ms Kaur will present her experience in delivering these initiatives in Central Queensland and discuss the challenges faced by firefighters and rural brigades impacted by bushfires, cyclones, disasters and road traffic accidents. This presentation will focus on the Prevent, Prepare, Respond and Recover (PPRR) Model that is utilised within FESSN service in delivering mental health and wellbeing support to first responders across Queensland. Mental health managers play an integral in breaking down the stigma and barriers to seeking help and psychoeducation around mental health and wellbeing. Providing outreach and delivering training to first responders across Central Queensland region

covering the geographic size of Germany. The PPRR model is an innovative approach in reducing mental health stigma and barriers and has led to an increase in first responders seeking mental health supports and programs. AMHSW bring unique perspective in their clinical interventions and community development approach to address social isolation and promote wellbeing and resilience for first responders and help to reduce psychosocial risks within the workplace.

## Plenary

11:30 – 11:50

### Ms Nurit Tamsot

*Assuta Ashdod Hospital*

There's Enough Work for Everyone: Collaboration between the Social Work and Patient Experience Departments During the Iron Swords War

## Session Summary

The Iron Swords War, beginning on October 7, 2023, thrust Assuta Ashdod Hospital into a severe crisis as Israel faced a devastating Hamas attack. The hospital quickly adapted to a massive influx of wounded soldiers and civilians while staff managed personal anxieties and continued providing care under extreme conditions. The collaboration between the Social Work and Patient Experience Departments was innovative. Social Work concentrated on stabilizing victims, addressing their immediate emotional needs, and helping them reconnect with coping mechanisms. Meanwhile, the Patient Experience Department expanded its role to support families, streamline bureaucratic processes, and address practical needs. Together, they offered a comprehensive approach to patient care, effectively managing both emotional and physical aspects of recovery. This collaboration underscored the importance of interdepartmental cooperation in crises, demonstrating that working together and setting aside individual roles allowed both departments to complement each other and enhance patient and family care.

## Plenary

11:50 – 12:10

### Prof Miriam Schiff

*Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

Seeking Professional Help and Satisfaction from the Treatment Among Displaced People from War Zones

### Session Summary

The presentation will provide the context of living in a war zone and the pain of being displaced from home. The participants will acquire knowledge from theory and research on people's distress, including Acute Stress Disorder in this context, as well as their strengths and resiliency in terms of high coping, high level of posttraumatic growth, and readiness to volunteer to assist other people in distress.

Participants will become acquainted with crisis interventions and how they differ from trauma processing interventions and long-term psychodynamic interventions. The presenter will emphasize the significant contribution of ecological theory to these intervention models and share the basic principles of interventions in community Resilience Centers.

Presenters will also share theory and data on barriers and facilitators for help-seeking during mass trauma and discuss ways to overcome these barriers and strengthen the facilitators. Barriers include background variables, unmet basic needs, loneliness, and lack of social support. Facilitators include high exposure to acts of political violence, high levels of ASD, and having children. A brief assessment of the efficacy of the intervention and its limitations will be explored.

Finally, we will discuss the generalizability of this study to mass trauma in different countries and contexts.

## Plenary

13:10 – 13:30

### Ms Danielle Schalk

*South Metropolitan Health Service*

A Missed Window of Opportunity: Perpetrators of Domestic and Family

Violence Remain Invisible in the Hospital Setting

### Session Summary

Hospitals are an important domain for social work practice addressing domestic and family violence (DFV). Whilst processes for screening and responding to DFV victim-survivors now exists to varied extents throughout hospitals, equivalent processes do not exist for perpetrators. This is despite increased recognition that work with perpetrators is vital to addressing DFV. This session will report the results from a scoping review, published in Trauma, Violence & Abuse in 2024, on how health professionals identify and respond to perpetrators of DFV in a hospital setting. This review found that despite hospitals presenting a window of opportunity for perpetrator identification and response, perpetrators are under-screened and under-identified. Further, responses, and non-responses, can result in inadvertent collusion with the perpetrator. Responses rely on the motivation, skill and self-efficacy of health professionals rather than embedded practice. In this session we ask what role hospitals, as part of a whole-of-community response, should play in addressing the perpetration of DFV. Danielle shares how this research came about, a result of her feeling of unease as a Maternity social worker observing the invisibility of perpetrators. This session would benefit practitioners working within a hospital setting and those whose scope of practice interfaces with DFV.

## Plenary

13:30 – 13:50

### Ms Kim Sutherland

*Queensland Health*

A Structured Template for Social Work Psychosocial Assessments and Formulations in Healthcare

### Session Summary

Previously, substantial inconsistencies existed in relation to social work documentation in medical records across Queensland Health. A Social Work Psychosocial Assessment (QH-SWPsA) template comprising six title headings (Reason for Referral/ Review; Presenting Situation; History/ Information Obtained; Formulation;

Intervention; Plan) and encompassing nine psychosocial domains (Person, Culture and Family; Environment; Financial Resources; Health, Function and Adjustment; Legal; Mental Health and Wellness; Developmental History; Care Needs and Choice; Risk and Protective Factors) was developed. This presentation will focus on the development and implementation of the QH-SWPsA template and consider qualitative and quantitative data from the pre and post QH-SWPsA implementation audit study. Implications from this study will form the key learning objectives for this presentation. Specially noting, the value of the 'Care Needs and Choice' psychosocial domain which promotes "patient voice" ensuring patients are central to assessment and decision-making, minimising clinician-patient power imbalance, and fostering practice grounded in core social work values, principles, and standards. It highlights the value of a consistent template and approach, demonstrating social work scope of practice, and unique contribution to multi-disciplinary care. The presentation will explore critical reasoning and how use of the social work clinical formulation matrix encourages critical thinking and analysis to inform social work interventions.

## Plenary

13:50 – 14:50

*Prof Lynette Joubert (Australia), Ms Melissa Chew (Singapore), Ms Elisa Gordon (USA), Ms Mary Joyce (Australia), Dr Hadas Rosenne (Israel) & Dr Samuel Shih-Chih Wang (Taiwan)*

International Hospital Social Work Panel - Hospital Social Work - Models of Care: Policy, Practice and Innovations

### Session Summary

In the evolving landscape and challenges of hospital social work, our panel will examine how a broader systematization and the social determinants of health can assist in identifying and developing new care models tailored to patient profiles. The panel will also delve into patient autonomy and how changes to legislation in different countries are shaping the future roles and responsibilities of Hospital Social Work.

## Plenary

15:20 – 15:40

### Ms Elisa Gordon

*The Mount Sinai Hospital*

Navigating Change in Social Work in Health Care: A Leadership Coaching Approach

#### Session Summary

Change is a constant in health care, and organizational transformation is a requirement for health care institutions to remain competitive. All disciplines are impacted, and social work professionals face multifaceted challenges that necessitate a strategic and adaptive approach. With close to 500 staff, the Department of Social Work Services at The Mount Sinai Hospital in New York plays a significant role in the dynamic landscape of a large academic health system. The constant need to adapt to institutional initiatives, regulatory requirements and financial limitations while not sacrificing staff satisfaction and patient care is a challenge on which social work leadership focuses a great deal of resources.

Drawing on established change management frameworks and integrating leadership coaching techniques, this presentation will explore strategies for navigating change, assessing readiness, managing resistance and fostering stakeholder engagement. Through a lens grounded in the International Coaching Federation core values, this presentation will: Explore how coaching principles can enhance leadership effectiveness, promote adaptive leadership styles and drive organizational change; Empower social work leaders and staff to navigate complex transitions with empathy, vision, and strategic agility; and Demonstrate how the alignment of coaching methodologies with organizational goals and individual aspirations fosters resilience and promotes positive outcomes.

## Plenary

15:40 – 16:00

### Mrs Charmaine Drakoulas

*Alfred Health*

“It’s the journey not just the outcome”. Reflections of an Australian acute metropolitan hospital social worker

stepping into research

#### Session Summary

Incorporating practice-based research as a means of further developing clinical practice in a busy metropolitan acute hospital can be daunting and unfamiliar even to the most experienced clinical social worker.

I critically reflect on my journey to date undertaking the process of a Systematic review integrating research and practice in a Melbourne healthcare setting and its competing demands to remain engaged in the research process.

Informed by Dodd and Epstein’s 2012 Practice-Based Research Model to engage in the process of undertaking a systematic review into a clinical area of social work practice within the acute hospital setting. I will reflect on my experience as a clinical hospital social worker entering a new space of research, key challenges, learnings and outcomes will be presented with relevance for other social workers interested in up taking research.

Undertaking research in a demanding clinical setting sets up challenges with maintaining motivation, endurance and progression of a research project. My journey has presented unexpected valuable learnings and challenges whilst navigating the process of undertaking a systematic review. By sharing my reflections, I illustrate and normalise an active journey of entering the research space for clinical social workers who are considering engaging in research.

## Plenary

16:00 – 17:00

### Prof Miriam Schiff

*Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

The Whole is Greater than the Sum of its Parts: Lessons Learned from an International Research Collaboration

#### Session Summary

This panel outlines the challenges in the process and outcomes of an international research collaboration during the COVID-19 pandemic. While setting research questions, researchers from varied contextual influences carried individual emphasis. The following will be shared:

Hong Kong: the methodology of building a conceptual framework with shared standard core variables and a small, unique number of variables for each site. The team will introduce the online survey platform and the standardized codebook we created.

Australia: The ways the team motivated the participants and the use of qualitative data collection methods. Israel: The ways mixed methods assisted in understanding the role of preparedness for the next pandemic.

Singapore: The struggles of the clinician-researcher role as part of the implementation challenges.

Canada: the under-presentation of Indigenous and racialized participants.

Mainland China: the underestimation of the complexity of data transfer and aggregation. The team will share this challenge and their responses.

Taiwan: the transferrable knowledge into practice.

Discovering the similarities between health social workers worldwide created a strong sense of unity. The social workers’ resilience also uplifted their morale. This collaboration demonstrates the power of teamwork and mutual learning. The whole is greater than the sum of each of us.

## Stream 2

10:30 – 10:50

### Ms Xuan Gao

*The Chinese University Of Hong Kong*

Construction of the Experience in Mental Health Problems Among Adolescents and Youth of China Within the Family Setting

#### Session Summary

This session delineated a qualitative research study based on fieldwork in a psychiatric department in a prestigious hospital in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, from May 2024 to September 2024. All participants were recruited during their inpatient care in the hospital. Through integrating the concepts of Erving Goffman and Michael Foucault, as well as social power theories, this study established a novel theoretical framework to comprehend power relations within intimate relationships, especially among parents and children. In the

meanwhile, in this empirical research, the power dynamics before and after the onset, various discourses encompassing cultural, public, and professional discourses, as well as the reconstruction of the relationships during the recovery process will be articulated in this study. Finally, the implications of this study may shed light on the fields of medical professionals, social workers, educational staff, as well as parents to facilitate their understanding in terms of prevention, treatment, and recovery.

## Stream 2

10:50 – 11:10

### Dr Mayjo Konidaris

*Victoria University*

Social Work and Mental Health Practice Implications - Today and Tomorrow in the Post-COVID Aftermath.

#### Session Summary

This presentation will draw upon the results of a scoping literature review exploring the residual mental health effects for young people following post COVID restrictions. Personal reflections and lived experience will also be threaded throughout further contextualising and personifying the emerging themes. The plethora of research is predominantly focused on the mental health effects of COVID 19 lockdowns and restrictions during the events of 2020- 2021, or shortly thereafter. For many the post-COVID restrictions effects on wellbeing and recovery are ongoing and continue to reverberate. That is, for young people who encountered significant disruption to meeting personal, social, developmental, and educational milestones. However, as this was an unprecedented time in global history researchers, practitioners and educators are continually learning about these deleterious mental health effects, which are often covert and less obvious. Given these effects are continually emerging an overarching lens of understanding in terms of a 'Post COVID Effects and Wellbeing Framework' is warranted. This groundbreaking literature review will focus on the 'here and now' in relation to the Post COVID effects on mental health for young people and the implications of this for professionals and educators within the fields

of mental health, social work and education.

## Stream 2

11:10 – 11:30

### Miss Cristal Hall

*Neami National*

Building Connections: Exploring How the Colocation of a Clinical and Non-Clinical Mental Health Phone Service Has Supported the Integration of Referral Pathways.

#### Session Summary

This presentation explores the journey of integrating two distinct mental health phone services—MH Call and Head to Health—through a co-location model. It delves into the collaborative partnership between BSPHN, Metro South Addiction and Mental Health Services, and Neami National. The session highlights how the integration of a clinical and non-clinical mental health service created a seamless referral pathway for consumers, overcoming initial challenges through leadership, shared values, and a transdisciplinary approach. We'll share key strategies, such as specialised training and role alignment, that helped bridge service gaps and improve consumer experiences. Attendees will learn about the positive outcomes of this partnership, including streamlined processes, enhanced service delivery, and plans for future expansion within Metro South's public mental health teams.

## Stream 2

11:30 – 11:50

### Dr Kristen Bindley

*University Of Technology Sydney*

Pursuing practice standards for specialist bereavement services in New South Wales, Australia

#### Session Summary

This presentation will explore the following elements:

- The rationale for establishing standards for specialist bereavement services/support.
- The composition and purpose of the Bereavement Coordinators' Network in New South Wales.
- The process of developing the

Clinical Principles for Specialist Bereavement Care in NSW, in collaboration with the Agency for Clinical Innovation.

- The function of the ten Clinical Principles, highlighting specific examples e.g. guidance regarding pre- and post- death assessment.
- Implications and the impetus for development of future guidance regarding bereavement care.

The presentation will be of benefit to:

- Practitioners and service leaders engaged in providing specialist bereavement counselling and support, or in any roles where initial bereavement support and/or referral is required.
- Practitioners and service leaders interested in developing similar clinician-led standards, guidelines or principles for their clinical/ practice area.

Learning objectives of this presentation include:

- Articulate the scope of practice of specialist bereavement services; and ways in which this work is differentiated from other forms of support.
- Consider the value of collaboratively developing guidance for evidence-based bereavement care.
- Explore the need for investment in specialist bereavement services, in the context of the recognised need to develop comprehensive approaches to bereavement care.

## Stream 2

11:50 – 12:10

### Ms Ashton Hayes

*Willow Tree Wellbeing*

Beyond Making Cups of Tea: The Importance and Skill of Mental Health Social Workers in Treating and Improving Mental Health Issues

#### Session Summary

Mental Health Social Workers are an integral yet often underappreciated part of Australia's mental health system. This presentation challenges the misconception that their

contributions are limited to simple supportive tasks, symbolised by the act of “making cups of tea”. Instead, it highlights the complex skills and importance of these professionals in treating and improving mental health outcomes for people with a diverse range of presentations.

Drawing on current research and practitioner experiences, we explore how Mental Health Social Workers utilise their unique blend of clinical expertise and holistic, trauma informed care to address mental health challenges.

By highlighting the advanced clinical skills of Mental Health Social Workers and their capacity to work effectively alongside other mental health professionals, this presentation speaks for greater recognition and utilisation of their expertise. Fully leveraging the clinical capabilities of Mental Health Social Workers is important for enhancing the quality and effectiveness of mental health care in Australia, ultimately ensuring better outcomes for clients and communities.

## Stream 2

13:10 – 13:30

### 多發性硬化症 Hui Ching Chuang

*Syinlu Social Welfare Foundation*

Understanding Factors Impacting Repeated Service Engagement and Employment Stability among Individuals with Disabilities in an Urban Area of Taiwan

#### Session Summary

This session delves into the key factors influencing repeated service engagement and employment stability for individuals with disabilities in urban Taiwan. Drawing on an analysis of 516 records from vocational rehabilitation centers, we uncover demographic trends and disability profiles that affect employment outcomes. Attendees will gain insights into how disability severity, rather than type, significantly affects the likelihood of repeated service engagement and job-seeking initiative. The session highlights the need for tailored vocational support, especially for individuals with mild to moderate disabilities, to enhance employment stability.

#### Key Takeaways:

Learn how specific factors such as

disability severity influence service engagement and job-seeking behavior. Understand the importance of customized employment support services for improving outcomes. Explore practical strategies that vocational rehabilitation professionals can implement to address the unique needs of individuals with disabilities. This session is ideal for vocational rehabilitation professionals, policymakers, and disability advocates interested in creating more effective employment pathways for individuals with disabilities. Special Thanks to New Taipei City Government and Syin-Lu Social Welfare Foundation

## Stream 2

13:30 – 13:50

### Mr Zewei Liu

*The Chinese University Of Hong Kong*

Financial Resilience Counteracts the COVID-19 Socioeconomic Challenges: Exploring Gender Inequality in Mediation Mechanisms Between Job Insecurity, Income Shock, and Mental Health Outcomes

#### Session Summary

1. This session presents an original empirical study on the role of financial resilience in counteracting socioeconomic challenges and mental health issues triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. The present study examines how financial resilience mediates the effects of perceived job insecurity and received income shock on adults' depressive symptoms and subjective happiness. It also explores the moderating effects of sex and gender development index on the mediating processes.
3. Future researchers in social determinants of health, socioeconomic position, consumer finance, stress-coping processes, adverse experiences, and gender inequalities may benefit from this session by getting information on theoretically and empirically integrating financial resilience into their conventional discussions.
4. Practitioners in social work, human resource management, retail banking, community health,

and social policy may also get implications for enhancing their clients' occupational welfare, financial well-being, and mental health during emergencies and risk scenarios.

## Stream 2

13:50 – 14:10

### Dr Ines Zuchowski

*James Cook University*

Social Work Practice in General Practice Settings

#### Session Summary

Social work is well suited to contribute to population health and wellbeing by considering the complexity of factors that impact patients. Yet, few social workers deliver services in general practice [GP] clinics in Australia. This presentation provides a context of social work in GP and interim findings of placing social workers in Australian GP settings. The aim of this project is to research the benefits and challenges of social work practice in GP clinics. Six North and Far north Queensland GP clinics are supported to incorporate social workers and social work students in their practices. Social Workers commenced in the GP practices in early 2024. The presentation will provide an overview of the interim findings, providing insights into the activities and interventions of social workers in GP settings. Focus will be on the social work interventions and patient feedback. Results identify the areas of health social workers are engaged in GP settings and the social work interventions they undertake. The discussion highlights the need to evidence the broad range of areas of health and interventions that social workers engage in in GP to develop sustainable pathways for social work practice in GP settings.

## Stream 2

14:10 – 14:30

### Chia-Ming Lee

*Eden Social Welfare Foundation*

The Three-Legged Race: Relationship Between Clubhouse and Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities Participating in Policy-Based Employment Service Program--Taking Taiwan's Eden Clubhouse for Example

### Session Summary

The current case management employment policy and service design in Taiwan are performance-oriented for professionals. This causes difficulties for people with psychosocial disabilities to establish long-term relationship or solve the life problems on their employment journey.

Eden Clubhouse, auspiced by Eden Social Welfare Foundation, operates in the clubhouse model, providing community-based employment services. Since 2023, Eden Clubhouse has been working with the Ministry of Labor to promote the “Pilot Project on Strengthening Community Support for Employment of People with Mental Illnesses.

“In this session, we will present a case study of how the employment services originating from the concepts of the clubhouse model (voluntariness, membership without limits, and partnership), respond to the difficulties encountered by people with psychosocial disabilities in their employment experiences and motivate recovery.

The employment service of the clubhouse model is collaboratively practiced by members and staff. It may initially appear to be an employment journey of two persons. However, with the addition of government agencies, it can be a collaborative three-legged race.

### Stream 2

14:30 – 14:50

#### Mrs Marie Lafeta

*Drummond Street Services*

LGBTIQA+ Youth Peer Mentoring in Practice: Community Development with Therapeutic Wellbeing

### Session Summary

Not provided

### Stream 2

15:20 – 15:40

#### Ms Karen Green

*Open Arms Veterans & Families Counselling, Department of Veterans Affairs Australia*

Navigating the Transition from Military to Civilian Life: Global Perspectives from the International Military Social Work Consortium

### Session Summary

The transition from military to civilian life presents challenges and opportunities for service members and families, requiring adjustments in identity and culture. This period significantly impacts the health and well-being of military personnel and families worldwide. The International Military Social Work (IMiSW) Consortium, established in 2019, promotes the crucial role of Military Social Work (MiSW) in supporting individuals during this transition, addressing the unique challenges posed by military life. This paper examines MiSW support across 13 nations (IMiSW Consortium nation members) highlighting both similarities and differences in military-to-civilian transition support. A key finding is the variation in integration between military and veteran care systems. In countries like the US, UK, and New Zealand, MiSW involvement is limited, while South Africa, Canada, Ireland, and Australia exhibit moderate integration of service. In contrast, the Netherlands and Denmark have highly integrated systems. Countries with conscription, such as Israel and Finland, benefit from robust public health systems, reducing the need for dedicated veteran services. The paper calls for future research to explore how MiSWs can leverage their advocacy expertise to better support life course transitions. It also suggests that incorporating MiSW content in university curricula would enhance the field's capacity to address complex transitions.

### Stream 2

15:40 – 16:00

#### Mr Andrew Prevett

*Flinders University*

Veteran Wellbeing: Insights into Help-Seeking and Access to Social Work Health Services

### Session Summary

This session will explore a key 2023 study that investigates the influence of military culture on Australian veterans' help-seeking behaviour and their pursuit of injury recognition with the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The research highlights that military service exposes individuals to high trauma risks, resulting in many transitioning veterans suffering from service-related health conditions. Despite ongoing

efforts to address military culture, stigma surrounding health issues, particularly mental health, continues to deter veterans from seeking help and limits their access to essential social work services.

The study, drawing on data from 150 injured veterans receiving advocacy support through the Returned and Services League of Australia, reveals that veterans experience significant delays before seeking help—averaging 19.9 years after leaving service.

Attendees will gain a comprehensive understanding of how entrenched military attitudes affect veterans' access to healthcare, discover significant sex-based differences in help-seeking behaviour, and learn how these issues contribute to delays in obtaining crucial support services. This session is essential for anyone involved in veteran care, social work, or advocacy, offering practical insights to improve support strategies and outcomes for veterans.

### Stream 2

16:00 – 16:20

#### Ms Khadine Aharon

*Embrace Empowerment*

Transforming Trauma with Emotional Freedom Techniques

### Session Summary

This presentation will explore the transformative potential of Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT) in addressing trauma and PTSD. We'll delve into what EFT is, how it works, and review key research supporting its effectiveness in treating PTSD. I will also highlight the practical benefits of integrating EFT into your practice, supported by real-life case studies from my work with clients. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of EFT's role in trauma recovery.

## Stream 2

16:20 – 16:40

### Ms Shauna Crimean

*Department of Defence*

#### Sexual Offending: The Integration of Social Work & Trauma Informed Practice into the Joint Military Police Force

##### Session Summary

The Sexual Offence Response Team is an integrated team within the Joint Military Police Force; an innovative practice where Social Workers and Military Police Investigators work collaboratively to deliver trauma informed investigations and trauma informed care to victim-survivors of sexual violence, and other vulnerable people.

This is a nation first approach to trauma informed policing where social workers are embedded within a policing entity & shaping police responses to victim survivors and vulnerable witnesses, whilst providing victim survivors of military sexual violence with support throughout the investigation.

This session is recommended for people working with the Veteran or Australian Defence Force community, and for those interested in practice approaches in the sexual violence and legal sector.

You will learn about the supports and reporting options available to those who have experienced military sexual violence, eligibility and referral pathways to access this support.

## Stream 3

10:30 – 10:50

### Mr Abiola Albert

*Gold Coast Health*

Enhancing and Promoting the Prescription of Physical Activity to Mental Health Consumers.

##### Session Summary

Key points to be discussed include:

- Life expectancy of people suffering from a mental illness
- Factors that lead to poorer physical health for mental health consumers
- Knowledge practice gap within

community mental health teams (e.g., poor promotion of physical activity to mental health consumers)

- Evidence from Queensland Health to corroborate gap.
- Benefits of physical activity to mental health consumers
- Quality improvement cycle to mitigate gap.
- Barriers and facilitators to prescription of physical activity
- Implementation strategies to gap.

Who would benefit?

- All mental health professionals
- Executive members/leaders of mental health services/teams

Key takeaways/Learning objectives:

- Physical activity significantly improves the physical, mental, and social wellbeing of people suffering from a severe mental illness regardless of the severity of their illness.
- Physical activity can improve the life expectancy of people with a mental illness.
- Clarifying the barriers and facilitators to prescribing physical activity could help teams identify how to encourage staff members to improve their prescription of physical activity to mental health consumers.
- It is the responsibility of ALL mental health practitioners to promote activities (e.g., physical activity) that would improve the quality of life of their consumers

## Stream 3

10:50 – 11:10

### Prof Mei Chun Cheung

*The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

Family-based Intervention for Adolescents with Scoliosis during Brace Treatment: A Qualitative Study

##### Session Summary

Adolescent idiopathic scoliosis (AIS) is characterized by curvature of the spine. Bracing remains the most

effective non-operative treatment modality to prevent the progression of spinal curvature in moderate cases. However, treatment compliance is often poor due to the physical and psychosocial problems caused. Adolescents may also experience family conflicts due to different perceptions towards AIS and bracing. We aim to investigate the effectiveness of family-based intervention in improving the adolescents' psychosocial well-being, parent-child relationship, and compliance during brace treatment. Eleven adolescents with a clinical AIS diagnosis, who received brace treatment for less than a year, and their parents/caregivers were recruited to receive a 6-session multifamily group intervention, followed by an in-depth interview.

Several beneficial effects of the intervention are identified with thematic analysis, including

1. in-group mutual support and experience sharing reduced loneliness and helplessness, enhancing psychosocial well-being;
2. regular and increased family time facilitated mutual understanding, improving parent-child relationships; and,
3. more willingness to wear the brace, facilitating treatment compliance.

The family-based intervention empowered adolescents and their families to be proactively involved during treatment while retaining family harmony. This advocates for the active role of clinical/medical social workers in the clinical management of AIS in achieving better treatment outcomes.

## Stream 3

11:10 – 11:30

### A/Prof Samuel Shih-Chih Wang

*University Of Taipei*

Developing and Evaluating a Colloquium for University Students as Future Link Workers for a Localized Social Prescribing Program in Taiwan

##### Session Summary

Social prescribing connects individuals with non-medical support services, facilitated by well-trained link workers. However, training needs for link

workers, especially within university settings, are underexplored. This study addresses this gap by developing and evaluating a colloquium aimed at preparing university students for future roles as link workers in social prescribing programs.

The colloquium included modules on theoretical and practical aspects of social prescribing, covering needs assessment, care planning, resource navigation, communication skills, and cultural competence. Its effectiveness was evaluated through pre- and post-training assessments, participant feedback, and observations of students in simulated or real-world settings.

Initial feedback indicated high participant satisfaction, and assessments showed significant improvements in students' knowledge and skills. Observations demonstrated their enhanced ability to conduct needs assessments, develop personalized care plans, and navigate community resources effectively.

This study highlights the value of targeted training for future link workers, showing that a well-structured colloquium can enhance their readiness to support social prescribing initiatives. It underscores the potential of such programs to address social determinants of health and improve community health outcomes. Further research is needed to evaluate the long-term impact on students and the effectiveness of social prescribing interventions facilitated by trained link workers.

### Stream 3

11:50 – 12:10

#### Prof Martin Webber

*University Of York*

Community-Enhanced Social Prescribing: A Mixed Methods Feasibility Study of a New Practice Model

#### Session Summary

This session will introduce community enhanced social prescribing, which is a new model of social prescribing that embeds community development and engagement in a social prescribing intervention. We will present findings from a mixed methods feasibility study which found that the model is feasible and acceptable in practice,

and initial outcomes for individuals look promising. However, evaluation of the model at community level is more challenging. This session will be of interest to anyone interested in social prescribing such as practitioners, researchers, members of the public or community and voluntary sector organisations.

### Stream 3

13:10 – 13:30

#### Mr Christopher Harvey

*Mildura Base Public Hospital - Mental Health Services*

A Renewed Approach to Hospital-Based Suicide Aftercare in a Rural-Australian Community

#### Session Summary

Suicide is a major public health issue in Australia, particularly for rural communities where mortality rates remain higher compared to metropolitan areas. Several studies have shown how high rates of suicide in rural Australia may be linked to a combination of risk factors including mental ill-health and psychological distress; physical ill-health; alcohol and substance misuse; and a broad range of psychosocial and environmental stressors. Furthermore, studies have also discussed how having limited access to mental health services; low levels of suicide literacy; factors relating to stigma and stoicism; and previous adverse experiences whilst accessing care, too, may be contributing to the high mortality rates in rural Australia. This presentation will provide an overview of a rural Victorian Hospital's 'Person-Centred' Comprehensive Model of Suicide Aftercare' including key policy and theoretical underpinnings; their service principles and structure; risk assessment and management framework; client led approach to assessment and care planning; therapeutic framework; the consumer journey through the episode of care; and workforce learning and professional development initiatives.

### Stream 3

13:30 – 13:50

#### Melissa Stirling

*Youth Focus*

A Renewed Approach to Hospital-Based Suicide Aftercare in a Rural-

Australian Community

#### Session Summary

Youth Focus is a leading not-for-profit organisation that delivers no cost, innovative and accessible mental health services across Western Australia to help young people thrive. As with many other mental health services globally, in 2021/2022 we were battling the systemic problem of long waitlists, locked doors, and increasing need and demand. In a strained system with limited resources, young people were telling us they couldn't get support- bouncing around between services assessed as either 'too low risk' or 'too high risk' to meet eligibility requirements. This presentation will explore reflections and learnings as a social worker in leadership supporting an organisation through change. It will delve into the dynamic nature of risk in young people and highlight the rollout of moving from structured risk assessment and categorisation at prescribed intervals, into a new way of working, Risk Formulation – informed by the work of Dr Tony Pisani. It will highlight the strengths-based nature of holistic risk formulation vs 'ticking boxes', the challenges of the change process, and the unique perspective that social work leadership brought to an interdisciplinary mental health team. Finally, it will reflect on embedding these changes a few years on, including expanding risk formulation beyond suicidality.

### Stream 3

13:50 – 14:50

#### Mrs Jessica Morgan

*HeadSpace National Youth Mental Health Foundation*

Suicide Postvention Planning, Response, and Recovery in Tertiary Education Does Not Solely Rest on the Shoulders of University Employed Social Workers.

#### Session Summary

The timely provision of support following a suicide is typically activated by university wellbeing teams, with social workers representing a significant proportion of this workforce. Without prior knowledge of the university's detailed response to suicide, and alignment of this to whole-of-university critical incident policies, wellbeing staff report

lacking in confidence to navigate the complexities of responding to risk within a vulnerable community. Our panel of social workers, Jessica Morgan - headspace National Program Manager, Paula Diab - Senior Counsellor Western Sydney University, and Georgina Hanna Deputy Director Student Mental Health and Wellbeing La Trobe University, will share their experiences of working within the tertiary sector to design and implement responses to suicide that builds confidence within wellbeing teams that the support offered is aligned with the activation of the university's critical incident policy.

This panel discussion will:

- Demonstrate the importance of having knowledge of the university's detailed response to suicide, and alignment of this to whole-of-university critical incident policies,
- Highlight the role of social workers in contributing to conversations of planning, response, and recovery, and
- Prompt consideration of suicide postvention response plans becoming embedded within whole-of-university critical incident policy if the risk is to be mitigated.

### Stream 3

15:20 – 15:40

#### Ms Simone Dewar

*James Cook University*

Social Work's Contribution to Collaboratively Developing Innovative Domestic and Sexual Violence Training Resources to Build Dental Workforce Capability and Facilitate Best Practice.

#### Session Summary

Domestic and sexual violence (DSV) is widely recognised as a pervasive, and preventable problem with significant social and health impacts. Social work as a profession is committed to addressing DSV at a systemic and interpersonal level. An inter-disciplinary collaboration involving James Cook University (JCU) Social Work and JCU Dentistry developed an innovative suite of educational resources (ER) to teach undergraduate dental students how to recognise, respond and

refer (RRR) patients who have / are experiencing DSV from a trauma-informed approach. While members of the inter-disciplinary collaboration are valued for their specific knowledge, skills, and professional and research experience, the role of Social Work is highlighted in this session.

This session will be relevant to Social Workers engaged in inter-disciplinary collaborations, and/or working within the DSV sector, as well as Academics with an interest in pedagogy and methods for teaching DSV curriculum across disciplines. This session covers the background and how the ER gap was identified; the six videos and associated print resources which comprises the ER's; the Social Work and social theories underpinning the ER's; and preliminary findings from research about the ER's. In addition, the benefits and inherent challenges of an inter-disciplinary collaboration to develop ER's is explored.

### Stream 3

15:40 – 16:00

#### Ms Carlee Prider

*Services Australia*

Committing to the Future: Investing in The Health and Wellbeing of Social Workers to Navigate a Changing World

#### Session Summary

Empowering minds and transforming lives in a world facing multi-faceted challenges requires social workers and agencies to prioritise the sustainability of the profession and evolve toward a shared responsibility for practitioner health and wellbeing. Despite the broad recognition of self-care as critical to ethical effective social work practice, little empirical support or practical guidance exists for social workers or employers.

Services Australia delivers payments and services on behalf of the Australian Government, and it has a dynamic workforce of around 650 social workers. Drawing on research projects undertaken in the agency, a Health and Wellbeing Plan was implemented committing both practitioners and the organisation to embedding health and wellbeing as a critical foundation for our social work service.

This presentation will provide an

overview of key strategies, including a Wellbeing Leader initiative and the creation of co-produced, multidimensional health and wellbeing activities. Sharing the voices of social workers, we will champion the power of peer support and the success of building communities of collective care. Come and discover how Services Australia social workers are prioritising health and wellbeing and embedding it in everything we do, to build a healthy, engaged and fulfilled workforce who thrive in their roles.

### Stream 3

16:00 – 16:20

#### Prof Edward Ko-ling Chan

*The Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

A Systematic Review of the Existing Social Policy and Social Services Delivery in Response to Family Poly-victimization in East Asian Societies

#### Session Summary

The objective of this study is to investigate the social policies and service deliveries in place to address family poly-victimization (FPV) in various East Asian societies, with a particular emphasis on Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and mainland China. FPV refers to the occurrence of multiple forms of family violence, including but not limited to child abuse and neglect (CAN), intimate partner violence (IPV), and elder abuse and neglect (EAN). Such overlapping instances of violence can intensify the detrimental effects on families. Japan and South Korea adopt a multiagency collaborative approach (Model 1), involving multiple agencies working independently.

While this can lead to swift resolution of cases, it also results in fragmented reporting and oversight of interconnected forms of violence. In contrast, Taiwan and Hong Kong employ a centralized and integrated approach (Model 2), which enables holistic assessments, coordinates interventions, and offers a more comprehensive response to FPV. Mainland China typically manages family violence through police and local nongovernment organizations, indicating a need for more specialized and cohesive service structures.

The research advocates for more finely attuned policies and services that

address the intricate nature of FPV and to enhance protection for victimized families.

### Stream 3

16:40 – 17:00

#### Ms Kerry Beck

*Department Of Human Services*

Listening to the Voices of Children When Working with Families Experiencing Domestic and Family Violence and Child Protection Risk

#### Session Summary

The South Australian Child and Family Support System (CFSS) responds to families with children experiencing child protection risk. An overwhelming number of these families have domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) as part of their lived experience. This presentation will discuss ways of ensuring that the child's voice is a central element of practice when responding in a context of active DFSV. We will provide insights into the experiences of children and their families around DFSV and the correlating risks and protective factors, via evidence collected through the SA CFSS learning system data infrastructure. Topics will include using DFSV as an organising principle in case work, partnering with the protective parent and engaging the person perpetrating violence in order to reduce child safety risk and support children to thrive.

### Stream 4

10:30 – 10:50

#### Ms Alison Trehwella

*Churchill Fellow, Community Services Directorate*

The butterfly effect: small things to matter. A Churchill Fellowship to explore recruitment and retention initiatives to increase workforce stability in child protection.

#### Session Summary

- This presentation shares the findings and recommendations from Ali's fellowship journey, which focuses on how to elevate child protection practice, support recruitment, and enhance worker wellbeing.
- Some of the key findings include the negative impact media

attention has on choosing child protection as a vocation and the value of purposeful recruitment to child protection through a focus on values-based recruitment.

- The presentation will also focus on the importance of conceptualising worker wellbeing and safety far beyond physical safety to concepts of 'stress' and 'resilience' and examines the steps that agencies as well as leaders can take to support the wellbeing of their staff.
- While the research has a focus on child protection, it is applicable to the human services sector more broadly. Recruiting the right people, ensuring psychological safety and promoting worker wellbeing is critical for so many organisations that support vulnerable children and families.

### Stream 4

13:30 – 13:50

#### Dr Ellen Pittman

*University Of Melbourne*

The Health and Social Service Needs of Mothers with Infants Involved with Child Protection: Factors Affecting Service Utilisation, Engagement and Satisfaction

#### Session Summary

More information is needed about the service needs and the availability and uptake of services for women with unborn children and infants involved with child protection, including when women begin to use services and what approaches facilitate engagement. In this presentation, we will report on The Motherhood and Me study, drawing on the first-person accounts of 16 pregnant women and ten mothers of infants in Metropolitan Melbourne who were involved with child protection services prenatally and when their children were infants. Our (mixed methods) findings painted a picture of women exposed to extreme external stress and traumatic events throughout their lives and over the perinatal period. During the first years following birth, women were found to access a large range of services, voluntarily or as part of a child protection case plan. Not all health and social care support services were regarded as providing

benefit or a positive experience, with high quality mental health supports and stable housing identified by some, as persistent unmet needs. Practice approaches are needed across health and psychosocial care services that recognise the impact of traumatic events in women's lives and focus on building responsive relationships, creating a sense of safety and upholding dignity.

### Stream 4

13:50 – 14:50

#### Prof Karen Healy

*The University of Queensland*

Enhancing the Social and Emotional Well-Being and Cultural Connections of Children in Out-of-Home Care: Findings of Multi-Stakeholder Study

#### Session Summary

We report on a four-year Australian Research Council and Industry funded project concerning the social and emotional wellbeing and the cultural connections of children in OOHC. This innovative project uses a mixed methods approach to build knowledge about the needs, strengths and experiences of children, families and carers involved with the OOHC system. We present a unique approach combining information from national datasets and from qualitative research drawn from the perspectives of key stakeholders.

Participants will hear about new empirical findings about:

- The much lower social and emotional wellbeing outcomes of children in OOHC compared to children in broader population as indicated in national population datasets.
- Barriers to, and opportunities for, supporting cultural identity and connections among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in OOHC.
- Carers' perspectives on strategies for improving social and emotional wellbeing and cultural connection with children in OOHC.
- Challenges faced by parents in maintaining relationships with their children in OOHC.

The research team will engage

participants in a discussion about the implications for practice and future research.

#### Stream 4

15:20 – 15:40

##### Mr Ryan Greenwell

*WA Government*

Addressing Denial: A Case Study on Facilitating Respectful and Accountable Conversations with Perpetrators of Family Violence Using the ‘Ethical Inquiry’

##### Session Summary

Family violence interventions entail a range of case management activities to promote the safety of family members, however this presentation on the ‘Ethical Inquiry’ will focus primarily on the skillset required for the effective engagement of male perpetrators in heterosexual relationships.

Observers will gain an overview of the supporting theories, the mistakes to avoid and the mind-map of questions the worker can acquire to facilitate conversations with perpetrators that promote greater safety for family members. The case study example reflects this focus with additional attention to the ubiquitous challenge of maintaining a context of respect and holding the man accountable when he uses tactics of denial during an agency interview.

The presentation uses a transcript to demonstrate the responding questions asked that invited the man into an ethical space that supported him safely reflecting on his abusive behaviours and shifting towards the contemplation stage of change, all in one meeting. Therefore, observers will not only attain the knowledge of the how but will also form the belief that attitude change is possible during any engagement with the right approach.

#### Stream 4

15:40 – 16:00

##### Ms Maegan Johnsen

*University of Western Australia & Women and Newborn Health Service*

Hospital-based Healthcare at the Interface with Child Protection: Multidisciplinary Practitioner Perspectives from the Frontlines.

## S

### Session Summary

Social workers within multidisciplinary teams play a pivotal role in the delivery of hospital-based obstetric and paediatric care at the interface with child protection. PhD Candidate and Senior Social Worker Maegan Johnsen shares how her clinical practice on the Women and Newborn Drug and Alcohol Service (WANDAS) at King Edward Memorial in Western Australia, was a catalyst for, and continues to be intrinsically connected to her research. The author intertwines an analysis of the literature with new narratives emerging from in-depth interviews she has undertaken with healthcare workers from multiple disciplines across two Western Australian hospitals. The voices of her participants speak to the tensions which can arise for practitioners involved in perinatal child protection processes, particularly when a newborn infant comes in to Out of Home Care at, or shortly after birth in hospital. Delegates interested in social work practice occurring in ethically, morally, and legally complex clinical spaces would benefit from attending this session. The author offers a rare glimpse into an area of perinatal social work practice, that can have an immediate and enduring impact on frontline staff as they work together to provide patient centred care in a hospital setting.

#### Stream 4

16:00 – 16:20

##### Prof Harry Ferguson

*University Of Birmingham, England*

Being Close to Social Work Practice: How Research Observations of Encounters Between Social Workers and Service Users Can Be Done and Produce Invaluable Knowledge

##### Session Summary

Being close to social work practice: How research observations of encounters between social workers and service users can be done and produce invaluable knowledge

Research into social work has been surprisingly distant from practice. I will draw from my experience of well over a decade of conducting studies that have used observation to find out what goes on between

practitioners and service users in child protection casework and in social work organisations (Ferguson, 2011; 2016; 2019). The aim is to promote learning about how ethnographic and mobile methods can be used to conduct observations of practice in all areas of social work. Data from observations and interviews in offices, on car journeys and on home visits will be used to show that it is vital to stay as close as it is possible to get to social workers and other participants, observing them everywhere they go, flowing with their movement. Such close to practice research is complex but it can be done ethically, including observing highly sensitive encounters. Some service users value the researchers (silent) presence. Observing practice produces novel and indispensable insights that are helpful to social work practice and education and service users.

#### Stream 4

16:20 – 16:40

##### Dr Yiu Tsang Andrew Low

*Saint Francis University*

Perception of Parents Towards a Parenting Program Aimed at Reducing Child Physical Abuse in Hong Kong

##### Session Summary

This presentation focuses on a parenting program aimed at reducing child physical abuse in Hong Kong. The study addresses the issue of child abuse in Hong Kong, particularly highlighted by a 2018 death of a 5-year-old girl because of child abuse in Hong Kong. It emphasizes the need for effective parenting education programs to mitigate risk factors associated with child abuse, such as parental parenting strategies. The program consists of eight two-hour sessions that incorporate principles from neuroscience, behavioral approach and social interaction theory. Sessions cover topics like understanding child development, effective communication, limit setting, and handling misbehavior. Qualitative analysis was conducted through telephone interviews with 21 parents three months after completing the program. Thematic analysis was used to identify key themes related to parenting practices and outcomes.

Key Findings: Parents reported improvements, including reduced

use of corporal punishment, better understanding of their children's needs, enhanced relationships with both their children and partners, and increased confidence in their parenting skills. The program highlighted the importance of incentives, encouragement, and praise as effective parenting techniques. Parents found immediate recognition of positive behavior particularly beneficial. A supportive environment was developed to allow parents to share and support one another.

### Stream 5

10:30 – 10:50

Mr Nick Thompson

Mates in Construction Qld-NT

The Blueprint for Better Mental Health and Suicide Prevention in the Australian Building and Construction Industry

#### Session Summary

The Australian building and construction industry faces alarming rates of suicide and poor mental health. Developed in 2019 via a roundtable of industry associations, Unions, academics and construction workers the Blueprint for Better Mental Health and Suicide Prevention provides a five-pillar approach or guide for enhancing workplace mental health. This session will,

1. Provide an overview of the five pillars associated with the Blueprint.
2. Detail case examples of construction companies implementing activities that align with the five pillars.
3. Detail most recent literature, evidence and experience of workers engaging in policy and practice audits and valid tested surveys of their work environment.

### Stream 5

10:50 – 11:10

Miss Ling Jiao Wong

*Changi General Hospital*

An Interprofessional Simulation Workshop in Delivering Bad News in an Intensive Care Unit

#### Session Summary

Physicians, nurses and allied health professionals working in the intensive care unit (ICU) have to manage critically ill patients with rapidly changing physiology. At the same time, they have to communicate with distressed next-of-kin (NOK), which may involve delivering bad news, discussion of extent of care and managing expectations. Good and effective communication among team members, with patients and their NOKs is important, especially when NOKs are feeling distressed and helpless. Simulation-based learning and good judgement debriefing is an effective mode of teaching and learning. In Changi General Hospital, an inter-professional team of doctors, nurses and social workers collaborated to create an in-situ interprofessional simulation-based learning module, using SPIKES protocol to meet the communication needs. Participants from the simulation felt more confident in handling challenging family situations, and better equipped in conducting and supporting family session involving delivering of bad news.

Key takeaways:

1. Appreciation of educational pedagogy behind the simulation-based learning module
2. Introduction to debriefing tools used in the module
3. Discussion with the audience on their experience in implementing simulation-based learning and debriefing.
4. Target audience:

Social workers and health professions educators who have interest in interprofessional education and collaboration, and/or developing and implementing simulation-based learning and debriefing.

### Stream 5

11:10 – 12:10

Ms Alison Hocking

*Royal Melbourne Hospital*

The 5+1 Model: Promoting Effective Health Social Work Research and Practice in Hospitals Through an Academic Practitioner Partnership.

#### Session Summary

This session will detail the practice-based research collaboration between the University of Melbourne, the Royal Melbourne Hospital, St Vincent's Hospital, The Royal Children's Hospital, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and The Royal Women's Hospital. The collaboration is grounded in practice-based research promoting effective, targeted social work practice. The discussion panel will draw on past examples of research arising from the collaboration and describe previous attempts to evaluate and analyse the contribution of Health Social Work to the health services in Victoria. It will, additionally, discuss capacity building and the possibility (through the collaboration) of providing sustained Master of Social Work placement opportunities. The aim of this panel is to describe an innovative model of academic-practitioner research partnership across an Australian university and its affiliated teaching hospitals. Health social workers, hospital managers, practice-based research clinicians and academics will find benefit in attending this session and learning of the value of collaborative models such as this one.

### Stream 5

13:30 – 13:50

Dr Fiona Oates

*The Cairns Institute - JCU*

Young Parent Coordinated Care Project: An Example from Regional Australia

#### Session Summary

Youth homelessness in Cairns, a regional town located in the far north of Australia, is an acute problem. Young people who are parenting are disproportionately represented in referrals to youth and homelessness services. With a tight and expensive private rental market, no supported accommodation options and limited availability of social and affordable housing, young parents in Cairns have extremely limited options. In addition, many young parents seeking accommodation support present with significant complexities including the experience of domestic, family and sexual violence, contact with statutory child protection services, and complex trauma.

This presentation outlines a pilot project titled Young Parents Coordinated Care Project (YPCCP), a collaboration between five organisations, namely, The Women's Centre, Youthlink, St Margaret's, QShelter and the Queensland Department of Housing.

Regional data that demonstrated the need for the pilot, getting the pilot established, and the ongoing evaluation of the project including the results achieved for the families referred will be outlined. The process undertaken to develop a proposal to have the pilot funded and expanded will also be detailed so that others in comparable regions can apply it to their own locational context.

### Stream 5

13:50 – 14:10

#### Dr Cynthia Holland

*Swan Hill District Health*

Empowering Minds and Transforming Lives: Rural Hospital Social Work Across Health, Mental Health and Justice/Legal Domains

#### Session Summary

Swan Hill District Health (SHDH) in Victoria, Australia, has a rich history of hospital healthcare dating back to 1860. The hospital's sole social worker plays a crucial role in supporting marginalized individuals in this remote, multicultural area, where the challenges are unique and diverse.

A study involving 93 patient families (Holland, 2021-2024) identified Swan Hill hospital community's wide-ranging social work and legal challenges:

1. Immigrant and Refugee needs: Many lack health and social insurance, requiring extensive assistance accessing Australian government services, particularly during midwifery care.
2. Displaced Indigenous Elders: Social work initiatives incorporating traditional practices, such as yarnning and artwork, are vital to helping elders reconnect with their cultural heritage and find empowerment during health crises.
3. Human Rights and Survivorship: Young families living on off-the-grid on land and nearby

houseboats, after traumatically losing a young parent to cancer, face unique social work and legal support.

The cornerstone of effective rural social work is recognizing the inherent resilience in every worker and patient family. Empowering rural social work practice with effective change, requires an educated commitment focused on justice, transparent health discussion and client dignity in all cases.

### Stream 5

14:10 – 14:30

#### Mrs Nicky Trussler

*Possum House*

The Social Workers Role Supporting Autistic Children from A Neurodiversity Affirming Perspective Using Therapy, Case Management and Advocacy

#### Session Summary

Session content will focus on the effective practical use of the broad skills base social workers are trained to provide. Unlike many professions, as Social Workers we can impact the live of our clients by using many different approaches and particularly in smaller communities the importance of providing a range of different supports is increasingly important. Neurodivergent clients have a range of different ways of viewing the world and this sessions is taking learnings from practice and sharing knowledge about what we have found works in South West Victoria.

### Stream 5

14:30 – 14:50

#### Ms Bronwyn Cutler

*WA County Health Service - Great Southern*

The Sexuality in Dementia Pilot Project

#### Session Summary

The Sexuality in Dementia pilot project aims to support the sexual health and wellbeing of older adults with dementia who reside in WA Country Health Service residential aged care facilities by improving the competence and confidence of staff in dealing with issues of sex and sexuality for older people with dementia in their care. Management of older people with dementia who reside in aged

care facilities and demonstrate sexualised behaviours is a complex and sensitive clinical issue, and there is a dearth of resources and training available to staff to assist them to work constructively with people in his cohort.

A human centred design thinking approach has been used to explore the problem by gathering feedback and input from frontline staff. This information was then used to inform the design of a tailored education program that has been prototyped, tested and evaluated in two aged care sites in 2024. The production of the prototype as a minimum viable product and collection of initial relevant data has been achieved at this stage of the project.

### Stream 5

15:20 – 15:40

#### Dr Kate Vincent

*University of Tasmania*

The Challenge of White Fragility When Preparing Social Workers for Times of Deep Uncertainty

#### Session Summary

As educators, field supervisors, and practice mentors, we are tasked with preparing emerging social workers for times of deep uncertainty. At the heart of these uncertainties lies the impact of degenerative western ways of life which have disproportionately contributed to, for example, widening inequality, slow collapse of biodiversity, and widespread anxiety and poor health. Australian social work asserts a strong commitment to decolonising and indigenising social work education. However, White fragility is a major challenge in advancing this commitment, affording White people the option to opt out of racial consciousness, including having norms, values and beliefs challenged and White privilege named up, questioned or worse still, jeopardised. This presentation provides insights into White fragility, how it manifests within the profession, and how social work practitioners can navigate its presence whilst turning the lens towards the problematic nature of unsustainable western ways of knowing, being and doing. The presentation explores the merits of social work learning environments where White fragility is named up

as a detour from the possibilities of sustainable change.

### Stream 5

15:40 – 16:00

#### Ms Hanh Tu Duc Nguyen

*University Of Melbourne*

Teaching for Wellness: Student-led Strategies for Promoting International Student Wellbeing in Social Work Education

#### Session Summary

In this session, we will present findings from the Teaching for Wellness project, which explores the aspects of social work education that impact the wellbeing of international students. The project includes five co-researchers, who are all international students studying a Master of Social Work program in Melbourne. To develop a critical understanding of the international student experience and to prompt creative design processes, co-researchers used Photovoice—a participatory process in which they reflected on and represented their own and their community's lived experiences through photographs and accompanying narratives. Through these photographs and narratives, international student co-researchers highlighted experiences of inequity, racism, stress and cognitive labour, connection and disconnection, disappointment and optimism; and their impact on physical, psychological, social, spiritual, and structural wellbeing. This session is ideal for social work educators, social work program directors, and student support staff. Key objectives include a critical exploration of how to enhance international student wellbeing in Master of Social Work programs, and a critical reflection on the importance of advocating for equitable systemic changes to support all diverse students.

### Stream 5

16:00 – 16:20

#### Ms Anna Wellington-Boyd

*Alfred Health*

Outcomes From Development of a Graduate Social Work Education Program in a Public Hospital in Melbourne, Australia, With Implications for Student Placements

and Professional Development.

#### Session Summary

This presentation will discuss:

Background: The Covid19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns had a significant impact on the acute and subacute health care and tertiary education sectors in Melbourne, Australia. Collectively, this had implications for new Social Work staff at Alfred Health. To address experience gaps, we established an education program to support clinical skill development of new graduate Social Workers. Outcomes from which have informed content of the program in an ongoing capacity in addition to student placement education

Aim: To evaluate the impact of a newly developed program for the graduate social work cohort at Alfred Health and identify opportunities for further development and application.

Method and Data Collection.

Results of the evaluation:

Findings included an increase in self-reported competency and confidence in relation to hospital social work clinical skill development by the graduate cohort. Changes in practice attributed directly to skill-based sessions are also among the findings.

Outcomes and Implications:

Outcomes of evaluation have informed the basis of a model for ongoing social work graduate education at Alfred Health, the content of the social work placement education program and future social work professional development sessions.

### Stream 5

16:20 – 16:40

#### Ms Ai Sumihira

*Te Whatu Ora Capital And Coast*

Competent but underrepresented: Exploring the Potential Clinical Leadership Through Critical Care Expansion Project In New Zealand

#### Session Summary

Aotearoa New Zealand has a long history of colonisation which has significantly impacted on our Indigenous people's health to this day. Health New Zealand te Whatu

Ora is expanding the Critical Care across the nation by 2025. The severe weather events and Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the need, then acknowledged increasing demand for Allied Health and Scientific Technical (AHST) workforce. This presentation exemplifies challenges and strengths of social workers who are based in Critical Care. As a part of the project, the Needs Survey was sent to all the social workers in the Critical Care in the Central Region. The result shows that social work workforce already have the outstanding clinical experiences at the advance level however, they are significantly underrepresented in comparison to other AHST disciplines. While social work is the most ethnically diverse workforce among AHST, All the respondents reported they were confident to deliver culturally safe practice, and wanting to do more for the health equity. Social workers have shown a very unique profile in comparison to other AHST disciplines. The themes emerged from the survey offer potential clinical leadership in the AHST, for an advancement of health equity in Aotearoa.

### Stream 5

16:40 – 17:00

#### Miss Hsiao-ling Hsu

*Coffield Social Design Co.,Ltd*

'My Coffee Friends that's talk about us': An Innovative Social Enterprise Using the TIC (Trauma-Informed Care) Model to Promote Mental Health in the Community

#### Session Summary

This presentation introduces a groundbreaking social enterprise that integrates the Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) model within a community café setting to promote mental health. The initiative brings together social work professionals and baristas to create a psychologically supportive environment, aiming to foster inclusivity, reduce toxic stress, and advocate for mental well-being. By leveraging everyday interactions, the café serves as a space for social integration and emotional healing.

The study utilizes a mixed-methods approach, analyzing relevant literature, conducting in-depth interviews with community stakeholders, and gathering both qualitative

and quantitative data to explore the impact of TIC in community settings. The results after three years of implementation are promising, with significant growth in service engagement and positive outcomes such as enhanced psychological resilience, reduced medication use, and improved workplace integration for at-risk groups, including individuals with disabilities. The café's monthly workshops and outreach via social media have reached thousands, while collaborations with social welfare centers and social enterprises have furthered the support for vulnerable populations.

By embedding trauma-informed care into a café environment, this innovative model demonstrates the power of community-based interventions in advancing mental health and social cohesion.

### Stream 6

10:50 – 11:10

#### Ms Sarah Tucker

*Child Adolescent Health Service/ Perth Children's Hospital*

A Social Work Response to the Increasing Behavioural Health Presentations to Paediatric Emergency Departments Where Discharge is Complicated Due to Barrired Access to Existing Services.

#### Session Summary

This presentation is for social workers interested in addressing behavioural health issues amongst children and adolescents which are often associated with neurodiversity, trauma and fractured family systems. The audience will learn about the planning, implementation and outcomes of a social work led rapid response outpatient clinic designed to address the needs of families in crisis following a Paediatric Emergency Department visit. Whilst this clinic is based in a tertiary hospital, the format is transferable to community health and would hence be of interest to social workers employed in both hospital and community settings. Consumer consultation highlighted significant barriers within the health service and clearly indicated the need for a more collaborative approach which seeks to minimise service silos and enhance support for families. The outpatient model focuses on parent education,

service linkage, family system dynamics and behaviour support. The aim is to improve family functioning and the associated long-term health outcomes for young people whilst simultaneously decreasing repeat Emergency Department Presentations. Key takeaways from the presentation include the need for a coordinated response, the importance of offering a safe environment for caregivers and young people to address behavioural concerns, and the benefit of psychoeducation in building caregiver confidence and capacity.

### Stream 6

11:10 – 12:10

#### Ms Khadine Aharon

*Embrace Empowerment*

Emotional Freedom Techniques for Anxiety Including Simple Techniques for Clients and Self Care

#### Session Summary

In this interactive workshop, we'll delve into Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT) with a specific focus on its application for anxiety. We'll explore what EFT is, how it works, and the growing body of research supporting its use in managing anxiety. I'll share real-life case studies from my practice to highlight its effectiveness.

Participants will also have the chance to practice basic EFT techniques and learn simple strategies that can be used both in client sessions and for personal self-care.

### Stream 6

13:10 – 13:30

#### Ms Nicola Watt

*The Royal Children's Hospital*

It's Safe to Speak up- Unusual Partnerships to Empower Children and Enhance Safety

#### Session Summary

Nicola Watt and Carla Collins are involved with the implementation of the Victorian Child Safe Standards at The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne- a large paediatric hospital in Australia. The Victorian Child Safe Standards require organisations such as public hospitals to ensure that, within their institutions, 'children and young people are empowered

about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously' (Standard 3 of the Child Safe Standards). In this presentation they will discuss how they collaborated with other professionals to create resources specifically for children and young people to empower and educate them about their rights, safety and how to raise concerns and complaints. The products developed were a Safe to Speak up card and a video 'A tip from Nurse Chanel: Feeling Safe in Hospital'. The video will be screened during the presentation and images of the Safe to Speak up card will be shown. They will discuss the complexity of developing such resources for use in a hospital setting and the different perspectives of stakeholders. The session will be of interest to people involved in child safeguarding work and/or whose work involves seeking consumer feedback from children and young people.

### Stream 6

13:30 – 13:50

#### Ms Alisa Hall

*National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse*

Do Social Workers Have the Appropriate Knowledge and Skills to Support Victims and Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse

#### Session Summary

Child sexual abuse is highly prevalent, chronic, and has devastating outcomes for victims across their life. This presentation will draw on findings of two studies:

- Australia-wide online survey to identify professional development needs and practice challenges when working with victims and survivors of child sexual abuse - 1398 respondents.
- An online, population-based survey of 4,000 Australian adults to examine attitudes, awareness, and knowledge of child sexual abuse.

The presentation will unpack findings and messages from these studies and explore the implications for mental health social work practice and prevention approaches:

- 31% (a further 11% not

responding) of workers identified as having a lived experience of child sexual abuse.

- 91% of workers indicated they were not well equipped through their formal studies to work in child sexual abuse and related trauma.
- About a third of Australians surveyed agreed/strongly agreed that child sexual abuse doesn't directly impact them.
- Most community members didn't know what to do or were not confident in taking action if a child was to tell them they were being sexually abused.
- Most community members were aware of direct impacts on the victim-survivor, but fewer recognised long-term impacts on basic needs.

### Stream 6

13:50 – 14:50

#### Ms Emma Ashe

*Wesley Mission Qld*

Utilising A Human Centred Design Thinking Framework to Address High Levels of Distress in Children Under 12 Years

#### Session Summary

This session will immerse participants in the human centered design thinking framework. Participants will learn about the core components of human centered design thinking and will see how this approach was utilised to codesign an innovative response to children under 12 years of age experiencing high levels of distress. The session will be a mixed modality of information sharing and experiential learning, with participants having the opportunity to practice applying human centered design thinking principles within the workshop. Among many components of human centered design thinking, participants of the workshop will be reminded of the importance of divergent thinking and parking solution generating until the problem or challenge is fully understood from the perspective of those it affects. The presenters' goal of the workshop is that participants will leave with some knowledge of human centered design thinking, and

energy to further explore and utilise in their own workplace. Please note:- this session will discuss suicide and children.

### Stream 6

15:20 – 15:40

#### Prof Celia Chan

*The University of Melbourne*

Exploring the Differential Response of Parental Depression on Child Eczema Severity: Insights from a Psychosocial Group Intervention in a Randomized Controlled Trial

#### Session Summary

In this session, we will be discussing the differential response of parental depression on child eczema severity within the context of a psychosocial group intervention. Our study, which utilized a three-arm, single-blinded randomized controlled trial involving children with eczema and their parents, found that tailoring interventions based on parental depression levels is crucial for enhancing intervention effectiveness for eczema-affected families. We will present our findings on the most effective interventions for parents with high and low depression levels, and discuss the importance of depression screening in guiding optimal treatment allocation. Attendees of this session will benefit from gaining a deeper understanding of the role of parental depression in child eczema severity, as well as practical insights on how to tailor interventions based on depression levels. Key takeaways include the effectiveness of Integrative Body-Mind-Spirit Intervention for parents with high depression and the importance of health education for parents with lower levels.

### Stream 6

16:00 – 17:00

#### Ms Mary Jo Mc Veigh

*Cara House*

That Trust Thing. Exploring Mental Health Intervention Responses with Young Survivors of Violence, Abuse, and Neglect.

#### Session Summary

This workshop will benefit social workers engaged in therapeutic work with young survivors of violence,

exploitation, abuse, and neglect. We will explore the intervention experiences of young survivors. The workshop is based on research conducted as part of the requirement to submit a Ph.D. This research was particularly focused on young survivor's estimation of effective intervention and experiences of mental health professionals. Specific research questions that explored children's and young people's experience of therapeutic intervention lay the foundations for the study.

The analysis of the data highlighted a continuum of service delivery that young survivors experienced, which can be categorised from collaborative through disconnected to imposed. From these lived experiences, a rich epistemology has emerged that highlights young survivors' evident ability to analyze the quality and impact of therapeutic intervention and their needs within the therapeutic process.

Moreover, based on young survivors' feedback, participants in this session will get the opportunity to engage with a reflexive practice tool emanating from the research findings. After attending, the session participants can integrate this tool into their ongoing critical reflection of their work.

### Stream 7

10:30 – 10:50

#### Mrs Anita Geary

*Insight Therapies Counselling and Consultancy Pty Ltd*

Healing Interpersonal Trauma Through Animal Assisted Therapy

#### Session Summary

Interpersonal trauma, particularly when experienced in childhood, profoundly impacts social, emotional, and intellectual development.

This session explores how Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT) can be a powerful tool in healing these deep wounds. We'll discuss the unique role that animals play in fostering a sense of safety, connection, and trust in therapy, which is often unattainable through human interactions alone.

Participants will gain insights into the long-lasting effects of early trauma and how it shapes a person's ability

to engage in relationships. We'll delve into real-life examples, demonstrating how animals can help clients dismantle defense mechanisms, confront feelings of unworthiness, and rebuild a sense of self-worth.

Key takeaways include:

- Understanding the link between trauma and the development of maladaptive behaviours.
- How AAT can create a safe therapeutic environment that encourages vulnerability and healing.
- Practical strategies for integrating AAT into trauma-focused therapy.

This session is ideal for social workers in the mental health sector as well as those seeking innovative approaches to support clients with complex trauma histories, offering practical techniques to deepen therapeutic outcomes through the power of human-animal connections.

### Stream 7

10:50 – 11:10

#### Ms Wai Man Lau

*The Salvation Army*

Transforming the Sense of Loneliness Among Older Adults in Hong Kong: The Effectiveness of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy Group

#### Session Summary

Loneliness poses a global challenge for older adults, who experience gradual decline in social connections. The conventional intervention addressed on enhancing social connection. The Salvation Army instead has adopted Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) aim on promoting psychological flexibility, fostering meaning of life and alleviating the sense of loneliness of the older adults. This study recruited 61 Chinese older adults to participate in 5-week ACT groups focused on acceptance of emotions, develop mindfulness, and make meaningful life choices through committed actions. Assessments conducted before and after the intervention using a range of scales revealed significant positive outcomes. 96.7% of the participants showed notable improvements in at least one

of the three measured indicators. The average sense of loneliness experienced by the participants decreased. Furthermore, there was a notable increase in scores related to psychological flexibility. Lastly, the participants experienced a significant increase in scores related to meaning in life. The findings of this study provide evidence for the effectiveness of ACT groups in reducing loneliness among older adults. ACT appears to promote psychological flexibility and foster a sense of purpose and meaning in life, ultimately facilitate a more fulfilling and connected existence for older adults.

### Stream 7

11:10 – 12:10

#### Ms Grace Leotta

*Affirm Organizational Development and Training*

Effective Partnership and Collaboration for Holistic Support and Community Wellbeing

#### Session Summary

Partnerships and collaboration across programs and teams, and with other organisations and professionals are essential for responsive, holistic, and integrated support for health and mental health service users and their families and networks, and to foster community wellbeing. Leading, managing, and supporting partnerships requires a collaborative mindset and co-leadership skills. This interactive and practical workshop provides social work managers and all social workers interested in partnerships and collaboration, with an understanding of common journeys and phases of partnerships, strategies, skills, and tools to establish, manage and work in partnerships, and to develop a team and organisational culture of collaboration.

### Stream 7

13:10 – 13:30

#### Ms Sandra Young & Mrs Voirrey Brown

*Metro South Addiction and Mental Health Services, Qld Health*

Integrating Responses to Suicidal Ideation – Enhancing Clinical Knowledge and Skills into Health based Social Work Student Field

Placements

#### Session Summary

This presentation follows the journey of embedding specific Social Work students' education focussing on foundational clinical knowledge and skill obtainment when responding to health consumers who express suicidal ideation. The creation of this research has at its core collaboration and existing partnerships between social work clinicians across generalised health care and addictions and mental health care provision. The researched education sessions were provided to all social work students regardless of whether their field placements were based across these health service areas. The primary aim of the student education was to develop foundation skills when responding to health consumers who expressed suicidal ideation, this was considered a crucial component of social work practice within tertiary level Queensland Health and Hospital environments. Elements included into this training includes student engagement in the follow practices:

- Community thoughts about suicidal people
- Destigmatising language
- Direct clinical skill engagement with people who are suicidal.
- Safety planning
- AASW practice standards
- Self-care and value of lived experience

### Stream 7

13:30 – 13:50

#### Dr Elise Woodman

*Australian Catholic University*

Working with Families to Support Youth Mental Health: A New Practice Tool Designed by and for Social Workers

#### Session Summary

In this session we will share a new practice resource for social workers that uses a whole-of-family approach to support youth wellbeing. We explain family connectedness and why it supports young people's mental health. We will outline our process for developing the Family

Connectedness Practice Tool, and how we incorporated practice realities and research rigour. Participants in the session will review some of the resources in the tool and consider how it might be used in their own practice. This session is relevant for social workers practicing with young people, who are already taking a whole-of-family approach or interested in doing so. The development of the Tool may interest those who are interested in conducting research based on the questions that arise in their practice, or those looking to translate research findings back to practice. The session will add to participants' toolkit for working with young people and families and spark ideas about undertaking research and making those findings accessible.

### Stream 7

13:50 – 14:50

#### Ms Lauren Finemore

*Lauren Finemore Consulting*

Moral Injury: The Unseen Trauma Impact for Social Work Practitioners

#### Session Summary

Burnt out?

Yep.

Vicariously traumatised?

Yeah, that too.

Morally injured?

Ummm...?

Burn out and vicarious trauma are gaining traction in our understanding of the ways in which practicing as a Social Worker can be impactful. Research dollars, Workplace Health and Safety inclusions and a growing availability of literature and professional development opportunities mean that our profession continues to gain awareness of these potential harms and associated mitigation strategies.

Burn out sucks. And so does vicarious trauma. But they don't tell the full story of the potential harms to Social Workers when supporting traumatised communities, families and individuals.

The aim of this workshop is to introduce you to the concept of moral injury: the impact of exposure to, or active participation in, events that contradict our deeply held moral beliefs and ethical boundaries. You

will have the opportunity to self-reflect on your own practice, share insights and develop understandings of the concept of moral injury.

Play, fun and creativity can assist our brains to stay engaged and our nervous systems to remain calm during discussions of trauma. Therefore, during this session, you will be invited to actively engage with tactile and creative toys.

### Stream 7

15:20 – 15:40

#### Mr Edwin Alexander

*St Vincent's Mental Health- HOPE Programme*

A Collaborative Approach in Suicide Prevention: Clinical Practice Experiences from Social Work Perspective

#### Session Summary

This presentation will begin by outlining the global, national and local statistics of suicide data which paints the background for the need for a dedicated suicide prevention programme. This is followed by the origin and evolution of the HOPE programmes in Victoria since 2017 and the different approaches taken towards suicide prevention interventions. The focus then shifts to understanding the Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality model of suicide prevention and how it differs from some of the other approaches. I will be elaborating the features of clinical application of this particular model and highlighting its collaborative nature. I will be presenting my clinical experiences of approaching this work from a social work perspective and selecting interventions which are unique for each person. There will also be a discussion on some practice dilemmas experienced in my clinical experience of working with this model for last 6 years. This presentation would be beneficial for any practitioner who is from a mental health background or with a special interest in suicide prevention. This will be an opportunity to reflect on the benefits of working collaboratively in this challenging but rewarding and inspiring field of social work practice.

### Stream 7

15:40 – 16:00

#### Ms Wendy Cadman

*West Moreton Health*

Falling Through the Cracks: The Lessons of Establishing an Effective Service Response for People Experiencing a Suicidal Crisis

#### Session Summary

Suicide has a substantial impact on individuals, their loved ones, and the community. I have been working within the public health system in suicide prevention. My role ensures that anyone who presents to the hospital with risk to suicide is offered further care in the community. Public health has challenges wherein sectors struggle to communicate, this is one reason that consumers get lost. Cracks are not always obvious and how do we go about recognising where they are? Frontline clinicians are challenged daily, they are under pressure from staff shortages, time frames, lengthy documentation and they may not understand the importance of a psychosocial model of care. This has created multiple challenges when trying to embed processes into an established system. How do you adjust to being one cog in a flowing watermill? When you are a goal driven type of person and have high expectations of yourself, you can set yourself up to fail. So instead focus on celebrating the small wins, having realistic and achievable objectives with adaptable targets. There is more than one way to make improvements in an overwhelmed mental health system.

### Stream 7

16:00 – 17:00

#### Mr Simon Santosha

*Men & Family Counselling*

Underneath the Masculine Mask: How to Effectively Engage and Work with Men and Fathers Experiencing Depression

#### Session Summary

Underneath the masculine mask:

How to effectively engage and work with men and fathers experiencing depression Men often resist the term 'depression' due to traditional masculine socialisation which views talking about problems and admitting

to not coping as weak, shameful and unmanly. Men are often socialised to be independent, and task orientated, and so depression is often 'masked' and can present as workaholism, substance abuse, withdrawal from relationships, irritability, reactive and/or aggressive behaviours.

Some fathers may realise something isn't right and may even admit to being depressed but can be reluctant to seek help, or if they do often quickly disengage from services. However, research has consistently shown that fathers will access support services if the approach is male friendly, non-judgemental and strength based. The workshop objectives include:

- Equip participants with the knowledge and practical skills to work more effectively with fathers experiencing masculine depression.
- Increase knowledge and understanding of what lies behind the mask - Understanding the different types of masculine depression.
- Provide skills and strategies to effectively engage fathers who are depressed but refuse or are reluctant to admit it or seek help.
- Maximise the effectiveness of referral pathways for fathers experiencing depression.

### Stream 8

10:30 – 10:50

#### Mr Oliver Wright

*Eastern Health*

Acknowledging and Celebrating LGBTQIA+ Identity: Trauma Informed LGBTQIA+ Affirming Social Work Interventions

#### Session Summary

Societal stigma and discrimination can negatively impact on the health and wellbeing of the LGBTQIA+ community. Social workers who apply Trauma Informed LGBTQIA+ Affirming Care in our work can build safety, trust and support strength-based social work interventions.

### Stream 8

10:50 -11:10

#### Mx Briannon Stevens

*Reravel*

Neuroqueer: Social Work in Health and Mental Health at the Intersections of Neurodivergence, Gender and Queerness

#### Session Summary

Neuroqueer is a new and multi-layered concept for the interweaving of gender, sexuality, neurodivergence and disability. The term, 'neuroqueer' has rapidly moved through online communities, creative works and academic publications, and this presentation considers how we can take up neuroqueer ideas in social work. This session will interest social workers who want to understand more about neuroqueer, who support people at the intersection of queer and neurodivergent identities, or who are neuroqueer themselves. The results of a scoping review study of neuroqueer in the empirical literature will be shared with a focus on what we can learn from other disciplines and lived experience for our social work practice. In this session we will consider how we can extend and queer our existing 'affirming' models to align with our social work values and a neuroqueer perspective. We will explore where neuroqueer ideas align with transformative social work practices such as decolonising and eco-social work, and collective care. The session is presented by a neuroqueer social worker who supports the mental health of people at the intersection of disability, neurodivergence, trans and queer experiences.

### Stream 8

11:10 – 12:10

#### Mx Rhiannon Williams-Demmon

*Centre Against Sexual Assault Central Victoria*

Zines as a Feminist, Anti-Oppressive Approach to Knowledge Production and Self-Exploration with Regional/ Rural and LGBTQIA+ Young People

#### Session Summary

Background For decades, zines—self-published, grassroots booklets—have been integral to justice and feminist movements. Between 2023-2024, The

Centre Against Sexual Assault Central Victoria (CASACV) collaborated with regional and LGBTQIA+ co-designers in the Young People as Agents of Change (YPAC) project, using zines to co-create knowledge, amplify marginalised voices, and prevent sexual violence. Why is the Topic Important for Research and/ or Practice? Using feminist, anti-oppressive social work practices, zines can generate new knowledge outside of dominant paradigms. They provide a platform for participants to find their voice, build community, and engage in social change. Key Messages and Implications Participants will be guided to create their own zines using feminist, anti-oppressive practices, thereby gaining deep, experiential knowledge on the history of zines, how zines and art-based inquiry can be used in their own social work practice, and key learnings from case-studies presented. Who Should Participate? The practical skills and knowledge gained from this workshop can be applied across practice domains, offering a tool to creatively engage with communities. It will be particularly appropriate for practitioners in mental health work, community development, research, service design, and advocacy. Please note, all levels of experience and creativity are welcome.

### Stream 8

13:10 – 13:30

#### Dr Brooke Kooymans

*AASW*

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) – The Changing Landscape for Social Work and the Untapped Potential

#### Session Summary

In my presentation, "National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) – The Changing Landscape for Social Work and the Untapped Potential," I will explore the evolving role of social work in the NDIS sector, particularly in light of the 2023 review. The NDIS has significantly transformed Australia's disability sector, presenting both challenges and opportunities for social workers to contribute to improving quality of life outcomes for individuals with disabilities. By examining the current state of the NDIS and the untapped potential within social work practice, I will highlight how

social workers can not only navigate but also shape the future of this complex service landscape, ensuring the scheme's longevity and better outcomes for its participants.

### Stream 8

13:30 – 13:50

#### Miss Keely Walsh

*University of Melbourne*

Your Experiences Matter: Understanding The Experiences of People with Psychosocial Disability and Trauma Histories Accessing and Utilising the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

#### Session Summary

Psychosocial disability has been described as one of the most challenging and misunderstood areas of disability. With the emergence of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), the term “psychosocial disability” was brought to life in the Australian context. The NDIS is a government funded service system which provides support to eligible people with disability. Evidence suggests that the current service system being delivered by NDIS was not designed to fully cater to the multifaceted needs of people with psychosocial disability. More specifically, it is not yet known if this system is able to provide adequate care to people with trauma diagnoses and trauma histories. The purpose of this presentation is to discuss the research project Your Experiences Matter (YEM). This project aimed to analyse participants with psychosocial disability and trauma histories subjective experiences of accessing and utilising the NDIS to better shape the future of service delivery.

### Stream 8

13:50 – 14:50

#### Mrs Fiona Stojcevski

*Bright & Quirky*

Application of the “Connecting the Dots” Methodology in Psychiatric Symptomatology Intervention and Prevention.

#### Session Summary

This workshop will present the Connecting the Dots intervention and prevention methodology. CTD

utilises evidence-based theories and therapies (Attachment, Polyvagal, Systemic, Structural, Narrative) combined uniquely to reduce Nervous System dysregulation and psychiatric symptomatology linked to trauma. Showcasing a cognitive, “making-sense-of” lens and psychosocial pattern identification, CTD intervention works backwards, linking psychiatric symptomatology to trigger, to Nervous System reactivity, and to Attachment- and trauma-based themes/narratives and unconscious interactional patterns that perpetuate poor psychosocial outcomes and, symptomatology. CTD heavily represents relationships’ work, and psychoeducation and psychosocial skill-set development with a strong neuroscience focus. Participants will develop understanding of CTD and how to use it clinically, with opportunity for case application. Using CTD, participants will develop emerging capacity to assist clients to recognise their complex/relational trauma-based themes and narratives that correspond to trauma-based SNS activated responses, (leading to mental health symptomatology), that eventually enables client self-intervention. Participants should also expect to enhance clinical skillsets pertinent to identification of, and effective intervention with the neurodivergent population, notably the twice exceptional population. This workshop is ideally suited to intermediate to advanced mental health practitioners interested in enhancing their therapeutic toolkit, particularly clinicians working in (interested in) private practice, working with trauma and/or the neurodiverse population.

### Stream 8

15:40 – 16:00

#### Ms Amy Brooks

*NSW Health*

Beyond Yoga: Integrating an Embodied Practice into Social Work

#### Session Summary

Yoga is an exploration of the self which makes the embodied practice ideal within a mental health setting when applied with an intersectional and anti-oppressive lens. The positive impact of yoga (postures, breathing, mindfulness and meditation) on the nervous

system has become increasingly popular and prescribed in the health and medical industry. In a research study conducted by world-renowned psychiatrist, Dr. Bassel van der Kolk, patients with a clinical diagnosis of post-traumatic stress who were given a regular yoga practice to follow revealed a greater improvement in their mental health than any medication prescribed. Several similar studies conducted have consistently shown that clients achieve better outcomes in their recovery when treatment includes an embodied practice such as yoga in conjunction with traditional talk therapy.

This presentation will explore how trauma-informed yoga could be integrated effectively into mental health social work for the treatment of psychological distress. ‘Finding Your Ground: Yoga for Stress Management and Well-being’ was an 8-week pilot program using key principles of the Trauma Centre Trauma Sensitive Yoga (TCTS) model which is an evidence-based clinical intervention for complex trauma and chronic, treatment-resistant post-traumatic stress disorder. Program evaluation, observations and practice opportunities for social workers will be discussed.

### Stream 8

16:00 – 17:00

#### Ms Bridget Dillon

*ACT Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Consultation Service CANBERRA HEALTH SERVICES*

Grounded Therapy: Nurturing the Mother-Infant Relationship from the Floor Up

#### Session Summary

Some women with perinatal mental illness, experience difficulties connecting with their infants, in recognising their infants’ emotional states and understanding their infants’ cues. Unhelpful patterns of interacting may become entrenched, and the infants’ behaviours reflect this. We recognised that we could intervene earlier, both to give women a positive experience of being in a group, help them develop greater understanding of their infant’s internal world and develop a greater reflective capacity about how their infants experiences them. A new co-designed therapeutic

group was launched, with a focus on “getting to know your baby”. The mothers gave us weekly feedback about the activities and their feedback resulted in program revisions and formal evaluation is now underway. We observed shifts in dyadic interactions, particularly decreased intrusive behaviours by mothers and increased engagement of the infants with their mothers. There are also emerging indicators that the mothers’ sense of helplessness and hostility towards their infant reduced.

The workshop will provide information about how perinatal mental health and trauma interferes with mother-infant attachment and outline the group program. Participants will consider how to support women through different activities and will also have opportunities for infant led play as practiced in the Building Blocks program

### Stream 9

10:30 – 10:50

#### Ms Claire Raizen

*Mount Sinai Hospital*

Choosing Between Death by Cancer or Deportation: Barriers to Undocumented Immigrants Receiving Oncology Treatment and the Role of Social Work in Fighting for Equitable Care

#### Session Summary

As immigration becomes an increasingly politicized issue, medical social workers are uniquely positioned to advocate for patients to receive equitable access to healthcare, regardless of their legal immigration status. This presentation will highlight the barriers that undocumented immigrants experience when attempting to access medical care, specifically oncology treatment, by utilizing case examples from the Mount Sinai Hospital stem cell transplant and cellular therapy department. These case examples illuminate that through closely coordinated interdisciplinary teamwork, creative problem solving to obtain resources, and committing time to building relationships of trust with individual patients, undocumented patients can access the full menu of oncology treatment that they need. Learning objectives of this presentation include identifying barriers to treatment

that undocumented immigrants experience on personal and systemic levels, micro-level clinical skills that social workers can utilize to best serve this patient population, and recommendations for system and macro-level advocacy initiatives to reduce healthcare disparities.

### Stream 9

10:50 – 11:10

#### Mrs Chelsea Minhas

*Covenant House Vancouver*

Pivoting Practice: Building Capacity to Serve Youth Impacted by Trafficking

#### Session Summary

In 2020, Covenant House Vancouver Initiated a 32-month project to develop and implement intervention practices that will advance knowledge and enhance empowerment supports for youth aged 16-24 at risk of, or survivors of, sexual exploitation and human trafficking

A toolkit was created with an overview of youth centered approaches that will supply service providers with a means to help reduce the risk of trafficking and the barriers that prevent support, in an effort to co-create a safer future. These recommendations provide an overview of theoretical approaches to reducing harm and increasing safety for youth and provide resources to implement those practices organizationally. Given that each youth has a unique set of needs, this toolkit provides promising practices rather than a stringent set of guidelines, to ensure that everyone’s needs are met in a one-size-fits-one model of care.

Learning Objectives:

- Build capacity to serve youth impacted by trafficking
- Offer a toolkit to equip service providers with knowledge and tools no matter where there work, a big city with many resources, or a small single staffed town.
- Provide connection and community of practice

### Stream 9

11:10 – 11:30

#### Miss Lang Su

*Australian Catholic University*

Work-Related Risk Factors for the Mental Health of Immigrants in Australia: A Systematic Review

#### Session Summary

Immigrants are more likely to engage in 3D jobs (dirty, dangerous, and demanding) and experience difficulties in finding employment, high effort with low reward, high demand with low control, and so forth. How do work-related risk factors affect immigrants’ mental health in Australia?

### Stream 9

11:30 – 11:50

#### Dr Xulong Zhi

*JZ Social Work Pty Ltd*

Challenges Confronting Chinese Mental Health Clinicians in Australia: Integrating Practitioners’ Reflections with Literature Review

#### Session Summary

This session focuses on the professional identity formation (PIF) of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) mental health professionals in Australia. Through a review of relevant literature, we will explore how personal, cultural, and professional identities intersect, highlighting the unique challenges faced by CALD clinicians. Key frameworks, including identity formation and acculturation models, will be discussed to illustrate the complex process of integrating cultural values with professional expectations.

Attendees will gain practical strategies to support continuous professional development and build cultural competence. We will address ways to mitigate feelings of isolation and marginalization experienced by CALD professionals, with a focus on mentorship models and peer networks tailored specifically to this group. Additionally, the importance of reflective practice and experiential learning in maintaining a strong professional identity will be emphasized.

By attending this session, participants—whether they are mental health practitioners, educators,

supervisors, or policymakers—will leave with realistic, actionable insights to better support CALD clinicians and enhance culturally sensitive mental health services. Key takeaways include tools for fostering inclusive environments and strategies for ongoing professional and cultural integration.

### Stream 9

11:50 – 12:10

#### Mrs Rosemary Qummuoh

*Western Sydney University*

Pillows Filled with Tears... Syrian Refugees' Journey to Australia: Narratives of Human Courage and Resilience.

#### Session Summary

This presentation will discuss the results of a qualitative study focusing on the experiences of Syrian refugees as they journeyed to Australia. Through firsthand accounts of their transit experiences and the long-term effects of displacement, the session will highlight themes of the challenges of displacement, resettlement, and resilience. Notions of existential anxiety, psychosocial stressors, economic hardships, discrimination, and exploitation will be explored, along with the impacts on refugee mental health in relation to resettlement. The session will explore how cultural context, privilege, and determination are crucial in shaping responses to trauma, providing valuable insights for social work practitioners in further understanding refugees' mental health outcomes.

### Stream 9

13:10 – 13:30

#### Mrs Nicky Trussler

*Possum House*

The Use of Video Games in Therapy: Supporting Mental Health, Social Navigation and Executive Functioning Needs of Neurodivergent Children with Mainstream Games

#### Session Summary

An introduction to the practical use of mainstream video games in therapy. Examples will be provided specifically about how to link session activities to client goals. This presentation is relevant to any Social Workers

supporting neurodivergent children and adolescents and are looking to expand their understanding of how to use games in a neurodiversity affirming way.

### Stream 9

13:30 – 13:50

#### Dr Campbell Tickner

*University Of Tasmania*

Social Work in a Technologically Mediated World: A Theoretically Informed Exploration

#### Session Summary

As social work traditionally prioritises human connection, the integration of technology into practice has been met with resistance. However, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the necessity for social work to adapt to a technologically mediated world. This presentation will explore how eHealth technologies are reshaping social work practice within health care settings. Drawing on findings from interviews with health and mental health social workers, we examine how these technologies mediate and translate the social work role. Using post phenomenology as an analytic tool, our research reveals the complexities of integrating digital technologies, including challenges to professional identity, structural barriers, and the discomfort and uncertainty they face when social workers navigate these changes. This presentation will be particularly relevant for social workers, educators, and researchers who are interested in the intersection of technology and social work, and those seeking to explore the broader implications of integrating technology into practice.

### Stream 9

13:50 – 14:10

#### Mr Tung-Hsien Chuang

*Medical Social Work Association. Taiwan*

Working with Technology: Development and Usability Testing of the Intelligent Medical Social Work System

#### Session Summary

1. The capacity and opportunities for vulnerable populations to utilize social welfare or healthcare services are the weakest. By

providing these populations with socio-psychological and welfare resource interventions, medical social workers help reduce their barriers to healthcare. This study presented how medical social workers in Taiwan developed mobile technology to achieve professional service goals.

2. The Intelligent Medical Social Work System (iMSW) includes a predictive medical social welfare model that helps understand public welfare resource needs and provides consultation, referral, and application services. (Chinese version of the website: <https://imsw.org.tw/imswPublic/>)
3. Usability testing of iMSW revealed favorable performance in task completion rate, completion time, and efficiency. The System Usability Scale score was 66.90, and the average UMUX-Lite score was 70.83, indicating that iMSW meets benchmarks for usability and has potential for wider adoption.
4. This study also provided strategies to enhance the promotion of iMSW and integrate social work with technological services.

### Stream 9

14:10 – 14:30

#### Ms Gemma Smith

*Together Pregnancy and Postpartum*

Podcasting Perinatal Perspectives: Leveraging Lived and Professional Experience for Better Mental Health Outcomes on a Global Scale

#### Session Summary

Professional social worker and podcaster Gemma Smith (MSW) invites you to learn about the power of podcasting for social workers and our clients. Gemma's podcast, which now has over 20k downloads and listeners in 39 countries, will be used as practical inspiration in this session where you will explore how and why podcasting could be incorporated into your professional practice. Audience members will gain practical insights into podcast creation, production and marketing as well as discovering strategies for leveraging podcasting to promote the unique voice of social

work and provide better mental health outcomes for our client populations on a global scale.

### Stream 9

14:30 – 14:50

#### Dr Victoria Rodriguez

*Mount Sinai Hospital*

Data Science and Hospital Social Work: Utilizing EMRs to Capture Social Determinants of Health Data, Enhance Patient Care, and Support the Role of Social Work

#### Session Summary

The healthcare industry uses data to guide decisions on practices, patient care, and staffing. Recently there has been an increased focus on collecting social determinants of health data to better understand patient needs and comply with government policies. This presentation explores how hospital social work departments can adapt social work documentation in EMRs to collect quantifiable data that provides deeper insight into social determinants of health and the role of social work in patient care while ensuring reimbursements and adherence to government policies.

The presentation focuses on how Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, NY, has utilized electronic medical records (EMRs) to improve patient care and support social work by integrating social determinants of health data into social work documentation. It covers the evolution of documentation practices from 2017 to the present, shifting from qualitative to quantitative data. The presentation addresses changes in workflow based on staff feedback, policy updates, and reimbursement requirements. Discussion includes best practices for adapting documentation workflows, using EMRs to capture relevant social determinants data, and leveraging reporting and analysis to ensure compliance, improve patient care, and support social work roles.

### Stream 9

15:40 – 16:00

#### Mx Tegan Murnane

*Royal Melbourne Hospital*

Slaying the Foundation: Building Capacity and Promoting LGBTIQ+

Safe and Inclusive Care in a Major Australian Trauma Hospital Through Clinical Lived-Experience Roles

#### Session Summary

The LGBTIQ+ community experience significant barriers in accessing healthcare systems due to limited access to supports, high levels of discrimination, and fear of mistreatment.

In 2021, the Royal Melbourne Hospital (RMH) established a LGBTIQ+ Patient Liaison Service, believed to be the first of its kind in an Australian hospital, and began laying the foundations toward advancing health care for everyone under the rainbow.

The RMH LGBTIQ+ Patient Liaison Service consists of social-work-trained clinicians who, along with their extensive clinical skills and knowledge, bring lived experience as members of the LGBTIQ+ community to the roles.

Now in its third year of service, the RMH LGBTIQ+ Patient Liaison Service rolls out the metaphorical rainbow carpet to provide direct support to LGBTIQ+ consumers, education and consult for staff around safe and inclusive care and drives continual improvement in RMH systems, practices, and facilities.

The RMH LGBTIQ+ Patient Liaison team are passionate about the pursuit of embedding LGBTIQ+ peer-led specialist services within health care settings throughout Victoria, Australia, and the world!

We are excited to provide an overview and insight into trends, learnings, triumphs, and challenges for the consideration of organisations seeking to implement similar LGBTIQ+ focused roles.

### Stream 9

16:00 – 17:00

#### Mrs Seanna Keeley

*The Courageous Space*

Getting Transformative; The Spectrum of Social Work Practice with Trans People

#### Session Summary

This panel will explore how integrating a culturally relevant and gender-affirming approach can enhance ethical social work practice. We aim

to clarify how gender-affirming care aligns with our commitment to social justice and person-centered care.

Social work's dual focus on person-centred care and social justice is crucial for the health and wellbeing of trans and gender diverse (TGD) people. It also strengthens multidisciplinary health teams across various settings, including general health, emergency departments, mental health, and specific gender services. In Western countries, trans lives have historically been pathologized under oppressive medical models. Social work has begun to challenge this narrative, but more work remains. Integrating gender-affirming care into person-centered practice is increasingly recognized as essential to ethical and culturally relevant social work.

The panel features members of the Social Workers in Trans Communities and Health group, which connects professionals across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. They will share insights from their work with TGD individuals, families, partners, and communities in various settings. We will discuss the challenges and successes of this work and address the socio-political climate that impacts both practice and TGD communities, while highlighting the importance of centering trans joy in social work.

### Stream 10

10:30 – 10:50

#### Ms Jennifer Mace

*Perth Children's Hospital*

Leading Health and Justice Wellbeing in our Community – A Partnership Across the Lifespan

#### Session Summary

Legal Aid WA approached hospital social work leaders with a vision of establishing a health justice partnership (HJP), acknowledging that unaddressed legal issues impact on physical and mental health. While HJPs are well established in other states of Australia, the vision took years to implement due to legislative barriers and a worldwide pandemic. Co-location of a paediatric and adult hospital on the same health campus provided an opportunity to deliver an HJP across the lifespan and for lawyers to begin helping patients

from newborns through childhood, adolescence, and adulthood along with their next of kin and/or families. Key learnings from the HJP implementation include:

1. Unless voluntarily divulged, recognising and responding to legal issues was not traditionally a primary focus for hospital social workers.
2. Education of social workers has been essential to socialise the concept and maximise referrals.
3. A need to adapt psychosocial assessments to proactively seek undisclosed legal concerns.
4. Recognition of the impact on lawyers exposed to life and death conversations and distressing traumatic injuries. This has required the need for briefing/debriefing. Introduction of a legal lens (via a HJP) to hospital social work practice would be of interest to clinicians, educators and social work managers.

### Stream 10

11:10 – 12:10

#### Ms Kit Kline

*Nature Based Therapy*

Nature Based Social Prescribing - Integrating Nature-Based Interventions for Social and Environmental Well-Being.

#### Session Summary

In this interactive workshop, participants will explore the concept of Nature-Based Social Prescribing and learn how to integrate nature-based interventions into their professional practice for the benefit of social and environmental well-being. Facilitated by Kit Kline, the session will use a narrative approach, engaging participants in conversations about their personal experiences with nature. Through the use of nature reflection cards, attendees will reflect on their connections with the natural world, share stories, and gain insights into how nature can be utilised as a therapeutic tool.

The workshop aims to empower participants to prescribe nature to their clients, incorporating nature-based activities and interventions to promote healing, resilience, and well-being.

Practical strategies will be discussed, with a focus on how to adapt these approaches to various work settings. Attendees will leave with a deeper understanding of how to integrate nature-based social prescribing into their practice, enhancing outcomes for individuals and communities.

### Stream 10

13:10 – 13:30

#### Dr Rachel Goff

*RMIT University*

The Impacts of the Black Rhinos Primary Prevention Basketball Program for the African-Australian Community in South-Eastern Melbourne

#### Session Summary

Co-presenters are from the Research Management Team representing RMIT University and Afri-Auscare. By drawing on the Indigenous African philosophy of Ubuntu roughly translated as 'I am because you/we are' (Chigangaidze, 2021), this presentation will describe:

1. The co-design process - reflect on interdisciplinary team's strengths, involvement of the community and org and project management structure.
2. Report the project's impacts which include enhanced social connection between young people and families, life and leadership skills development, increased confidence, enhanced relationships between teachers, students and their families through strengthened recognition, sense of belonging and reciprocity and opportunities to live and enact African cultural values. Presenters will play a short video showcasing project highlights.
3. Reflect on future steps for sustainability. Open to question time.

### Stream 10

13:30 – 13:50

#### Dr Gregory Smith

*Melbourne University*

Relational Practice: Supporting Social Work and Diversity.

### Session Summary

From the 1960s, Western post-modern disciplines began to critique theory upon which therapeutic interventions in psychology, psychiatry and social work were based. These were argued as reflecting peculiarly Western 'individualistic' approaches to identity, and promoting a 'deficit' focus on individuals being supported.

New approaches positioned knowledge, values and identity as 'in relationship' with the cultural and social circumstances of the person. First Nations authors argued that First Nations cultures were relational in nature and required relational approaches to practice and research.

This presentation will summarise relational theory drawn from these sources, and propose principles for practice which follow.

Relational practices liberate social workers to engage directly with the lived experience of peoples being supported. Instead of locating a 'problem' within the person, practice supports exploration their relationship with problems impacting on them. Responses to marginalisation and injustice are acknowledged, and incorporated into directions for their lives. The person's preferred cultural and social identities, values, knowledges and skills are the focus of practice. Narrative therapy and community work have generated a wide range of relational practices.

Within this dynamic process, social workers are freed to acknowledge how practice influences their own identities and relationships with their cultural and social worlds.

### Stream 10

13:50 – 14:10

#### Dr Amelia Wheeler

*University Of Canberra*

Whiteness as risk: Reconceptualising Risk in Restrictive Practices and Positive Behaviour Support Plans

#### Session Summary

This presentation reports on a research project that applies a Decolonising Critical Discourse Analysis (DCDA) framework to analyse 80 Positive Behaviour Support Plans (Plans) registered in the Australian

Capital Territory. Restrictive practices, such as hands-on restraint and psychotropic medication, are utilised to contain behaviours that risk harm to self or others. Plans must be registered with a State government authority wherever restrictive practices operate and outline Positive Behaviour Support strategies to support the service user. This research employed a decolonising, disability justice and body politic-informed analysis to explore how service users, their needs and behaviours are constructed by Plan authors. Findings suggest an overreliance on psychotropic medication, presenting people as 'risky' and as 'problems' that require 'fixing.' Bodies can be represented as 'dysfunctional', 'dangerous', and 'unusual.' Plans can feature neoliberal discourses, with a substantial presence of Whiteness, ableist and oppressive discourses about disabled peoples. All practitioners with an interest in disability, decolonising and anti-carceral work will benefit from attendance. Key takeaways from this session include; insight into the DCDA Framework for text/document-based analysis, research-based knowledge on current PBS practices and strategies for decolonising and challenging Whiteness in social work and welfare practice.

### **Stream 10**

14:10 – 14:30

#### **Ms Carolyn Hutson**

*Mount Sinai Medical Center*

Support Groups for Sickle Cell Patients: Using New Technology to Expand Supportive Spaces

#### **Session Summary**

This presentation will begin with providing for attendees information about Sickle Cell disease including the average life expectancy for these patients in the United States.

The attendees of this presentation will also obtain information about the psychosocial issues that impact this patient population which includes educational and economic vulnerabilities.

Lastly, social workers who attend this session will learn how sickle cell patients shared in monthly support groups their use of various techniques to manage the physical and emotional

impact of this challenging chronic disease.

### **Stream 10**

14:30 – 14:50

#### **Dr Kai Chung Lo**

*Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

The Importance of Promoting Wellness and Cultural Diversity in Social Work Education for Hong Kong Chinese and Ethnically Diverse Students and Practitioners

#### **Session Summary**

This study explores the challenges faced by social work students and practitioners in serving ethnically diverse populations in Hong Kong. With increased immigration over the past two decades, immigrants and ethnically diverse residents in Hong Kong face social and cultural challenges in accessing suitable social and employment services. However, only a small percentage of social workers (0.0008%) in Hong Kong are multicultural, highlighting the need for social work training to address the specific needs of an ethnically diverse population. The study covers essential concepts of cultural competence, sensitivity, and humility frameworks and explores culturally informed social work practices and research. The challenges faced by ethnically diverse social work students and practitioners are also discussed. It also recommends developing ethnically diverse social work education, including curriculum, pedagogy, and fieldwork strategies in Hong Kong. From multidisciplinary and multicultural backgrounds, the authors aim to promote culturally sensitive and innovative practices for future social work and front-line practitioners from diverse cultural backgrounds. Overall, we aim to address the pressing challenges social work students and practitioners face in serving a diverse and evolving population in Hong Kong's unique social and cultural context, integrating both Eastern and Western cultures.

### **Stream 10**

15:20 – 15:40

#### **Miss Marie Louise Singh**

*This Way Up - St Vincents Hospital Sydney*

Increasing Access to Person-Centered Care with Digital Therapeutics

#### **Session Summary**

This Way Up, by St Vincents Hospital Sydney, presents early learnings on the implementation of evidenced digital mental health treatments across the lifespan and health care system. This presentation will explore opportunities for enhancing and extending the impact of evidence based digital mental health treatment for all. Case studies will be presented on care pathways for treatment of insomnia, anxiety, depression and chronic pain for young people and adults. Through service design for digital integration, consumers and clinicians gain access to effective, responsive, innovative mental health care. This presentation will explore: Success factors for embedding digital therapeutics in routine care How to design digital integration with equity in mind Enablers and barriers to implementation in diverse and complex care settings How to target implementation support against opportunities for better treatment delivery, efficacy and fidelity. How to make digital treatments a sustained practice innovation so as many of the right people receive the right care as possible. How to maintain person centred planning principles and maximize meaningful outcomes while using digital therapeutics. How to build digitally enhanced, place-based models of care which prioritize the community you serve.

### **Stream 10**

15:40 – 16:00

#### **Miss Jessica Dobrovic**

*Curious Communities Consulting*

Enhancing Service-Level Data to Illuminate the Co-Occurring Needs of the Diverse Population of People at Risk of, or Experiencing Homelessness: Implications for Service Provision

#### **Session Summary**

It is widely acknowledged that people experiencing homelessness can

present to specialist homelessness services experiencing multiple comorbidities. However, services do not always collect specific data to demonstrate the prevalence of specific co-morbidities, and experience a push pull of administrative burden and increasing pressure to demonstrate impact through data. Moreover, services are often restricted in what data they are able to collect due to funding and data system requirements. By leveraging both tangible anecdotes and robust quantitative data, organisations can construct a comprehensive evidence base to advocate for their effectiveness and illuminate pressing social issues and potential service gaps. Through two descriptive case studies, this paper illustrates how adopting such an approach can augment organizations' capacity to convey their impact. Drawing on two practice examples of this approach, we demonstrate how both story, and data are useful, and needed to build a comprehensive picture of service impact, or articulate service needs.

### Stream 10

16:00 – 17:00

#### Mrs Allyson Smith

*Ally Smith Consulting*

From Values to Practice: Empowering Social Work Entrepreneurs in a Changing World

#### Session Summary

This interactive workshop will explore how social workers define themselves in private practice, balancing core social work values of social justice, advocacy, and client-centred care with their own practice values of flexibility, autonomy, authenticity, and entrepreneurship. Participants will unpack their motivations behind private practice and examine current challenges and trends, including the role of emerging technologies. Designed for those curious about private practice—from beginners to experienced practitioners—this workshop encourages sharing of experiences and provides actionable strategies for establishing or enhancing private practice, ensuring it remains aligned with social work principles, ethical standards, and personal values. The workshop will:

- Explore how we define ourselves

as social workers in private practice (identity).

- Unpack the values that motivate private practice.
- Explore the current challenges and trends in private practice (including the use of new and developing technology to support practice).

Participants will come away with action to take in setting up or further developing their private practice.

### Stream 11

10:30 – 10:50

#### Ms Sonia Gain

*Royal Far West*

Nurturing Roots of Rural Resilience: Navigating the Paediatric Health Drought When Diagnosis Is Not Enough

#### Session Summary

This session will explore the challenges faced by rural and remote families in accessing health and mental health, and the role of social workers in recognising their resilience and supporting their access to care. Royal Far West's (RFW) Paediatric Development Program provides clinical assessment to approximately 500 children from rural NSW annually using a trauma informed and strengths based framework. These children are referred with complex developmental, learning, wellbeing or behavioural concerns that are not able to be addressed locally.

Topics include the role of social work in service delivery, multi-disciplinary team ways of working, collaboration and partnership with local health services and other providers (schools, social services, etc.), and paediatric care needs post diagnosis. Attendees of the session will reflect on specific case examples to gain a deeper understanding of families' experiences and perspectives as well as the benefits of social workers continuing connection with families post diagnosis.

Attendees will leave with greater insight into the vital role of social workers in rural paediatric health care; using multiple skill sets to mediate within the medical model ensuring a balance of clinical recommendations

and family centred care following diagnostic assessment outcomes.

### Stream 11

10:50 – 11:10

#### Mrs Leah Heale

*Heale Collab*

The Reality for Autistic Individuals: Co-occurring Conditions, Misdiagnosis & Barriers to Healthcare, the Role of Social Work in Addressing these Systemic Issues

#### Session Summary

This presentation will share important information for Social Workers that work directly with Autistic individuals and those who work in settings such as community health, mental health and education. It will explore the emerging evidence regarding the many health conditions that commonly co-occur with Autism, the current barriers to healthcare for Autistic individuals and the adverse health outcomes associated with this. Neurodiversity Affirming Practice, the best practice for working with Autistic clients, will also be explored to increase practitioner confidence in working with Autistic individuals and breaking down barriers to healthcare.

### Stream 11

11:10 – 12:10

#### Ms Freya Maberly

*Freya's Farm Animal Assisted Therapy*

Expanding Biopsychosocial Assessments to Make Them Neurodiversity Affirming

#### Session Summary

This session will discuss additional items for biopsychosocial intake assessments which relate to neurodiverse people. It will be useful for anyone who works with members of the neurodiverse community, or anyone wanting to better understand the lived experiences and co-occurring conditions which may be impacting on their clients. This additional information can inform therapeutic decisions and enhance the therapeutic relationship.

Participants will be provided with specific assessment questions for their consideration and explanatory information regarding why these questions have become important

in my practice. There will also be discussion about relevance of the items for adult clients, child clients, and the parents of child clients.

### Stream 11

13:10 – 13:30

#### Ms Patrice Higgins

*Canberra Health Services*

Barriers to Implementing Supported Decision Making in an Acute Hospital - A Qualitative Study of Clinicians' Perspectives

#### Session Summary

Supported decision-making (SDM) is when a person gives another person the support they need to participate in a decision. Due to education, time and resource limitations, supporting people with decision-making in an acute hospital setting can be challenging. We wanted to understand better clinicians' views and barriers and enablers to use SDM in an acute setting with patients with cognitive impairment. Using a qualitative approach, we learnt about practices clinicians see that support SDM and those that are

### Stream 11

13:30 – 13:50

#### Mrs Justine Brogna

*Treehaus Pty Ltd*

“Walk a Mile in My Shoes!” ‘Mental Health Project’ to Raise Funds and Awareness for Mental Health Related Issues and Reduce the Stigma Often Associated.

#### Session Summary

Mental Health Awareness Project – Walk A Mile In My Shoes (WAMIMS)

WAMIMS is a Community Development Project created by TreeHaus Founder/CEO Justine Brogna, in aim of raising awareness for mental health issues and reducing the stigma often associated with it. It's also in aim of building stronger communities with it's collaborative event supported by many other mental health and wellbeing services throughout Victoria.

The project brings people together that have been impacted by mental health related issues in some way, those with lived experience and their carers/families. Furthermore, for anyone

wanting to support or understand mental illness in an enhanced way.

The event includes a mile long walk and back, guest speakers with lived experience, mental health information stalls, food and drinks vans. In addition, there is a fundraising element, funds raised going directly back into the community for preventative mental health initiatives for young people. Donations are given to primary and secondary schools to develop wellbeing retreats within schools for students to go during times of mental anguish or distress.

If you are interested in hearing more about this community development project, it's aims and positive outcomes, or how to create a charity event, please attend this presentation.

### Stream 11

13:50 – 14:50

#### Mr Andrew Shirres

*Unique Outcomes*

Who Holds the Power? A Critique of Power in Health and Mental Health Settings and an Exploration of Practical Methods for ‘Doing’ Strengths-Based Practice

#### Session Summary

Suited to anyone in the helping industry this interactive workshop will commence with an exploration of the uses and abuses of power in human services through the metaphor of ‘colonisation’. Participants will explore the concepts of Power-over’ and ‘Power-with’, developed in the 1990’s and furthered by Wayne McCashen, that help practitioners observe how the service system itself can, even whilst advertising itself as empowerment driven, at the same time embed systems of unexamined oppression. Together we will observe how easily stigmatising, labelling, exclusive and even coercive actions can occur within, and without, the health and mental health service system.

We'll explore ideas, tools and techniques for creating conditions that enable genuine empowerment to occur, allowing client-driven strengths-based practice to flourish. Participants will have the opportunity to consider how client-centred services, column approaches for structuring strengths-

based conversations, externalising techniques, reframing and searching for exceptions can all be used to shift the power from the practitioner to the client. You should leave with your social justice values not only intact but strengthened, as well as a new idea or two for putting your principles into practice.

### Stream 11

15:20 – 15:40

#### Ms Tiffany Westphal

*School Can't Australia / Student Stress Investigation*

Key Findings About School Attendance Difficulties from School Can't Australia's December 2022 Survey. Implications for Practice.

#### Session Summary

Westphal will speak about the history of the conceptualisation of school attendance difficulties. She will report on the findings of School Can't Australia's (SCA) 2022 research into school attendance difficulties. SCA's research suggests that a neurobiological lens that centers on the student's lived and living experience provides a means through which we can understand why a student can't attend school and the implications of this for intervention and support. While Westphal's professional interest lies in identifying stressors experienced within the context of school she will also discuss stressors experienced within the context of family, the community and biological stressors. If you are a school social worker, work in a community setting or in private practice with students experiencing distress about attending school this presentation will equip you with insights that will assist you to help support students. You will leave with a deeper appreciation of why the term “school refusal” is a problematic term with which to describe this problem.

### Stream 11

15:40 – 16:00

#### Ms Tanya Bearup

*My Garden Space*

Blooming Well: Integrating Therapeutic horticulture into Social Work Practice

#### Session Summary

In this 20-minute presentation, I will explore the integration of therapeutic

horticulture into social work practice, based on my experience as both a social worker and horticulturist. Therapeutic horticulture is a practical application of green social work that uses gardening and nature-based activities to achieve therapeutic goals and enhance the physical, mental, cognitive and social wellbeing of participants across various life stages. The session will begin with an introduction to therapeutic horticulture, outlining its core principles and benefits. I will then present evidence and personal observations that demonstrate the effectiveness of this approach in improving client outcomes. The discussion will include an overview of how I structure my programs, from a collaborative, person-centred and strengths-based approach.

This session is ideal for social workers, therapists, and health professionals interested in expanding their therapeutic toolkit with gardening and nature-based interventions and understanding how this modality is effective in promoting wellbeing.

#### Key Takeaways:

- Gain a clear understanding of what therapeutic horticulture is and its benefits for mental, cognitive, social, and physical health.
- Learn practical strategies for incorporating therapeutic horticulture into social work

practice.

- Gain insights into the challenges and successes of integrating gardening and nature-based activities into social work practice.

#### Stream 11

16:00 – 17:00

#### Ms Tiffany Westphal

*School Can't Australia / Student Stress Investigation*

Using a Neurobiological Lens to Identify and Reduce School-Based Stressors Experienced by Neurodivergent Students, Experiencing School Attendance Difficulties. How to Provide Neuro-Affirming Support.

#### Session Summary

This workshop will assist you to appreciate the value of re-framing “school refusal” from misbehaviour or being primarily a psychopathology, to being a natural protective response to the experience of chronic or severe stress. Westphal and Heale will discuss the importance of the first 3 (of 5) Self-Reg practices recommended by Dr Stuart Shanker when responding to school attendance difficulties:

1. Reframe the behaviour,
2. Identify Stressors and
3. Reduce Stressors.

You will be introduced to the Student

Stress Investigation (SSI) card deck, see how this resource facilitates identification of stressors, and how it can be paired with Dr Ross Greens' Collaborative Proactive Solutions to help students feel supported, validated and understood. This workshop will involve a mixture of presented content, group reflection and brainstorming in response to case studies. Participants will hear how Tiffany Westphal utilises the SSI cards in her private practice to identify stressors and inform advocacy. This workshop will equip social workers in a variety of settings to be better able to understand the needs of neurodivergent students, identify specific stressors, advocate for resolution of stressors and provide supports in an affirming way.

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# Friday

## Plenary

09:20 – 09:40

### Ms Caroline Walter

Monash University

Establishment and priority setting for the Mental Health Family and Carer Research Advocacy Network (FaCRAN)

### Session Summary

This session will explore the needs and priorities for mental health family carer-led research as outlined by FaCRAN (Family and Carer Research Advocacy Network) co-founding members Caroline Walters and Melissa Petrakis. Established in 2022, FaCRAN brings together advocates, community, and government, allies, researchers, and academics, the majority with lived and living experience of care and support. The network has a strong commitment to collaboratively generating and exchanging research ideas, supporting and promoting individual member's and collective projects, and to sharing opportunities and building or sharing our different capabilities and skills. FaCRAN is auspiced by the RMIT University and supported by Social Work academics from 3 Australian universities, and centres lived experience to address system injustices, and to advocate for better community supports for all. In 2024 the Journal of Carer and Caring published an article which outlined FaCRANs research priorities, this

session will explore those priorities further.

### Key learning objectives

- Understanding research priorities as determined by families and carers.
- How networks or collectives might help amplify experiences of frequently silenced or marginalised groups

## Plenary

09:40 – 10:00

### Dr Melissa Petrakis

Monash University

Lived Experience Expertise and Social Work Practitioner-Administrator Leadership Engaging in Co-Design, Co-Production and Practice-Based Research During and Following Inpatient Mental Health Care

### Session Summary

Internationally, people who use mental health services have advocated for changes in service models and structures, and employment as peer workers based on their lived experience. Aims: A model and outcomes from the Expanding Post Discharge Support (EPDS) program will be shared – peer support workers supporting service users to transition from acute inpatient mental health to community. Methods: Establishing the EPDS involved recruiting peer support workers, gaining training in Mead's Intentional Peer Support model, and developing processes for

monitoring and reporting. Results: Over 500 people with lived experience of mental illness have received support through EPDS since August 2015. EPDS has achieved program aims to reduce unplanned readmission and inpatient length of stay (LOS). It provides enhanced psychosocial focus in multidisciplinary decision-making in discharge planning. Discussion: For people using services, EPDS has reduced the impact of mental illness and use of inpatient services, increasing self-efficacy, improving practical outcomes in employment, housing and finances, and increased community and social inclusion. Conclusion: Peer workers and social workers are well placed to codesign and co-lead programs to work with people with lived experience of mental illness to achieve and sustain recovery progress and community connection, reducing social isolation after acute illness.

## Plenary

10:20 – 10:40

### Dr Jean Carruthers

University of Newcastle

Reinvigorating Mental Health: A Codesign Approach Fostering Transformative Wellbeing Practice in the Mental Health Sector

### Session Summary

This presentation will explore the presenters' motivation for this research which is informed by lived and life experience and a desire for emancipatory social change in the

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mental health sector. The research is a critical inquiry into the use of transformative wellbeing practices as a means to respond to the 'missing middle' and an opportunity to reinvigorate the mental health sector. The focus of the research, to explore the use and value of counter-hegemonic (non-mainstream social justice oriented) knowledges, perspectives and practices that exist but are most often subordinated by the dominance of mainstream approaches will be outlined. The aim of the research being to support much needed relief to the mental health sector. We will unpack what we mean by transformative wellbeing practices, how these practices are currently operating and opportunities for co-creation. We will explain the collaborative co-design approach in stage one of the research presenting the preliminary analysis documented. Furthermore, an explanation of stage two of the research, 'making magic through performance ethnography and reflexive thematic analysis' will be provided. Canice Curtis will share some examples of his engagement with transformative wellbeing practices and his vision for further co-creation in his work at Wesley Mission Queensland.

### Plenary

11:10 – 12:10

#### Dr Michael Ungar

*Resilience Research Centre*

"Diagnosing" Resilience Across Cultures and Contexts: Seeing the Positives in Young People Even When There are Serious Problems

#### Session Summary

With growing interest in resilience among mental health care providers globally, there is a need for a simple way to think about the complex interactions that predict which young people will do well despite the seriousness of the challenges they face. A focus on resilience helps us to understand individual adaptive and maladaptive coping strategies, as well as the social and physical ecologies that facilitate positive developmental processes in contexts of adversity. Using case examples of children, youth and families that have been exposed to high levels of adversity such as family violence,

mental illness of a child or caregiver, natural disasters, forced migration, poverty, racism and other types of social marginalization and political conflict, Michael will show how we can assess childhood resilience and use that assessment to guide practice. He will show that by "diagnosing" resilience, we are in a better position to design interventions that are sensitive to the individual, family, school and community factors that influence a young person's wellbeing. Seven factors common to children who cope well under adversity and avoid problems like depression, PTSD, and delinquency will be discussed, along with strategies to change the social and physical environments that surround them.

### Plenary

12:10 – 13:10

#### Dr Cindy Blackstock

*First Nations Child and Family Caring Society*

Standing in the Winds of Systemic Discrimination

#### Session Summary

Social injustice is growing on a grand scale and social work is trending toward therapeutic interventions. As a profession, we must stand in the winds of discrimination to safeguard others from its powerful forces but too often our training does not prepare us. Based on true events, this presentation shares lessons learned from a historic human rights case against the Canadian Government for its discrimination toward First Nations children.

### Stream 2

09:00 – 09:20

#### Ms Alison Yik Tung Chan

*The University of Hong Kong*

The Influence of Gender Stereotypes on Women's Quality of Life in Hong Kong: A Mediation Analysis

#### Session Summary

In this session, we will be discussing the impact of gender stereotypes on women's quality of life in Hong Kong, as well as the mediating effects of these stereotypes on well-being. Through our analysis of a cross-sectional study of 684 women

aged 18 and above, we found that gender stereotypes significantly and negatively predicted overall quality of life, psychological health, and environmental health. Additionally, we discovered that gender stereotypes mediated the relationship between age and quality of life and environmental health. Our study emphasizes the importance of addressing gender stereotypes to enhance women's well-being and highlights the need for gender-related education for younger adults. Attendees will benefit from gaining a deeper understanding of the impact of gender stereotypes on women's quality of life and the potential for education to improve well-being. Key takeaways from this session include the importance of gender-related education for younger adults in enhancing overall quality of life and promoting gender equality in Hong Kong and beyond.

### Stream 2

09:20 – 09:40

#### Mr Chi-Shuo Lee

*Yu-Cheng Social Welfare Foundation*

A Pilot Study of Aging, Social Support, and Loneliness among Gay Men in Taiwan

#### Session Summary

Taiwan has become an aging society since 2018. Life span theory suggests that aging and eventual death are inevitable. Most research on aging focuses on the periods before or after retirement, and the analysis typically uses a binary sex model. Social support research for homosexual populations often investigates self-identity or partnerships. Similarly, research on loneliness often analyzes the binary sex of older adults.

There is a lack of research in Taiwan that specifically examines aging, social support, and loneliness within the middle-aged gay community. This pilot study explored the experiences of middle-aged gay men regarding aging adjustment, social support, and loneliness.

This study utilized semi-structured interviews with six gay men aged 47 to 53 in Taiwan and analyzed their responses.

Results revealed that while physical aging is a permanent process,

mental well-being can change and may decline compared to younger adulthood. Participants reported that religious faith, such as attending an LGBTQ+ friendly church, played a significant role in maintaining their mental health and providing direct social support. Additionally, using apps to connect with other gay men emerged as another way to build social support. These strategies can help to reduce feelings of loneliness.

## Stream 2

09:40 – 10:00

### Ms Yechen Yao

*The University Of Hong Kong*

Understanding Elective Egg Freezing and Fertility Decisions Among Nulliparous Chinese Women in Hong Kong: A Collaborative Focus Group Study

#### Session Summary

Hong Kong has one of the lowest fertility rates in the world, coupled with the highest average age at which women have their first child. This session will explore the complex fertility decisions of nulliparous women in Hong Kong, focusing on their perceptions and attitudes towards elective egg freezing (EEF). Drawing on a unique collaborative focus group study, we will explore the social, cultural and career-related factors that influence women's decisions about childbearing and fertility preservation. Participants will learn about how different age groups of women share common views on motherhood, how to balance societal expectations with personal goals, and why EEF remains more of a theoretical option than a practical choice for many.

Key takeaways include understanding the systemic barriers that prevent women from pursuing EEF, the role of stigma, and the need for greater awareness and education about reproductive options. This session will be of particular value to healthcare professionals, social workers, policy makers, and researchers interested in fertility trends, assisted reproductive technologies and women's reproductive health. Participants will leave with a better understanding of how multi-stakeholder engagement can better support women in making informed fertility decisions

## Stream 2

10:20 – 10:40

### Ms Jacinta Frawley

*Private Practice*

Consumer Research in Ovarian Cancer: A Social Worker's Lived-Experience

#### Session Summary

In Australia access to essential medical research funding requires inclusion of 'Consumer Researchers' who are recruited, usually as volunteers, to contribute lived experience as patients or carers to highly professional research teams. This presentation will discuss the development of consumer researchers in ovarian cancer.

The most lethal of the female cancers, with less than 50% five-year survival rate, ovarian cancer receives only 0.7% of research funding in Australia. The dearth of consumer researchers may contribute to this limited access and thus to these extremely poor health outcomes.

The author is part of a volunteer group initiating and supporting women with ovarian cancer to become Consumer Researchers. A case example of successful consumer integration with the Australian Centre for Precision Health, University of South Australia, on a project researching predicative risk factors for ovarian cancer will be discussed. This presentation is relevant to those interested in ovarian cancer, gynaecological cancer, oncology, developing volunteers, political advocacy, women's health, and social, gender and health justice. Ovarian cancer rates and deaths are anticipated to increase worldwide by 50% by 2040. Urgency is required to improve world-wide outcomes for women and their families. Time will be allowed for questions.

## Stream 3

09:00 – 09:20

### Ms Melanie Van Diemen

*Royal Melbourne Hospital*

Improving Bereavement Care in the Acute Hospital Setting: A Practice Research Approach to Developing an Advanced Practice Role

## Session Summary

This session will describe a practice based research project which aimed to understand current multidisciplinary team practices in bereavement care in an acute hospital setting. This included the challenges faced by staff providing bereavement care in the acute hospital setting and the role of social work. A model of care for recognising the need for complex bereavement support was trialled and results of this will be shared. Key learnings to be explored include; bereavement care is everyone's business and the fact social workers have a key role to play in providing specialist bereavement support for patients and families. The findings from this research project were used to inform the development of an Advanced Practice Role for social work in the area of complex bereavement care.

## Stream 3

09:20 – 09:40

### Ms Gianna Renshaw

*North Metropolitan Health Service*

No More Shame - Social Work Role in a National Research Project.

#### Session Summary

Social work can be leaders in research. This session will provide an overview of how, as a social worker with a passion/interest in a particular vulnerability you can become involved in a National Research project funded by the Medical Research Future Fund. The session will take you through the journey of developing local responses to Elder Abuse to participation as an investigator in a codesigned, multi component intervention that aims to improve the recognition, response and referral of elder abuse by health providers.

## Stream 3

09:40 – 10:00

### Mrs Miia Ståhle

*University Of Eastern Finland*

The Early Beginnings of Finnish Health Social Work

#### Session Summary

In my dissertation research, I explore the history of Finnish health social work, aiming to gain a deeper understanding of its roots in healthcare

and its role in society to promote people's health and functionality. A major social- and healthcare reform is currently underway in Finland and health social work's role in the service system is undergoing very crucial times.

In the early 19th century industrialization and the spread of diseases among the population highlighted the need to consider social conditions as an integral part of healthcare. Health social work's history is also history of developing nordic welfare state. We need this knowledge to understand better its meaning now in contemporary social work. Perhaps we have lost understanding about social determinants in health. That's why we have such difficulty to see health social work's deeper goal: to secure individuals' and families' social security against outcomes of risks which diseases can cause.

In my presentation I try to answer two main questions:

1. In what social situation and on what grounds did health social work begin to develop in Finland?
2. What can we learn about health social work's history in contemporary social work in Finland and internationally?

### Stream 3

10:20 – 10:40

#### Ms Mary Joyce

*Sir Charles Gairdner and Osborne Park Health Care Group*

Informing Social Work Practice with Enhanced Data Management, Implications for Service Delivery and High Social Risk Consumer Groups

#### Session Summary

This session will stimulate social work clinicians and managers to consider the value of data collection and how it can inform and describe social work practice. Data will be presented in easy to view visualisations which provide high level activity data, such as volume of consumers provided with social work services, within the hospital and community settings. At a more granular level data is presented on an individual consumer basis, capturing the social work interventions provided to the consumer and the

reason why the intervention was indicated. Examples of how this data can display social work services with the most vulnerable is provided, using the examples of consumers who are homeless and those presenting with family and domestic violence issues. Clinicians and managers will also be able to view how other data is captured, which is inclusive of the time that workers spend outside their direct clinical role, such as giving and receiving supervision, teaching, research.

### Stream 4

09:00 – 09:20

#### Ms Patricia (Patrycja) Toczek

*Mental Health Division Western Health*

On The Frontline of The Housing Crisis in Melbourne - Challenges Experienced by Victorian Metropolitan Mental Health Social Workers at IPU Settings

#### Session Summary

The problem of homelessness has been a challenge experienced by mental health consumers of Victorian inpatient settings for many years now. The challenges experienced by social workers trying to find suitable accommodation options for consumers are embedded in multidimensional complexities directly linked with adverse life events experienced by individuals. The wider systemic barriers further contribute to exacerbation of social disadvantage.

The network of public mental health social workers in north - western Melbourne, Australia has been recently collecting data to provide evidence to illustrate the impact of homelessness on the population of mental health consumers. The data collection informed specific strategies helpful in understanding interventions best addressing some of the challenges and helpful in breaking the insidious cycle of falling into homelessness.

The presentation examines the complex intersectional nature of the housing crisis experienced by mental health consumers proposing a set of strategies and interventions that could potentially positively influence outcomes for the affected individuals highlighting examples of collaborative work across housing and mental health sector.

### Stream 4

09:20 – 09:40

#### Dr Jialiang Cui

*The Chinese University Of Hong Kong*

Connecting to Home in Transitional Accommodation: An Account of Consumers with Mental Health Issues in Hong Kong

#### Session Summary

This study explores a paradigm shift in mental health services towards prioritizing at-homeness over traditional housing-or-treatment models. By investigating how people with mental health issues perceive and create a sense of home in transitional accommodations in Hong Kong, the study reveals multifaceted dimensions of at-homeness. Participants' narratives range from symbolic feelings to experiences, showcasing diverse strategies for homemaking influenced by different factors. The findings offer valuable insights for consumer advocacy, service improvement, and academic discourse on unconventional home experiences in mental health social service settings.

### Stream 4

09:40-10:00

#### Ms Fiona Caniglia

*Q Shelter*

Enhancing Workforce Wellbeing, Attraction, and Retention in the Housing and Homelessness Sector in Queensland

#### Session Summary

This presentation explores key findings from the Workforce Connect Project, which aims to improve long-term wellbeing, attraction and retention of the housing and homelessness workforce in Queensland. The presentation will cover: The methodology used, including a literature review and sector engagement which informed the co-design of a wellbeing framework and an attraction initiative.

Key findings that support attraction, including, how the alignment of education, skills, values and a passion for social impact drive people to join the sector.

An overview of HomeNow, an

attraction initiative including a video series featuring people from our sector and collaborative events with educational institutions.

Key findings that support wellbeing, including the importance of trauma-informed approaches to practice, management of vicarious trauma and supervision and support systems.

An overview of WellNow, a Wellbeing Framework developed to provide tools and resources to support the sector using evidence-based strategies informed by sector workers.

Now implementation is underway we will also discuss the challenges, impact and next steps for the project.

Front-line staff including social workers who make up a significant portion of our sector, team leaders, managers, HR staff and anyone wanting to enhance workplace wellbeing and attraction would benefit from this session.

#### Stream 4

10:00 – 10:20

##### Ms Christine Strong

*Wheels Of Wellness*

Homeless Healthcare: A Unique Social Work Model Driven by Service Users

##### Session Summary

Wheels of Wellness (WoW) is a primary healthcare service specialising in the holistic treatment of people experiencing homelessness and is unique in Far North Queensland. Many people attending WoW have addiction issues, trauma, and have experienced family and domestic violence. Over half are First Nations people.

Since 2021, WoW has embedded an Accredited Mental Health Social Worker in its non-profit medical practice. This model has demonstrated, explored and worked to address the benefits, challenges and barriers that become apparent when working with people who are homeless.

The WoW social work model collaborates with service users and clinicians, based on the principles of equity, social justice, and accessibility. People who attend WoW drive the implementation, development and enhancement of the model.

The outcomes from the WoW social work model include a rise in the number of people receiving improved medical care, experiencing increased dignity and/or self-esteem, securing accommodation, and better overall well-being. Many have described overcoming stigma, discrimination and shame. Some have transitioned from being regular clients to volunteers within WoW, progressing to employment and securing ongoing housing as a result. WoW remains committed to providing effective care to those who are often unseen and overlooked – those experiencing homelessness.

#### Stream 4

10:20 – 10:40

##### Miss Jessica Dobrovic

*Curious Communities Consulting*

Thinking Differently About Community Service Data to Improve Our Knowledge of What Works: A Youth Homelessness Example

##### Session Summary

Uniting Communities (UC) and the BetterStart Health and Development Research team at The University of Adelaide have partnered to improve our understanding of what works to support young people experiencing, or at risk of homelessness. By combining data from the UC Ruby's program, with a de-identified whole-of-population linked-data platform called Better Evidence Better Outcomes Linked Data (BEBOLD), we have explored the impact of this program for young people across many systems. Delivered for over 30 years in South Australia by UC, the model has been successfully licensed to other states in recent years. Collectively, we wanted to know more about the longer-term impact for the young people who engage with the service and better understand the complexity of the cohort by using the indicators/domains of vulnerability and prior system contact available in the data. Because the BEBOLD platform includes the whole population, we were able to generate a comparison group that looks similar to participants who received the UC Ruby's service, but did not receive support from the service. This approach created a case study that enabled investigation into the differences in outcomes. To our

knowledge, this is the first example of this approach with this cohort.

#### Stream 5

09:00 – 09:20

##### Prof Martin Webber

*University Of York*

Social Frailty in Older People: A Scoping Review of Assessment Tools

##### Session Summary

This session will report the findings of a scoping review on social frailty in older adults. In particular, it will present findings on the conceptualisation and measurement of social frailty, with some recommendations for future research. It will help attendees gain a better understanding about what social frailty is and how it can be measured across health and social care settings.

#### Stream 5

09:20 – 09:40

##### Ms Dominique Horne

*The Royal Melbourne Hospital*

A Window of Opportunity – The Royal Melbourne Hospital Response to Elder Abuse

##### Session Summary

This presentation is for anyone interested in the wellbeing of advanced seniors living in the community or in care. You will learn about the Flexicare Model and the Senior Friendly Service Delivery Matrix. You will be able to identify the barriers to engagement and know how to overcome them by using five guiding principles and life story interview techniques. You will also learn about the 'mental health and neurological spectrum' and what three criteria are essential for making assessments regarding suitability. Expect unconventional ideas around obtaining consent, defining therapeutic effectiveness and the use of outcome measures. Together, we will unpack what it means to be truly senior friendly as we re-think policy and practice across multiple systems. Therapist self-care is covered which will include learning how to protect yourself against the Mickey Mouse Mindset. More broadly you will be invited to think critically about our society's relationship with death and decline and whether positive ageing

has a negative side. This presentation is for anyone passionate about ageing well. It seeks to create a better world for your mother, your father and your future self. It also seeks to 'bring sexy back' in how we listen to and respect our elders.

## Stream 5

10:00 – 10:20

### Associate Professor Ros Darracott

*UniSQ*

Reducing Heat Risk Through Hospital Discharge Planning: Older and Health Compromised Adults During Periods of Extreme Heat

#### Session Summary

Older and health compromised adults experience significant health risks during periods of extreme heat. Periods of extreme heat claim more human lives than any other natural hazard in Australia. Currently the weather, and people's ability to respond appropriately to it, has very little recognition as a factor in discharge planning from acute health settings. Yet as increasing numbers of hot and very hot days are experienced, social workers and other health professionals involved in complex discharge planning will require a high level of awareness of heat related risk and protective factors as they inevitably care for patients experiencing climate vulnerability. This paper will showcase a tool designed to assist practitioners in having proactive discharge and preventative health planning conversations with older and health compromised adults regarding heat and the related risk and protective factors. While the tool itself is being developed for the acute hospital setting, focus group feedback suggests this will also be of interest to social workers and other health professionals in community settings.

## Stream 5

10:20 – 10:40

### Mr Christopher Pang

*THK Family Service Centre @ Tanjong Pagar*

The Happy Kakis (THK): A Blended Early Intervention Approach To Social Isolation Among Older Adults.

#### Session Summary

The Happy Kakis (THK) groupwork started in 2021 as a response to a needs assessment survey that was completed by about 2000 households living in the Jalan Bukit Merah neighbourhood of Singapore, which is home to numerous rental flat occupants who belongs to the lower socioeconomic segment.

A program evaluation employed a mixed-method approach, combining qualitative analysis of transcripts, session notes, journal entries, and facilitator assessments – of participants during sessions and post-groupwork sessions – with quantitative data from pre and post-tests was carried out. The purpose was to prove the helpfulness of the groupwork to alleviate the symptoms of social isolation among individuals aged 50 and above.

Now, we know that the groupwork is effective. The evaluation has also yielded some interesting findings which we would like to share.

- The 11 values (acceptance, personal beliefs, positive thoughts, to be happy, helpful, kindness, love, principles of living, nothing is impossible, respect and trust) that are helpful to alleviate the symptoms of social isolation. The how. And its possible applications to other domain of concerns.
- Some characteristics of these values including the "mirror" values.
- The suggestive origin of these values on how it was created.
- The effects of parallel groupwork effect.

## Stream 6

09:00 – 09:20

### Mrs Joanne Allen-Keeling

*yourtown*

Creating A Virtual Program for Children who have Been Sexually Abused - A Service System Design Process

#### Session Summary

This presentation will explore the development of a Virtual Sexual Abuse Counselling Program (V-SACP) by yourtown, addressing the challenges

of providing Sexual Abuse Counselling to children and young people who struggle to access face-to-face services. yourtown designed this model in response to findings from the Australian Childhood Maltreatment Study (ACMS) and three decades of Kids Helpline data. These findings highlighted the significant impact of sexual abuse, domestic and family violence, and the gendered nature of sexual violence on mental health. Initiated in 2022 and completed in 2023, the V-SACP aims to fill service gaps and is now seeking funding for implementation. The presentation will cover the process of designing this model along with the opportunities it presents and potential challenges it may face.

## Stream 6

09:20 – 09:40

### Mr Chris Ng

*The University Of Hong Kong*

Collaborative Creation of an Integrated Art-Centered Online Platform for Perinatal Bereavement Care in Hong Kong: Multidisciplinary Design and Planning

#### Session Summary

Key Learnings and Takeaways:

Addressing Mental Health Challenges: Miscarriage and stillbirth can have a profound physical, psychological and social impact on bereaved couples. Addressing the mental health needs of these couples is crucial, especially in cultural contexts where perinatal loss is often taboo.

Multidisciplinary Collaboration: Developing an integrated online platform for perinatal bereavement care requires the involvement of diverse stakeholders, including bereaved couples, healthcare professionals, counseling experts, social workers, artists, designers, and researchers, ensuring a comprehensive and empathetic solution.

Leveraging Technology: The online platform leverages technological advancements to provide emotional expression, evidence-based information, self-healing interventions, and online access to social work support, extending the reach and accessibility of support.

Promoting Capacity Building: The platform aims to enhance the capacity of healthcare professionals by providing online learning, fostering a more empathetic and compassionate healthcare system for those navigating perinatal grief.

Evaluation and Continuous Improvement: Ongoing evaluation using the BACKS framework ensures the platform remains responsive to the needs of bereaved parents and continuously improves over time.

Empathetic and Compassionate Community: The project's ultimate goal is to foster an empathetic and inclusive community for those experiencing perinatal loss, addressing the unheard voices and unmet needs of bereaved parents.

### Stream 6

09:40 – 10:40

#### Ms Patricia (Patrycja) Toczek

*Mental Health Division Western Health*

What is the Role of Social Work in Supporting the Victims of Scamming How to Understand the Impact of it and Best Support the Victims

#### Session Summary

According to The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's report released in April 2023 there have been record losses to scams in Australia with over \$3.1 billion dollars lost just in Australia in 2022.

The phenomena of scamming is global and is affecting individuals, families and communities across the world with little data illustrating the real impact of it reaching beyond the financial figures.

This workshop highlights the need to better understand the psychological impact of scamming. It explores factors that make individuals vulnerable to scams and the techniques scammers use in order to lure their victims

The workshop explores current understanding of the problem and approaches used when assisting the victims.

The overall aim of the workshop is to investigate the phenomena through trauma-informed lenses understanding the role social work plays in

supporting the victims of scamming and their relevant others in navigating the insidious traps of the modern technological world with its ever more sophisticated tactics.

The workshops aims to provide specific techniques helping to better understand the victims' experience and ways of providing support.

### Stream 7

09:00 – 09:20

#### Ms Robyn Kemble

*Central Queensland University*

Explorations of the Practitioner's Relationship with the Infant in Out-of-Home Care

#### Session Summary

This session aims to convey key findings from PhD research into how the infant is 'held in mind' for child protection practitioners and organisations supporting high-risk infants and families. The key outcomes shared will identify Infant-led strategies practitioners and organisations can use to engage infants in their roles directly or indirectly. Understanding the interplay of attuned care through an infant-led, trauma-informed standpoint to support the complex relationships between the infant, the child protection practitioner, and the child protection system is central to improving wellbeing trajectories for infants in out-of-home care.

To demonstrate infant-led practice, a brief case study will be used to establish the following:

- Seeing the infant in the relationship and imagining what the infant is thinking.
- The relationship and relevance of reflective practice to aid in understanding the infant's experience.
- What difference can this make, and why you do not need to be an infant mental health specialist to engage and hear the infant's voice in your practice?
- What can an individual practitioner do to champion the infant in their organisational setting?
- What you can do now to learn more.

### Stream 7

09:20 – 09:40

#### Prof Thea Brown

*Dept Social Work, Monash University*

The Significance of Mental Health as a factor in Filicide: New Models of Appropriate Intervention and Prevention

#### Session Summary

Filicide and Mental Health: Inter-relationship and new models of practice. The Monash Deakin Filicide Research's three Australian studies on filicide and risk factors, as well as other Australian and overseas research, point to mental illness as a major risk factor among perpetrators. However, the research also shows it is not the most powerful risk factor, nor the single factor, as originally believed. Thinking on mental health and filicide has moved forward as a result of recent research. The research shows the complexity of mental health as a risk factor, its relationship to other factors, and its role among the three major types of perpetrators. The presentation will discuss the issues of variation and complexity of mental health in the constellation of risk factors for filicide, and present the three major risk constellations for the use of professionals. The research has also identified major gaps in the services' response to potential filicide perpetrators. The presentation will suggest new models of intervention based on the Hub's research.

### Stream 7

09:40 – 10:40

#### Mrs Amanda Flynn

*Treehouse Therapy*

Neurodiversity and Trauma

#### Session Summary

Amanda Flynn (AMHSW, Play Therapist, Expressive Therapist) and Anna Crooks (MAASW, Creative Arts Therapist, Dance Movement Therapist) work with young children, teenagers and their parent/carers. We will deep dive into discussions around Neurodiversity (being Neurodivergent) and Trauma/Trauma processing. We look at what is a Neuroaffirming framework, current theories that support trauma processing and how they fit within being a Neuroaffirming practitioner. Our workshop will include

how using multi modal, creative (non-speaking) therapies support the young people we work with. We intend to provide you with an embodied experience, through a demonstrated case study of these modalities being integrated into practice. We hope to provide you with one or two hands-on-activities if time allows us. Practitioners that work in therapeutic roles with children and young people would benefit from attending this workshop, but also professionals that work within NDIA/Family therapy roles, to learn about how empowering this way of working is for your clients/ participants.

### **Stream 8** 09:20 – 09:40

**Dr Gillian Robinson**  
*Alfred Health*

‘Artful Doing’: The Introduction of a Reflective Practice Model and its Transformative Potential.

#### **Session Summary**

The session will interest researchers or practitioners working in mental health who are interested in reflective practice and/or carrying out small scale qualitative research in their practice setting. This practitioner ‘experience near’ research, used psychoanalytically informed methods to examine the application of a reflective practice model with a team of Approved Mental Health Social Workers (AMHPs). The author sets out the research context and critically evaluates her rationale for choosing to make these innovative changes. She will include a brief review of the literature including why Balint was her preferred reflective practice model. The author will evaluate some of the challenges such as her overlapping roles and avoidance, but also consider the positive impact of her research on practitioners who otherwise had never experienced a psychologically informed, well-led, tightly bounded, reflective space. Without wishing to generalise from the findings of this small-scale study, there was nevertheless a notable impact: it became a safe space to bring ambivalence about decisions or oversights, it cultivated practitioners’ curiosity and deepened their learning about themselves and the other, also, it was an opportunity to examine the many challenges of their role including

cultural and organisational constraints alongside the complex emotional vicissitudes of the work.

### **Stream 9** 09:00 – 09:20

**Mrs Emily Gillmartin**  
*Gillmartin Health*

Writing a Love Letter to your Social Work Identity

#### **Session Summary**

This presentation explores the journey of a seasoned social worker in solo private practice who felt a growing disconnection from their professional identity, particularly while working predominantly alongside professionals from other disciplines. Mid-career social workers, especially those in multidisciplinary settings, may experience similar disconnection, despite their ongoing advocacy for Social Work principles.

The presentation begins by detailing the unique challenges faced by the social worker, who, despite professional isolation, remained committed to Social Work values. To address the disconnection, they deliberately re-engaged with core Social Work principles through reflective practice, focusing on scenarios that emphasized the profession’s ethos.

The outcomes of this introspective process were profound. The practitioner experienced a renewed understanding of the theoretical frameworks that underpin Social Work, reaffirming their importance in real-world practice. Additionally, this journey led to the creation of an AI prompt worksheet, designed to help practitioners compose a ‘love letter’ to their Social Work identity. This tool encourages professionals to reflect on their dedication, challenges, and reaffirm their commitment to Social Work values.

Participants will benefit from learning about the transformative impact of reconnecting with Social Work’s core principles and will gain a practical tool to inspire and rekindle their passion for the field.

### **Stream 9** 09:20 – 09:40

**Ms Rochanne Honarvar**  
*Case Western Reserve University*

#### **A Preliminary Analysis of MSW Students Attitudes Towards Neuroscience: Implications for MSW Education and Training** **Session Summary**

Over the past two decades, neuroscience has become increasingly relevant in the field of social work. More specifically, neuroscience has been particularly useful in providing biological evidence for the efficacy of current and new mental health interventions. While neuroscience has become more prevalent in mental health, little is known about how social work practice degrees, such as a Master of Social Work (MSW), is adapting curriculum to this trend. A first step to exploring this topic within social work curriculum is uncovering the attitudes of MSW students towards neuroscience. This presentation will provide information on how neuroscience is currently being used to inform mental health interventions. Furthermore, it will present the preliminary findings of a quantitative study exploring the attitudes of MSW students towards neuroscience in social work. A key takeaway is gaining an understanding into the growing relevance of neuroscience in social work practice through mental health interventions. Moreover, implications from the preliminary study results of MSW attitudes towards neuroscience are discussed which may provide insights to inform future MSW education. The target audience for this presentation includes social work educators along with those interested in understanding more about how neuroscience is currently being used in mental health interventions.

### **Stream 9** 09:40 – 10:40

**Mr Dom Alford**  
*Relationships Australia Victoria*

Working with Dads

#### **Session Summary**

The ‘Working with Dads’ session is delivered by the Support for Fathers project at Relationships Australia Victoria.

Our project provides dads and father-figures with options and information about fatherhood, the relationship with their partner and connecting with their kids. We also work alongside professionals and support services to engage dads and families more effectively.

In this session, participants will gain knowledge, practical advice and strategies to engage dads and families in positive and effective ways including:

- Different versions of fatherhood
- Men and masculinities
- Mental health for dads
- Engaging dads in services
- Primary prevention work with dads

This session is ideal for professionals working with dads and father-figures across family services, family violence, men's behaviour change, home-based care, parenting and community development.

### Stream 10

09:00 – 09:20

#### Mr You Xiang Chen

*National Chi Nan University*

From Community Development to Sustainable Community: The Development of Four Communities in Taiwan

#### Session Summary

Sustainable development is an ideal for communities, and it has become synonymous with excellence in community development. The concept of sustainable development is successfully driving community social work to enhance life quality of community.

In Taiwan, the term sustainable development has impacted community social work in decades. This session aims at introducing the communities which had significant accomplishments how to achieve. It is based on an explorative and qualitative approach of community developments in Taiwan context.

In addition, it draws on semi-structured interviews with 10

practitioners or stakeholders of four communities. Data from these interviews are coded inductively and emerging themes are analyzed.

Attended this session, you can learn about:

1. understanding the development experiences of the communities which had significant accomplishments.
2. understanding the community developments in Taiwan context.

### Stream 10

09:20 – 09:40

#### Ms Brittany Szlezak

*Lake Macquarie City Council*

Mental Health is Hilarious! Sharing a Good News Story About Stand-Up Comedy and a Place-Based Approach to Tackling Loneliness in Regional Communities.

#### Session Summary

Stand-up comedy is one of the most accessible and diverse forms of art. It celebrates our community's diversity through storytelling and the wonderful feeling we get from connecting with others through laughter.

Join Brittany Szlezak, an emerging community development practitioner with a background in acute mental health, as she talks about:

- community development as core social work business
- the arts as a largely untapped and misunderstood resource in the fight against loneliness
- the role of local government as an effective partner in our quest to bring these ideas together.

This talk will benefit social workers interested in community development, the arts sector, preventative mental health initiatives and how to partner with local government.

### Stream 10

09:40 – 10:00

#### Ms Sacha King

*Charles Darwin University*

Shaping for Practice: Integrating Industry Field Educators into Social

Work Teams to Support Workforce Development

#### Session Summary

New graduates, despite having positive placement experiences, often struggle with the practical application of their knowledge and find it challenging to enter the workforce. At Charles Darwin University we have employed an industry professional to enhance the students' practical skills, extend their reach into the community, increase autonomy, and boosts their employment prospects. The role also opened up placements and job opportunities in locations that were previously inaccessible, including extremely remote areas, individual resource development projects, and positions for wellbeing officers in schools.

The support, relationships, and expertise provided by the mental health field educator through the university enable meaningful placements. This initiative is about creating professional, work-ready social workers and delivering a quality, supported service to the community. It aims to enhance employability and support students and new graduates to help the industry reach the vast needs of our population. We will discuss the methods, engagement and outcomes of the industry professional position and encourage other organisations to shift towards industry-specific field educators and supervisors. This enables resources to meet the need in mental health services. This approach can foster more innovative positions, better serve the community, and establish sustainable opportunities for students and graduates entering the workforce.

### Stream 10

10:20 – 10:40

#### Dr Melanie Wong

*Manukau Institute of Technology*

Promoting Young People's Learning by Enhancing Parental Mental Health and Well-Being in Culturally Diverse Communities

#### Session Summary

This presentation explores essential support for parents with mental health conditions in culturally diverse communities. Building on previous findings, it highlights how parental

mental health impacts children's learning across various cultural contexts in New Zealand. The study gathered insights from 37 social workers, school guidance counsellors, and teachers.

Key mental health issues identified include anxiety, depression, PTSD, and substance abuse. These conditions affect children's learning and development, leading to neglect, overprotectiveness, and lack of care, which can result in transmitted anxiety, peer aggression, and decreased self-esteem.

Additionally, a concerning gap in training for professionals working with these parents was noted. Only seven participants received formal training, with one describing it as limited. Cultural influences and norms often shape parenting practices without professional support, and stigmas, distrust of institutions, and language barriers further complicate effective support.

Key takeaways include:

- Recognise the impact of parental mental health on children.
- Acknowledge the unique cultural challenges faced by parents.
- Advocate for comprehensive training for professionals.
- Encourage collaboration among health authorities, local governments, and community organisations.
- Emphasise early intervention to mitigate these impacts on children.

### Stream 11

09:00 – 09:20

**Ms Lorri Chandler**

*RMH*

Pathway to Residential Aged Care: A Royal Melbourne Hospital Initiative

#### Session Summary

In July 2022 The Royal Melbourne Hospital (RMH), implemented a social work led pilot program in a bid to expediate discharge for patients who were medically stable and transitioning to residential aged care. The program sought to reduce unnecessary hospital

bed days (for eligible patients aged over 65years) and provided patients with additional time to make decisions about Residential Aged Care. The program focused on patients being offered 63 days of respite care at an RMH Aged Care facility.

This session explores the design of the 'Pathway to Residential Aged Care' program and lessons learnt throughout the two-year running of the program. Specifically, discussion will centre around the pertinence of the program being social work led, stakeholders to the program, gains made in regard to consumer satisfaction, hospital bed days saved and financial revenue.

The session would be of benefit to all Allied Health professionals working within the Acute/Sub Acute hospital setting. Primarily involved in working with patients and families to navigate timely safe discharge from the hospital environment.

### Stream 11

09:20 – 09:40

**A/Prof Maree Petersen**

*University Of Queensland*

A Practice Framework for Social Workers Responding to Elder Abuse in Hospital Settings

#### Session Summary

There is a need for a tailored framework to work with older people experiencing abuse in hospital settings. This session explains the development and evaluation of a social work practice framework for identifying and responding to elder abuse in sub-acute and acute health settings. Hospitals are at the frontline in responding to elder abuse and social workers have a primary responsibility to identify, assess, and address the abuse. Hospital admission provides a window of opportunity to work with suspected abuse of an older person, but the context also presents constraints. The multistage qualitative study comprised interviews and focus groups. Case vignettes were developed based on interviews with older people with experience of abuse, national and international research and policy experts, and social work practitioners in acute and subacute wards in one health district in southeast Queensland. Four vignettes were then presented in semi-

structured interviews to experienced practitioners. A draft framework was then developed using data from the first two stages. This framework was evaluated and modified using focus groups with experienced hospital social workers. The resulting practice framework offers a set of guiding practice principles for working with older people whilst in hospital including those with impaired decision-making capacity.

### Stream 11

09:40 – 10:00

**Ms Amanda Hyne**

Mount Sinai Hospital  
Utilization of the Clinical Social Work Role on an Interdisciplinary Team Caring for Patients Managing Inflammatory Bowel Disease

#### Session Summary

Conference attendees can expect to learn about the challenges patients face while navigating Inflammatory Bowel Disease and the benefits of interdisciplinary team support when included in a holistic care plan. Attention will focus on the various ways in which the social work position can be utilized on such a team to enhance patient outcomes in healthcare, using the Mount Sinai IBD Center's Gaining Resilience Through Transitions (GRITTä) program as a model. Following the presentation, attendees should be able to

1. Name at least three psychosocial stressors/challenges that patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease may face while living with this diagnosis
2. Describe the benefits of an interdisciplinary program serving patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease
3. Describe at least two functions for the social work position in working with patients with a complex gastrointestinal illness
4. Explain how social workers can help patients navigate the American health care system and build self-efficacy in their care management.

This session will benefit anyone interested in working with patients who are diagnosed with a chronic disease

(particularly gastrointestinal in nature but could also apply to others) and/or learning about implementing the social work role within an integrated care team in their own program areas.

### **Stream 11**

10:00 – 10:20

#### **Mrs Kathryn Eberly**

Restoring Families  
They Don't Train You About Love:  
Supporting the Mental Health of  
Modern Foster and Kinship Carers

#### **Session Summary**

Providing care for children in the Out of Home Care system is complex and challenging. Modern kinship and foster carers juggle the demands of work, family and caring. Carers carry the day-to-day responsibilities of supporting children, including the provision of therapeutic care approaches in their home. The nature of modern care can lead to carers experiencing systemic stress, complicated grief and mental health challenges. Supporting the mental health of carers is crucial to placement stability and overall carer retention within the system. Restoring Families provides Carer Debriefing interventions to carer households to support them to process the "occupational hazards" of providing good care to children. This session will explore common themes across hundreds of debriefing sessions and presents a model that explores and normalises the impacts of reciprocal, attachment-based processes when complex challenges arise. For those working in the out of home care space we suggest strategies and interventions that support carers to manage the impacts of caring and propose practical ideas to support carer mental health and enhance carer retention.

### **Stream 11**

10:20 – 10:40

#### **Dr Fang Fu**

*Social Work Department, Fudan University*

Journey to Inpatient Hospice Care:  
A Qualitative Study on the Decision-  
Making Process of Chinese Family  
Caregivers of Persons with Advanced  
Cancer

#### **Session Summary**

The study described and analyzed

the winding and socioculturally mediated process undertaken by the caregivers of FMACs towards IHC. While the decision for hospice placement was made under considerable duress, caregivers who were the ultimate decision-makers eventually appreciated hospice care because of firsthand experience. This suggests that public education on dying, death, and hospice care is a critical precondition for hospice care acceptance. Providing accurate, detailed, and direct information about hospice care benefits could avoid the circumstances that the caregivers of this study faced. However, the education needs to be conducted in socially and culturally appropriate manners. Relatedly, HCPs must be competent in understanding the diversity of decision-making processes that are often highly contextual to the social and cultural environments. Perhaps when the caregivers felt understood of their choices, deeper conversations could occur to support a rational and emotional acceptance of their FMACs' dire state. They may then cherish the quality more than the quantity of life of their loved ones at the end of life.

# STATIC POSTERS

## **Ms Diana Abrahams**

*Victoria, Australia*

Piloting Peer Group Supervision, in Addition to Individual Clinical Supervision, with a Tertiary Hospital Social Work Department.

## **Mr Brian Atherton**

*South Australia, Australia*

Chrysalis: A Reflection on Fears, Biases and Judgements in Relation to Forensic Patients.

## **Mr Brian Atherton**

*South Australia, Australia*

Ruby's Reunification: Systems Approaches to Mitigating Youth Homelessness Through Family Interventions.

## **Ms Michelle Brown**

*South Australia, Australia*

More than Counselling- supporting the ever changing, complex needs of young people in schools through a social work lens.

## **Ms Yun Cheng**

*Taiwan, Taiwan*

Struggles and Support: Work Adaptation Experiences of Individuals with Psychiatric Disorders in Taiwan.

## **Prof Winnie Lai Sheung Cheng**

*Hong Kong, SAR*

Assessing the Efficacy of Group-Based Music Interventions in Fostering Coping Resources among College Students: A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial.

## **Dr Desmond Chuang**

*Taipei, Taiwan*

Methamphetamine use, psychological distress and HIV viral suppression among gay men living with HIV in Taiwan.

## **Dr Desmond Chuang**

*Taipei, Taiwan*

Perceived Social Support, Intimate Partner Violence, and Internalized HIV Stigma Among Gay Men Living with HIV in Taiwan.

## **Mr Tung-Hsien Chuang**

*Taiwan, Taiwan*

The Relationship of Living Conditions and Subjective Perceptions about Life Adjustment on Depressive Mood in Older People in Taiwan.

## **Mrs Paula Diab**

*New South Wales, Australia*

What Helps the Helpers?

## **Ms Bridget Dillon**

*Australian Capital Territory, Australia*

Grounded Therapy: Nurturing the mother-Infant Relationship from the Floor Up.

## **Dr Euan Donley**

*Victoria, Australia*

Audit of Service-Users Sent to an Emergency Department by Mental Health Telephone Triage.

## **Mr Kendall Fitzgerald**

*Victoria, Australia*

Bipolar peer-led support groups: What role do they play in mental health and well-being?

## **Miss Cynthia, Sze-Ling Fung**

*Hong Kong, China*

Examining the Mediating Role of Parental Cognitive Emotional Regulation in Illness Perception and Quality-of-Life Among Parents and Children with Atopic Dermatitis: A Path Analysis.

## **Dr Shiri Hergass**

*New South Wales, Australia*

Early Intervention, Big Impact: Art Therapy Groups for Children Who Have Experienced Trauma and Their Educators.

## **Ms Susie Hines**

*Australian Capital Territory, Australia*

Safeguarding Social Workers in Intensive Care Units: The Case for Mandatory Rotations at Canberra Hospital.

## **Ms Shan-Yu Hu**

*New Taipei City, Taiwan*

Reflecting on Professional Relationships and Ethical Boundaries in Medical Social Work: Insights from Pediatric Palliative Care Cases.

## **Mr Anthony Iwuagwu**

*New South Wales, Australia*

A Scoping Review of Barriers to Accessing Aged Care Services for Older Adults from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities in Australia.

## **Prof Christian Janssen**

*Bavaria, Germany*

The Role of Health Locus of Control Beliefs in German Older Adults on Health Behaviors and Health-Related Quality of Life.

## **Ms Maegan Johnsen**

*Western Australia, Australia*

A Scoping Literature Review of Hospital-Based Healthcare Workers' Experiences of Involvement in Perinatal Child Protection Processes.

## **Ms Genevieve Koh**

*Singapore, Singapore*

From Admission to Intervention: Understanding the Characteristics of Youth Mental Health Cases Referred to Medical Social Workers in a Local Paediatric Hospital.

## **Ms Dimitra Lattas**

*Queensland, Australia*

Assaults of Police Officers: Forensic Social Work Insights through the Power Threat Meaning Framework.

## **Ms Katrina Lawrence**

*Queensland, Australia*

Systemic Employment Challenges Faced by Australians with Disabilities.

## **Dr Jungup Lee**

*Singapore, Singapore*

Cyberbullying Victimization and Eating Disorders in Singapore: A Moderated Mediation Model of Deviant Peer Association and Self-Esteem.

**Ms Yu-Hui Lu**

Taipei, Taiwan

From Patienthood to Personhood: The Journey Toward Recovery for Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities in Eden Social Welfare Clubhouse.

**Ms Vicki Mansfield**

South Australia, Australia

Responsive Development: Nurturing Social Workers' Infant Mental Health Skills.

**Mrs Charleen Marsters**

Queensland, Australia

Social Work Practice and Storytelling – How Social Work Can Contribute to Theatre Productions in Building Safer Creative Spaces and Supporting the Storytelling Process.

**Ms Sarah Martin**

Victoria, Australia

Applying The Concept of Post-Traumatic Growth Within Paediatric Hospital Social Work Practice: What is Known and What Opportunities Exist?

**Mrs Jessica Morgan**

Tasmania, Australia

Social Work Placements Should be Supported by University Suicide Postvention Plans to Appropriately Manage the Increased Suicide Risk to Students Exposed to Suicide During Placement.

**Mrs Zakiyyah Muhammad**

South Australia, Australia

My Baby's Mind Resource - (Infant Mental Health) A Guide for Health Professional Supporting Multicultural Families.

**Miss Mardi Newing**

Melbourne, Australia

Building Social Work ICU Capacity Post COVID-19: End of Life Care.

**Dr Kayonda Hubert Ngamba**

Greater Manchester, United Kingdom

Building local research capacity to develop a culturally appropriate psychosocial intervention for people with mental health conditions in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

**Ms Jane Portnoy**

Victoria, Australia

A Model for Psychosocial Care in Gene Therapy in Haemophilia in Australia?

**Dr Katherine Reid**

Queensland, Australia

Critical Social Work in the Mental Health Field: From Power Analysis to Practice.

**Miss Zaherah Rosle**

Singapore, Singapore

A call to action: Examining the psychological impact of on-call duties on Medical Social Workers in a hospital setting in Singapore.

**Dr Kath Sellick**

Victoria, Australia

The Conditions for Co-Production- Understanding the Processes Required for Authentic Co-Produced Research.

**Mr Michael Splawa-Neyman**

Victoria, Australia

What are the Benefits of Early Social Work Intervention During Pregnancy in Outcomes for Vulnerable Pregnant Women and Their Children?

**Melissa Stirling**

Western Australia, Australia

From Long Waitlists to A Steady Flow, Come and Go – How A Youth Mental Health Service Embedded Single Session Thinking into Practice.

**Mrs Maria Lucia Teixeira Garcia**

Espirito Santo, Brasil

Women, Drug Use, and Loss of Child Custody: Systematic Literature Review.

**Ms Aki Terui**

Aomori Prefecture, Japan

Practice Report about Current Status of the Problems of the Now-Defunct Eugenic Protection Act in Japan.

**Mr Nick Thompson**

Queensland, Australia

MATES in Construction (MATES) Respond Program. Peers Guiding Worksites Through Postvention and Critical Incident Support.

**博士 Hsiu-Yun Tseng**

ROC, Taiwan

The Impact of Relationship Satisfaction on Marital Commitment among Same-Sex and Heterosexual Couples in Taiwan: The Mediating Effect of Intimacy Trust.

**Mrs Snezana Vujic**

Canberra, Australia

Social Work Allied Health Assistants: Shaping Guardianship Tribunal Outcomes.

**Mr Syun-Yue Wang**

Taipei, Taiwan

A Study on The Medical Needs of the Homeless and Its Benefits of Interagency Collaborative Outreach Program in Urban Area of Taiwan.

**Miss Xiyu Wei**

Hong Kong, SAR

Exploring the Mediation Role of Self-Compassion in the Association Between Bullying Perpetration and Depression: A Cross-Culture Comparison Study.

**Ms Louisa Whitwarm**

Victoria, Australia

New Directions – Evaluating a Pilot Program to Include Social Work Positions in a Community Health Child Health Team.

**Miss Cerene Wong**

Singapore, Singapore

Reducing Anxiety of Family Members of Patients in Adult Intensive Care Unit in Singapore.

**Miss Yew Yan Wong**

Singapore, Singapore

Evaluation of a Community-Based Intervention Programme for High-Utilisers of Emergency Department (ED) Services Secondary to Alcohol Addiction.

# ePOSTERS

## **Ms Tina Acevska**

*New South Wales, Australia*

Nurturing Student Well-being: Insights From Data-Driven School Counselling.

## **Mrs Thu Andersen**

*Queensland, Australia*

The Effectiveness of Mindfulness on Sleep Quality.

## **Prof Geraldine Brady**

*Nottinghamshire, United Kingdom*

My Life Without Them, I Wouldn't be Alive, if That Makes Sense?': Holistic Support for Young Women's Mental Health and Well-Being Following Trauma and Adversity.

## **Miss Candice Butler**

*Queensland, Australia*

Reclaiming Child Protection Decision Making to Create Change in Australia.

## **Ms Melissa Chew**

*Singapore, Singapore*

Literature Review of the Use of Social Capital Theory in Supporting Ageing in Place for Singapore.

## **Ms Melissa Chew**

*Singapore, Singapore*

Psychosocial Barriers and Enablers to Peritoneal Dialysis Utilization: A Literature Review.

## **Ms Agnes Goh**

*Taipei, Taiwan*

Exploring the Effectiveness of Expressive Arts Support Groups as a Self-care Intervention for Social Welfare Foundation (NGO/ NPO) Social Workers.

## **Ms Deb Gavan**

*New South Wales, Australia*

Creating space for excellent practical social work education while providing a desperately needed community service.

## **Ms Xu Han**

*Hong Kong, China*

Family Factors in the Development of Eating Disorders Among Chinese

Populations: A Systematic Review of Qualitative Studies and Meta-Synthesis.

## **Miss Chen-Yu Hu**

*Taipei City, Taiwan*

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