

# PROGRAM

## Thursday 14 May 2026

8.00–5.00	<b>Registrations open</b> – Main foyer
9.00–10.30	<b>Opening Ceremony</b> – Great Hall 1
10.30–11.30	<b>Morning tea and opening of exhibition</b> – Great Hall 3 & 4 State & Group photos – Great Hall concourse
11.30–12.30	<b>Judith Cornell Oration: Ruth Melville</b> – Great Hall 1
12.30–2.00	<b>Lunch</b> – Great Hall 3 & 4
1.00–1.40	<b>Masterclasses</b> – Great Hall 3 & 4 (pre-registration required*) <b>Masterclass 1</b> – Pre warming (with Molnlycke) <b>Masterclass 2</b> – Sharps safety in practice (with Multigate) <b>Masterclass 3</b> – Surgical site infection reduction (with Solventum) <b>Masterclass 4</b> – Surgical plume management (with Stryker) <b>Masterclass 5</b> – Choose change (with Medline) <b>Masterclass 6</b> – Skin antisepsis and the ACORN Standards (with BD)
2.00–3.30	<b>Launch of <i>The ACORN Standards 2026</i></b> – Great Hall 1 <b>Edwina Eaton</b>
3.30–4.00	<b>Afternoon tea</b> – Great Hall 3 & 4
4.00–5.00	<b>Planetary Health and Sustainability panel</b> – Great Hall 1
5.00–7.00	<b>Welcome Reception</b> – Great Hall 3 & 4 Canapes and drinks in the exhibition hall to celebrate the start of the 2026 ACORN Conference. Tickets included in full registration. Not included in single day registrations. Additional tickets can be purchased by emailing <a href="mailto:education@acorn.org.au">education@acorn.org.au</a> .

**\*Pre-registration required** – this education session has limited places available and complimentary pre-registration is required. This can be completed during the initial conference registration process or via the conference website.

# PROGRAM

## Friday 15 May 2026

7.30–8.30	<b>Breakfast symposium</b> – Mezzanine M3 (Pre-registration required*) Hypothermia and patient warming (sponsored by Molnlycke) <b>Prof. Jed Duff</b>
7.00–3.30	<b>Registrations open</b> – Main foyer

		Great Hall 1	Mezzanine M1	Mezzanine M2	Mezzanine M3
		Session 1 – Health and wellbeing	Session 2 – Clinical 1	Session 3 – Leadership 1	Session 4 – Research 1
9.00–9.30	To debrief or not to debrief, there is no question <b>Dr Liz Crowe</b>		The birth in theatre project: Maternity and perioperative units working collaboratively to enhance the experience of women undergoing a LSCS by using a birthing plan <b>Deb Burrows</b>	Forging my own path: Lessons in nurse-led innovation <b>Cory Williams</b>	‘Oi there’s too much noise’: Communication between health professionals in the OR and the influence of noise – final results from PhD research <b>Dr Louise Grant</b>
9.30–10.00			SipTS: Challenging myths <b>Denise Doroteo</b>	Building professional bridges and collaboration between Western Australian perioperative clinical nurse specialists <b>Marita Soutar</b>	
10.00–10.30	C.A.L.M. Patient Pathway: Royal Adelaide Hospital <b>Ruth Mureithi &amp; Hannah Winter</b>		Consent in the Northern Territory: Navigating indigenous kinship and perioperative care <b>Kate Conlan</b>	Sewing a hole in the SAC to strengthen collaborative perioperative care <b>Belinda Boon</b>	Building a bridge for newly graduated registered nurses – a grounded theory of what belonging looks like in the perioperative environment <b>Erin Wakefield</b>
10.30–11.00	<b>Morning tea</b> – Great Hall 3 & 4				
		<b>Great Hall 1</b>			
11.00–12.00	<b>Keynote address by Sam Bloom</b> Heartache and birdsong				
12.00–1.30	<b>Lunch</b> – Great Hall 3 & 4				

**\*Pre-registration required** – this education session has limited places available and complimentary pre-registration is required. This can be completed during the initial conference registration process or via the conference website.

12.30–1.10	<b>Masterclasses</b> – Great Hall 3 & 4 (pre-registration required*) <b>Masterclass 1</b> – <i>The ACORN Standards 2026</i> <b>Masterclass 2</b> – The invisible threat (with Molnlycke) <b>Masterclass 3</b> – Can't intubate, can't oxygenate (CICO) (with Periop Concepts) <b>Masterclass 4</b> – Fluid management and sustainability (with Stryker) <b>Masterclass 5</b> – Choose change (with Medline) <b>Masterclass 6</b> – Haemostasis optimisation (with JnJ)			
	<b>Great Hall 1</b>	<b>Mezzanine M1</b>	<b>Mezzanine M2</b>	<b>Mezzanine M3</b>
	<b>Session 5 – Technology and Innovation</b>	<b>Session 6 – Clinical 2 (PACU)</b>	<b>Session 7 – Leadership 2</b>	<b>Session 8 – Education 1</b>
1.30–2.00	FAIDH – scrubbing in for the digital shift: Boosting perioperative nursing confidence in data and tech <b>Dr Lee Woods</b>	ERAS in action: Nurses building bridges to better recovery <b>Prof. Brigid Gillespie</b>	The missing link in teamwork: Emotional safety as the foundation for safer perioperative care <b>Oksana Samkova</b>	Improving collaboration and safety: Multidisciplinary simulation training in Australian perioperative teams <b>Michelle Hibberson</b>
2.00–2.30		Strengthening rural perioperative care: Implementing clinical pathways and PACU minimum standards to enhance safety, collaboration, workforce sustainability, and consistency across geographically isolated healthcare settings <b>Candice Maher &amp; Marnie Arndell</b>	Integrating disciplines for patient safety in the operating theatre: Insights from human factors and conversation analysis <b>Dr Rona Pillay</b>	
2.30–3.00	Perioperative nurses' experiences and perceptions after the implementation of an electronic medical record system: An exploratory qualitative study <b>Kate Mitchell</b>	Frailty and Functional Recovery After Elective Noncardiac Surgery in Older Adults: A Cohort Study <b>Dr Andrea Taylor</b>	Hands-free communication devices in operating theatres: Building bridges for connection, collaboration and safer patient care. <b>Belinda Benton</b>	Building bridges across hospital health services: The Northside Perioperative Consortium Perioperative Introductory Program <b>Jodie Sisson, Amy Corbet &amp; Kylie Fairbrother</b>
3.00–3.30	<b>Afternoon tea</b> – Great Hall 3 & 4			
	<b>Great Hall 1</b>	<b>Mezzanine M1</b>	<b>Mezzanine M2</b>	<b>Mezzanine M3</b>
	<b>Session 9 – Health and Wellbeing</b>	<b>Session 10 – Clinical 3</b>	<b>Session 11 – Research 2</b>	<b>Session 12 – Education 2</b>
3.30–4.00	<b>'Asking for a friend' panel</b>	Perioperative nursing excellence: Insights from Fiji's public-private hospital collaboration <b>Losena Adimaimua</b>	Achieving change through clinical leadership: The rewarding journey of advocating for perioperative nurses and nurse surgical assistants in Australia <b>Dr Toni Hains &amp; Catherine Smith</b>	From simulation to safe practice: Designing EMR training that works for perioperative nurses <b>Katrina McKinnon</b>
4.00–4.30		Building bridges for safer surgery: Collaborative trial on bacterial contamination of covered vs. uncovered aseptic fields in simulated OR conditions <b>Michelle Love</b>		Northern Adelaide Local Health Network – Yorke Northern Local Health Network partnership: Upskilling junior nurses in perioperative obstetric LSCS <b>Lisa Jones &amp; Karen Mahoney</b>
4.30–5.00	<b>ACORN Annual General Meeting (AGM)</b>			
7.30–10.30	<b>Gala Dinner: Masquerade Ball</b> – Boulevard Room Three-course dinner and drinks with entertainment. Tickets included in full registration. Not included in single day registrations. Additional tickets can be purchased by emailing <a href="mailto:education@acorn.org.au">education@acorn.org.au</a> .			

**\*Pre-registration required** – this education session has limited places available and complimentary pre-registration is required. This can be completed during the initial conference registration process or via the conference website.

# PROGRAM

## Saturday 16 May 2026

7.00–8.00	<b>Lesley's Walk - with ACORN and ICON Cancer Foundation</b> A casual walk along the Brisbane foreshore to raise money for the ICON Cancer Foundation in the name of perioperative nurse Lesley Stewart (FACORN). Meet at BCEC main entrance at 6:45am. All welcome.
8.00–11.00	<b>Registrations open</b> – Main foyer
9.00–10.30	<b>Poster presentations</b> – Mezzanine foyer

	Great Hall 1	Mezzanine M1	Mezzanine M2	Mezzanine M3
	Session 13 – Leadership 3	Session 14 – Education 3	Session 15 – Research 3	Session 16 – Clinical/Leadership 4
9.00–9.30	Writing for publication <b>Prof. Jed Duff &amp; Dr Paula Foran</b>	Strengthening online postgraduate education: Integrating gamification and virtual simulation for deeper engagement <b>Chamila Wickramasinghe &amp; Tarryn Armour</b>	Strengthening perioperative collaboration through meaningful engagement <b>Dr Ada Xie</b>	Reducing the dangers of surgical plume: Are you ready to collaborate for a safer workplace? <b>Menna Davies</b>
9.30–10.00		A safe nurse means safer patients: One bridge, one goal <b>Dr Chamindika Konara</b>		
10.00–10.30	Bridge builders in scrubs – quality improvement in the Perioperative setting <b>Rebecca Fox</b>	NSQIP in action: Strengthening perioperative care through collaboration and data <b>Kara Gadischke &amp; Rebecca Radford</b>	Perioperative hypothermia prevention: Development of simple principles and practice recommendations using a multidisciplinary consensus-based approach <b>Assoc. Prof. Judy Munday</b>	Building a collaborative bridge: A hospital-community partnership for perioperative prehabilitation and rehabilitation pilot program <b>Miu Nga Wong</b>
10.30–11.00	<b>Morning tea</b> – Great Hall 3 & 4			
	<b>Great Hall 1</b>			
11.00–12.00	<b>Keynote Address by Sophie Scott</b> Burnout prevention and survival			
12.00–1.30	<b>Lunch</b> – Great Hall 3 & 4			

**\*Pre-registration required** – this education session has limited places available and complimentary pre-registration is required. This can be completed during the initial conference registration process or via the conference website.

12.30–1.10	<b>Masterclasses</b> – Great Hall 3 & 4 (pre-registration required*) <b>Masterclass 1</b> – <i>The ACORN Standards 2026</i> <b>Masterclass 2</b> – Optimising instrument table setups in operating theatres (with Multigate) <b>Masterclass 3</b> – Normothermia (with Solventum) <b>Masterclass 4</b> – Ready, set, resus (with Medcast) <b>Masterclass 5</b> – The science of energy (with JnJ) <b>Masterclass 6</b> – Skin antisepsis and the ACORN Standards (with BD)			
	<b>Great Hall 1</b>	<b>Mezzanine M1</b>	<b>Mezzanine M2</b>	<b>Mezzanine M3</b>
	<b>Session 17 – Health and wellbeing 3</b>	<b>Session 18 – Research 5</b>	<b>Session 19 – Leadership 5 (RMD)</b>	<b>Session 20 – Education 4</b>
1.30–2.00	Combating bullying and incivility in the perioperative setting <b>JD Buchert</b>	Building student bridges: Undergraduates' experiences in regional and metropolitan perioperative placements <b>Amanda Gore, Suzanne Querrel &amp; Toni Hawkins</b>	Reprocessing Reusable Medical Devices (RMDs)101: Perioperative Leadership's guide to AS 5369:2023 Compliance and National Safety and Quality in Health Service (NSQHS) Standard 3 Action 3.17 <b>Roel Castillo</b>	Education and learning from perioperative coronial cases <b>Dr Paula Foran</b>
2.00–2.30		Building bridges: Strengthening collaborative perioperative care in the Pacific Islands and Territories <b>Asata Loganimo</b>	Electronic tracking of RMDs: Striving for excellence – managing the challenges and pitfalls. <b>Peggy Acquistapace</b>	
2.30–3.00	<b>Afternoon tea – Great Hall 3 &amp; 4</b>			
	<b>Great Hall 1</b>			
3.00–4.00	<b>ACORN, ANZCA and RACS panel</b> <b>Tracy Kerle, Dr Sean McManus &amp; Dr Matthew Hope</b>			
4.00–4.15	Comfort break			
4.15–5.00	<b>Closing Ceremony</b>			

**\*Pre-registration required** – this education session has limited places available and complimentary pre-registration is required. This can be completed during the initial conference registration process or via the conference website.