

PROGRAM

Thursday 14 May 2026

8.00–5.00	Registrations open – Main foyer
9.00–10.30	Opening Ceremony – Great Hall 1
10.30–11.30	Morning tea and opening of exhibition – Great Hall 3 & 4 State & Group photos – Great Hall concourse
11.30–12.30	Judith Cornell Oration: Ruth Melville – Great Hall 1
12.30–2.00	Lunch – Great Hall 3 & 4
1.00–1.40	Masterclasses – Great Hall 3 & 4 (pre-registration required*) Masterclass 1 – Patient warming (with Molnlycke) Masterclass 2 – Sharps management (with Multigate) Masterclass 3 – Surgical site infection reduction (with Solventum) Masterclass 4 – Surgical plume management (with Stryker) Masterclass 5 – topic to be confirmed (with Medline)
2.00–3.30	Launch of <i>The ACORN Standards 2026</i> – Great Hall 1 Edwina Eaton
3.30–4.00	Afternoon tea – Great Hall 3 & 4
4.00–5.00	Planetary Health and Sustainability panel – Great Hall 1
5.00–7.00	Welcome Reception – 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 education@acorn.org.au .

***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	Breakfast symposium – Mezzanine M3 (Pre-registration required*) Hypothermia and patient warming (sponsored by Molnlycke) Prof. Jed Duff
7.00–3.30	Registrations open – 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	Debriefing and proactive debriefing in perioperative environments Dr Liz Crowe	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 Deborah Burrows & Hannah Bird	Forging my own path: Lessons in nurse-led innovation Cory Williams	'Oi there's too much noise': Communication between health professionals in the OR and the influence of noise – final results from PhD research Dr Louise Grant
9.30–10.00		SipTS: Challenging myths Denise Doroteo	Building professional bridges and collaboration between Western Australian perioperative clinical nurse specialists Marita Soutar	
10.00–10.30	Sunflower pathway: Royal Adelaide Hospital Ruth Mureithi & Hannah Winter	Consent in the Northern Territory: Navigating indigenous kinship and perioperative care Kate Conlan	Sewing a hole in the SAC to strengthen collaborative perioperative care Belinda Boon	Building a bridge for newly graduated registered nurses – a grounded theory of what belonging looks like in the perioperative environment Erin Wakefield
10.30–11.00	Morning tea – Great Hall 3 & 4			
	Great Hall 1			
11.00–12.00	Keynote address by Sam Bloom Heartache and birdsong			
12.00–1.30	Lunch – Great Hall 3 & 4			

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

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Saturday 16 May 2026

7.00–8.00	Lesley's Walk - with ACORN and ICON Cancer Foundation 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	Registrations open – Main foyer
9.00–10.30	Poster presentations – 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	Achieving change through clinical leadership: The rewarding journey of advocating for perioperative nurses and nurse surgical assistants in Australia Dr Toni Hains & Catherine Smith	Strengthening online postgraduate education: Integrating gamification and virtual simulation for deeper engagement Chamila Wickramasinghe & Tarryn Armour	Strengthening perioperative collaboration through meaningful engagement Ada Xie	Reducing the dangers of surgical plume: Are you ready to collaborate for a safer workplace? Menna Davies
		A safe nurse means safer patients: One bridge, one goal Dr Michael Sinnott & Dr Chamindika Konara		Using standards to build a bridge between theory and perioperative practice Penny Smalley
10.00–10.30	Bridge builders in scrubs – quality improvement in the Perioperative setting Rebecca Fox	NSQIP in action: Strengthening perioperative care through collaboration and data Kara Gadischke & Rebecca Radford	Perioperative hypothermia prevention: Development of simple principles and practice recommendations using a multidisciplinary consensus-based approach Assoc. Prof. Judy Munday	Empowering and supporting operating room nurses through digital clinical support Marianne McGhee
10.30–11.00	Morning tea – Great Hall 3 & 4			
11.00–12.00	Great Hall 1			
	Keynote Address by Sophie Scott Burnout prevention and survival			
12.00–1.30	Lunch – Great Hall 3 & 4			

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12.30-1.10	<p>Masterclasses – Great Hall 3 & 4 (pre-registration required*)</p> <p>Masterclass 1 – The ACORN Standards 2026</p> <p>Masterclass 2 – topic to be confirmed (with Multigate)</p> <p>Masterclass 3 – Normothermia (with Solventum)</p> <p>Masterclass 4 – Ready, set, resus (with Medcast)</p> <p>Masterclass 5 – to be confirmed</p>																
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