

# AHTA 2025 Program

## Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre, Gold Coast

### 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS: THURSDAY 28 <sup>th</sup> AUGUST				
12.15 - 1.00 pm	Registration and lunch			
AI in action: Practical skills for hand therapists, Jessica Francis, Occupational Therapist and Director of The Training Club		Room 2	Humanised healthcare – health practitioners’ toolkit for trauma-Informed care, emotion handling skills and workplace wellbeing, Dr Martha Druery, Lumos Trauma Institute	Room 3
Curious about AI but not sure where to start? This beginner-friendly practical, hands-on workshop is designed specifically for busy hand therapists who want to explore how artificial intelligence can enhance everyday clinical practice. We’ll cover the foundations of AI, ethical considerations, and how to craft effective prompts to get the most out of AI tools. Through live demonstrations, real-world use cases, and guided activities, you’ll build confidence using AI for documentation, clinical education, and professional tasks. You’ll also get a glimpse into where AI is headed in allied health, and walk away with a simple, personalised action plan to start using AI immediately and safely in your own practice.		Research shows that health care professionals experience less burnout and stress in their work when they feel more confident in responding to their patients’ distress. Evidence also suggests that patients experience better outcomes when they receive empathy and ‘emotional resonance’ from their health care providers. Developing your confidence and competence in responding to patient distress and in emotion-handling skills can increase your job satisfaction and well-being as well as promote optimal patient recovery. This half-day workshop offers you a practical, evidence-based toolkit necessary to build that confidence and competence.		
1.00 pm – 3.00 pm	Workshop commences		1.00 pm – 3.00 pm	Workshop commences
3.00 pm – 3.30 pm	Afternoon tea		3.00 pm – 3.30 pm	Afternoon tea
3.30 pm – 5.00 pm	Workshop continues		3.30 pm – 5.00 pm	Workshop continues
6.00 pm - 7.00 pm	President’s drinks, <b>Foyer G – Gold Coast Convention &amp; Exhibition Centre</b> <i>(invite only)</i> An acknowledgement and celebration of our course presenter team and volunteers			

CONFERENCE DAY 1: FRIDAY 29 <sup>th</sup> AUGUST				
7.15 am - 8.15 am	Registration and arrival tea & coffee			Meeting Room Foyer
8.15 am - 10.40am	SESSION 1			Meeting Room 5-8
8.15 am - 8.20 am	Welcome to Country			
8.20 am - 8.40 am	AHTA President's welcome, <b>Jade Wong</b> <i>Including member recognition – 10 years, 20 years, 30 years and 40 years membership</i>			
8.40 am - 9.10 am	Critical work in Government to support and advance the allied health professions, <b>Anita Hobson-Powell</b> , Chief Allied Health Officer			
9.10 am - 10.10 am	Keynote Address: Advanced practice in the UK – past, present and future, <b>Sarah Mee</b>			
10.10 am - 10.30 am	The human being: the purpose of our work, <b>Dr Dinesh Palipana</b>			
10.30 am - 10.40 am	Panel questions			
10.40 am - 11.10 am	Morning tea & trade exhibition <i>First timers catch-up</i>			Meeting Room Foyer
11.10 am - 12.30 pm	SESSION 2			
11.10 am - 12.30 pm	<b>Concurrent session 2A Room 5</b> Negative pressure massage, <b>Angela Thynne</b>  Limited to 20 participants Repeated in Session 4	<b>Concurrent session 2B Room 6</b> <b>Poster lightning session</b> Poster presenters will have 3-4 minutes to present their poster during this session. A list will be provided closer to the conference.	<b>Concurrent session 2C Room 7</b> Exploring advanced scope hand therapy roles in public health - Shaping the future: Pathways, possibilities, and practical implementation, <b>Barb Hall, Lauren Irvine</b>	<b>Concurrent session 2D Room 8</b> The role of laser photobiomodulation therapy (PBMT) in the rehabilitation of hands, wrists and upper limbs, <b>Tina Czech</b>
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm	Lunch & trade exhibition			Meeting Room Foyer
12.40 pm - 1.10 pm	Sponsor lunch time workshop(s)			
1.30 pm - 3.30 pm	SESSION 3			Meeting Room 5-8
1.30 pm - 1.50 pm	From curiosity to impact: AI for the busy hand therapist, <b>Jessica Francis</b>			
1.50 pm - 2.10 pm	Healthcare by design: Empathy, innovation, and the future, <b>Professor Evonne Miller</b>			
2.10 pm - 2.30 pm	Value based health care in public health systems, <b>Kath Dalton</b>			
2.30 pm - 2.40 pm	Panel questions			
2.40 pm - 3.00 pm	Diagnostic accuracy of point-of-care ultrasound versus radiographic imaging for paediatric distal forearm fractures, <b>Professor Randy Bindra</b>			
3.00 pm - 3.30 pm	Panel: Art vs. Science: An interactive discussion of hand therapy topics, <b>Assistant Professor Luke McCarron, Professor Randy Bindra, Sarah Mee</b>			
3.30 pm - 4.00 pm	Afternoon tea & trade exhibition			Meeting Room Foyer

<b>4.00 pm - 5.20 pm</b>	<b>SESSION 4</b>			
4.00 pm - 5.20 pm	<b>Concurrent session 4A Room 5</b> Negative pressure massage, <b>Angela Thynne</b>  Limited to 20 participants Repeat of Session 2	<b>Concurrent session 4B Room 6</b> Paediatric workshop - practical focus covering assessment for congenital and paediatric fractures, <b>Kath Dalton and Sian Williamson</b>	<b>Concurrent session 4C Room 7 - Joy</b> <b>Sports and exercise</b> Upper limb injuries in tennis players, <b>Dr Timothy Wood and Anna Wishink</b>	<b>Concurrent session 4D Room 8</b> Bridging practice and evidence: An introduction to research for hand therapists, <b>Dr Thuy Tran</b>
<b>5.30 - 6.30pm</b>	<b>Welcome reception</b>			<b>Meeting Room Foyer</b>
<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Early career members – social event</b>			

CONFERENCE DAY 2: SATURDAY 30 <sup>th</sup> AUGUST		
8.00 - 8.30 am	Registration and arrival tea & coffee	Meeting Room Foyer
8.15 am - 8.45 am	AHTA AGM	Meeting Room 5-8
9.00 am - 10.40am	SESSION 5	Meeting Room 5-8
9.00 am - 9.50 am	Founders Lecture – <b>Dr Lauren Miller</b>	
9.50 am - 10.10 am	Proximal phalangeal fractures, <b>Associate Professor David Graham</b>	
10.10 am - 10.30 am	Patient-focused care for elbow tendinopathy, <b>Dr Brooke Coombes</b>	
10.30 am - 10.40 am	Panel questions	
10.40 am - 11.10 am	Morning tea & trade exhibition	Meeting Room Foyer
11.10 am - 12.30 pm	SESSION 6	Meeting Room 5-8
11.10 am - 11.30 am	Recognising and responding to domestic and family violence in hand therapy practice: Hands-on referral pathways, <b>Jelena Senic</b>	
11.30 am - 11.40 am	<b>Free papers</b>	
11.40 am - 11.50 am	<i>Clinical paper:</i> Optimising processes to improve the patient journey and deliver more efficient clinical services, <b>Jo-Anne Sobb</b>	
11.50 am - 12.00 pm	<i>Scientific paper:</i> Range of motion and strength measures in de Quervain's syndrome: a cross-sectional study, <b>Brodwen McBain</b>	
12.00 pm - 12.10 pm	<i>Scientific paper:</i> Functional outcomes following conservative management of extra-articular proximal phalanx fractures, <b>Tanya Cole</b>	
12.10 pm - 12.20 pm	<i>Scientific paper:</i> Beyond Physical Recovery: Understanding the Lived Experience of Distal Radius Fracture Recovery within the Australian Healthcare System, <b>Terra Bredy</b>	
12.20 pm - 12.30 pm	<i>Scientific paper:</i> Hand therapy scope of practice and competencies: a scoping review, <b>Tracey Clark</b>	
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm	Lunch & trade exhibition	Meeting Room Foyer
12.50 pm - 1.20 pm	Sponsor lunch time workshop(s)	
1.30 pm - 2.50 pm	SESSION 7	Meeting Room 5-8
1.30 pm - 1.50 pm	The buddy study: Reach, adoption and implementation of a randomised controlled trial on the management of 5th metacarpal fractures, <b>Dr Richard Pellatt</b>	
1.50 pm - 2.10 pm	From a health service drought to a technology tsunami: Providing relevant and accessible care for our rural and remote hand therapy patients, <b>Dr Gail Kingston</b>	
2.10 pm - 2.20 pm	<b>Free papers</b>	
2.20 pm - 2.30 pm	<i>Scientific paper:</i> The use of relative motion orthoses in the management of hand conditions: A 10-year updated scoping review, <b>Melissa Hirth</b>	
2.30 pm - 2.40 pm	<i>Scientific paper:</i> The rural hand therapy service: a novel model of care for rural hand therapy service delivery, <b>Sue Williams</b>	
2.40 pm - 2.50 pm	<i>Clinical paper:</i> In hand: Bridging the gap in psychosocial care for patients with hand injuries related to the use of violence, <b>Karina Lewis</b>	
2.50 pm - 3.20 pm	Afternoon tea & trade exhibition	Meeting Room Foyer

<b>3.20 pm - 4.50 pm</b>	<b>SESSION 8</b>			
3.20 pm - 4.50 pm	<b>Concurrent session 8A Room 5</b> Diagnostic ultrasound of the hand and wrist: A Sonographers guide to imaging common pathology, <b>Holly Dalton</b>	<b>Concurrent session 8B Room 6</b> <b>Public health stream</b> Requesting imaging – What is the state of play in hospitals around the country? <b>Jade Wong, Margo Coffey &amp; Ashleigh Andrews</b>	<b>Concurrent session 8C Room 7</b> Patient privacy and confidentiality, <b>Andrew McKenzie</b> , Maurice Blackburn Lawyers  AI in practice, <b>Azmeena Hussain</b> , Maurice Blackburn Lawyers	<b>Concurrent session 8D Room 8</b> Wrist practical – assessment, treatment, <b>Sarah Mee</b>
<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Conference Party</b>			<b>Arena 2</b>

CONFERENCE DAY 3: SUNDAY 31 <sup>ST</sup> AUGUST		
8.00 - 8.30 am	Arrival tea & coffee	Meeting Room Foyer
8.30 am - 10.40 am	SESSION 9	Meeting Room 5-8
8.30 am - 9.20 am	Keynote address: Radiology for therapists, <b>Sarah Mee</b>	
9.20 am - 9.30 am	Q&A Sarah Mee	
9.30 am - 9.40 am	<b>Free papers</b> <i>Scientific paper:</i> Evaluating the effectiveness of a hand therapy-led clinic in managing acute hand fractures: Impact on patient outcomes and healthcare resource utilization, <b>Stephanie Tawse</b>	
9.40 am - 9.50 am	<i>Scientific paper:</i> Understanding occupation-centred practice in hand therapy: A Delphi study of occupational therapists, <b>Jessica Holding</b>	
9.50 am - 10.00 am	<i>Clinical paper:</i> The role of hand therapists in promoting bone health following low-trauma distal radius fractures, <b>Emilie Myers</b>	
10.00 am - 10.10 am	<i>Clinical paper:</i> The impact of custom orthoses on healing timeframes for radial forearm flap donor sites: a mixed-methods, consumer co-designed service evaluation, <b>Frances Thomsen</b>	
10.10 am - 10.20 am	<i>Scientific paper:</i> Rehabilitation following distal triceps repair: a scoping review, <b>Catherine Chong</b>	
10.20 am - 10.30 am	Panel questions	
10.30 am - 11.00 am	Morning tea & trade exhibition	Meeting Room Foyer
11.00 am - 12.30 pm	SESSION 10	Meeting Room 5-8
11.00 am - 11.20 am	Tips and tricks session	
11.20 am - 11.40 am	Sustainability in healthcare, <b>Emma Kite</b>	
11.40 am - 11.50 pm	Panel questions	
11.50 am - 12.30 pm	2026 Conference announcement	
	Awards & prizes	
	Close of conference	
12.30 pm - 1.00 pm	Lunch	Meeting Room Foyer

*\*Program correct at time of publishing and subject to change.*