



ACTIVATE
CONFERENCE

The world stage for exercise and sports science

activate.org.au

Workshop & Symposium Guidelines

Exercise & Sports Science Australia (ESSA) invites Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from members and industry leaders to contribute to the Activate Conference 2027 program through workshops and symposiums.

Activate Conference 2027 will bring together practitioners, researchers, educators, and industry partners to explore the latest evidence, innovation, and real-world applications in exercise and sports science. We're seeking dynamic, interactive, and thought-provoking sessions that inspire action and enhance professional practice.

We can't wait to see the ideas and discoveries you'll bring to Activate Conference 2027!



Key dates

Expression of interest opens:	28 September 2026
Expression of interest closes:	30 November 2026
Outcome advice provided to presenters:	21 December 2026
Acceptance of offer by presenters:	11 January 2027

Submission Process

Initial Submission

To submit your EOI, go to [Workshop/Symposium Submission](#) on the [Activate Conference](#) website and complete the information including your session overview. All questions must be answered. The submission process is 100% online, hard copy or emailed submissions will not be accepted.

Number of Submissions

Presenters can be a lead author on a maximum of 2 submissions.

Selection criteria

To be considered eligible, all symposium and workshop submissions must:

- not be identical to any that has been previously published or presented.
- be submitted in English.
- be prepared according to the symposium and workshop submission formats on page 3 & 4.
- note any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest. An example of a conflict of interest could be any financial and/or personal relationships that could potentially bias your research.

Accepted symposium/workshop submissions will be delivered during the Conference program between 3 and 5 June 2027.

Submission Requirements

All fields within the submission process must be completed.

Contact Person

The contact person for the submission must:

- be a presenter included in the submission; and



- have an account within the submission system. Upon the first submission, the submitter will be prompted to create an account. For all following submission, the submitter must log into their existing account.

The submitter will be the person all correspondence will be sent to for each submission. Only 1 x contact person per submission is permitted.

Presenters

- The contact person will automatically be listed as the presenting author.
- The below details for all contributing authors must be provided:
 - Full name, including title, first and surname
 - Email address
 - All affiliations applicable including Affiliation name, City/Suburb/Town, State, and Country

Session Title

Full and correct title for your presentation must be provided in sentence form. The title is to be a maximum of 20 words.

Conference Streams

Symposiums and workshops will be considered for inclusion in the Activate Conference 2027 program if they are informed by current peer-reviewed evidence or best practice, address the educational and professional development needs of attendees, and present content in a balanced, non-commercial manner.

Activate Conference 2027 is seeking symposium and workshop submissions in the following categories to align with the conference streams:

- Biomechanics
- Chronic Pain
- Cardiometabolic
- Falls Prevention
- Mental Health & Illness
- Musculoskeletal
- Neurological
- Skill Acquisition
- Strength & Conditioning

Please note, one (1) symposium or workshop will be selected per category outlined above.



Authorisation Upon Submission

Consent to Record

Submission of a workshop and/or symposium is considered authorisation by all presenters that their presentation may be recorded and made available via the virtual platform for any delegate or registrant to access. Your presentation will not be used for any other educational purposes unless other arrangements are made directly with you.

Any recording or photograph(s) and any reproductions or adaptations of the film and/or photograph(s) can be used for all general purposes in relation to Exercise & Sports Science Australia's work including, without limitation, for advertising, press releases and for use on the association's website.

Marketing

Upon submission of a workshop and/or symposium, authorisation is considered provided by all presenters to use the presenter/s name/s, presentation title, overview, and other information in any conference marketing.

Conference Registration

Presenters of workshops and/or symposiums are kindly asked to cover their own travel, accommodation, and conference registration for the day of their session.

To ensure participation, all presenters must be registered for the conference, as access to the event and the ability to present cannot be granted otherwise.

No additional entitlements or financial support are provided by ESSA.

- Earlybird registration closes March 2027

Registration information with full inclusions and conditions is available on the [Activate Conference](#) website.

Review Process

All submitted workshop and symposium proposals will be reviewed by members of the Conference Program Committee. Where a conflict of interest exists, submissions will be allocated to an independent external reviewer. All reviewer assessments and final program decisions are confidential, and the decisions of the Conference Program Committee are final.



As the number of workshop and symposium sessions available within the conference program is limited, not all high-quality submissions may be accepted.

Workshops and symposiums are not eligible for abstract awards.

Submissions will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Alignment with the Activate Conference 2027 streams.
- Relevance to the educational and professional development needs of delegates.
- Strength of the evidence base and quality of the proposed content.
- Innovation, originality and contribution to the profession.
- Practical application and value to delegates.
- Quality of the proposed session design, including opportunities for audience engagement and interaction.
- Expertise, diversity and suitability of the proposed presenters.
- Overall fit within the conference program, including balance across topics and program constraints.

The Conference Program Committee may also consider scheduling requirements, presenter availability and other operational considerations when determining the final conference program.

Program Allocation

The type, date, time, and duration of your presentation in the program will be at the discretion of the Conference Program Committee. All decisions are final.

Symposium

Symposiums provide an opportunity for multiple presenters to explore a topic from different perspectives, bridging research, practice, and policy. EOIs should outline a clear theme, session objectives, and how the discussion will deliver new insights or provoke professional dialogue. Symposiums must include either a panel discussion or an interactive audience discussion.

Format: 60 minutes

Presenters: maximum of 4 diverse presenters. One of the included presenters must be nominated as the Session Chair.

The following submissions will be considered favourably:

- Inter-disciplinary and multi-institutional submissions



- Focus on practical implementation
- Inclusion of a practical component and interaction for delegates
- Inclusion of Early Career Researcher (ECR)/Mid Career Researcher (MCR), and/or lived experience

Ideal for: Collaborative panels, research discussions, emerging issues, and interdisciplinary topics.

Submissions for symposiums must include a 200-word general overview of the objectives/purpose, an outline of the format and content, and a list of the titles of each speaker's presentations.

Symposia overview

- A maximum of four (4) presenters are to be included for symposiums and inclusion of early career researchers in the team is encouraged.
- One of the included presenters must be nominated as the Session Chair.
- The name, credentials and a 30-50 word biography for each presenter must be included in the submission.
- Indication of how the symposium will deliver a practical component for delegates.
- Align with one of the conference streams outlined on page 4

The Session Chair identified in the submission will facilitate the timing of each presentation to ensure these times are strictly adhered to and there is opportunity for audience discussion. The session chair will be contacted by the Events Manager to further discuss their responsibilities as the session chair in the lead up to the conference.



Workshops

Workshops offer participants a hands-on, interactive learning experience focused on building practical skills, applying evidence, and enhancing professional practice. EOLs should outline a clear theme, learning objectives, and describe how participants will engage actively with the content. Workshops should include interactive elements such as practical exercises, case studies, or small-group activities.

Format: 60 minutes

Presenters: maximum of 4 presenters with relevant expertise. One of the included presenters must be nominated as the session chair.

The following submissions will be considered favourably:

- Inter-disciplinary and multi-institutional submissions
- Inclusion of lived experience
- Innovative, practical, and skill-building approaches for delegates

Ideal for: Applied skills training, methodology deep-dives, implementation-focused learning, and interactive professional development.

Submissions for workshops must include a 200-word general overview of the objectives/purpose, an outline of the format and content, and a list of the titles of each speaker's presentation.

Workshops

- Workshops can be presented by a single person or multiple presenters (maximum of four (4) presenters), with an overall time limit maximum of 60 minutes.
- Workshops should deliver practical and clinically applicable information that aligns with one of the Conference streams outlined on page 4.
- One of the included presenters must be nominated as the session chair.
- The name, credentials and a 30–50-word biography for each presenter must be included in the submission.

The Session Chair identified in the submission will facilitate the timing of each presentation to ensure these times are strictly adhered to and there is opportunity for audience discussion. The session chair will be contacted by the Events Manager to further discuss their responsibilities as the session chair closer to the conference.



Judging Criteria

What we're looking for

- Engaging, evidence-informed content aligned with ESSA's mission and Activate Conference 2027 theme
- Presenters with diverse expertise and perspectives
- Clear participant outcomes and opportunities for interaction
- Innovative formats that enhance learning and engagement

Workshop and Symposium submissions will only be considered for acceptance at Activate Conference 2027 if:

- they are based on current peer-reviewed literature
- meet the educational needs of the conference attendees
- have a balanced therapeutic approach without any potential commercial bias
- Align with one of the conference streams outlined on page 4
- Prioritise practical components for delegates

Workshop and symposiums will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Alignment with conference streams and program fit – 20%
- Evidence base & quality of content – 20%
- Innovation & contribution to the field – 15%
- Practical application & delegate value – 20%
- Session design & engagement – 15%
- Presenter expertise & diversity – 10%



How to apply

Submit your EOI to conference@essa.org.au by Monday, 30 November 2026.

Your submission should include:

- Session type: (Symposium or Workshop).
- Duration: 60 minutes.
- Session title.
- Session Chair/Facilitator name.
- Session Chair/Facilitator email.
- All presenters' names, email & affiliations.
- Presenter Expertise: Briefly describe each presenter's expertise and contribution to the session topic.
- Overview (200-word general overview of the aim of the session).
- Key Takeaways: List three practical skills, tools or strategies delegates will leave with after attending your session.
- Evidence Base: Briefly describe the evidence, guidelines or research underpinning the session (maximum 150 words). Include up to five key references where appropriate.
- Conference Stream the session aligns to.
- Session structure and interactive plan: Describe how delegates will actively participate during the session and approximately what proportion of the session will be interactive.
- Innovation: Describe what is new, different or unique about this session.
- Outline of the symposium or workshop format (including time allocated to each presenter).
- Outline your audience engagement and/or discussion activities (this is a requirement for symposium and workshop sessions).

Any submission that does not include all the above information will not be considered for review.

Submit here: [Workshop/Symposium Submission](#)

Join us at Activate Conference 2027 as we activate ideas, evidence, and impact across the exercise and sports science community.



Contact

If you have any queries regarding workshop and symposium submissions, please contact the ESSA Events Team.

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