



## Call for Abstracts Guidelines

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER	
Call for abstracts close	11 June 2025
Notification of selection outcome	30 June 2025
Written acceptance of offer to present	11 July 2025
Deadline for presenter registration	15 August 2025
Deadline for abstract summary and e-poster artwork	19 September 2025
WA Rural and Remote Mental Health Conference	4 November – 7 November 2025

WA Country Health Service is seeking abstracts for the WA Rural and Remote Mental Health Conference to be held in **Undalup/Busselton from 4 November – 7 November 2025**.

The conference theme for 2025 is ***Breaking Barriers: Tackling Stigma and Promoting Mental health Awareness in Rural Communities***.

This theme addresses the stigma surrounding mental health in rural areas and explores strategies to promote awareness, understanding, and help-seeking behaviours. It focuses on advocacy, education and cultural change to normalise mental health conversations. It also highlights the importance of collaborative partnerships between health services, community groups, and individuals to drive stigma reduction campaigns.

We are now calling for abstracts for oral presentations and E-poster presentations under the following streams:

- **Stigma Reduction Campaigns**  
Collaborative approaches to challenging stigma and encouraging open dialogue in rural communities.
- **Mental health Education**  
Partnering with schools, workplaces, and local organisations to enhance mental health literacy and reduce stigma.
- **Advocacy Through Lived Experience**  
Harnessing personal stories to inspire understanding and break down barriers.
- **Cultural Sensitivity in Awareness**  
Tailoring anti-stigma efforts to diverse cultural groups, including First Nations communities.
- **Youth and Mental Health Awareness**  
Engaging young people as advocates and changemakers for mental health awareness in their communities.

While these streams are provided for guidance, abstracts may be applicable across multiple streams and all innovative projects, programs, research and initiatives are encouraged to submit. Please note, successful abstracts will be allocated a 20-minute presentation and 5-minute Q&A timeslot in the conference program.

Abstracts that align to a conference stream are preferred, but not essential.

Please submit one or more abstracts as:

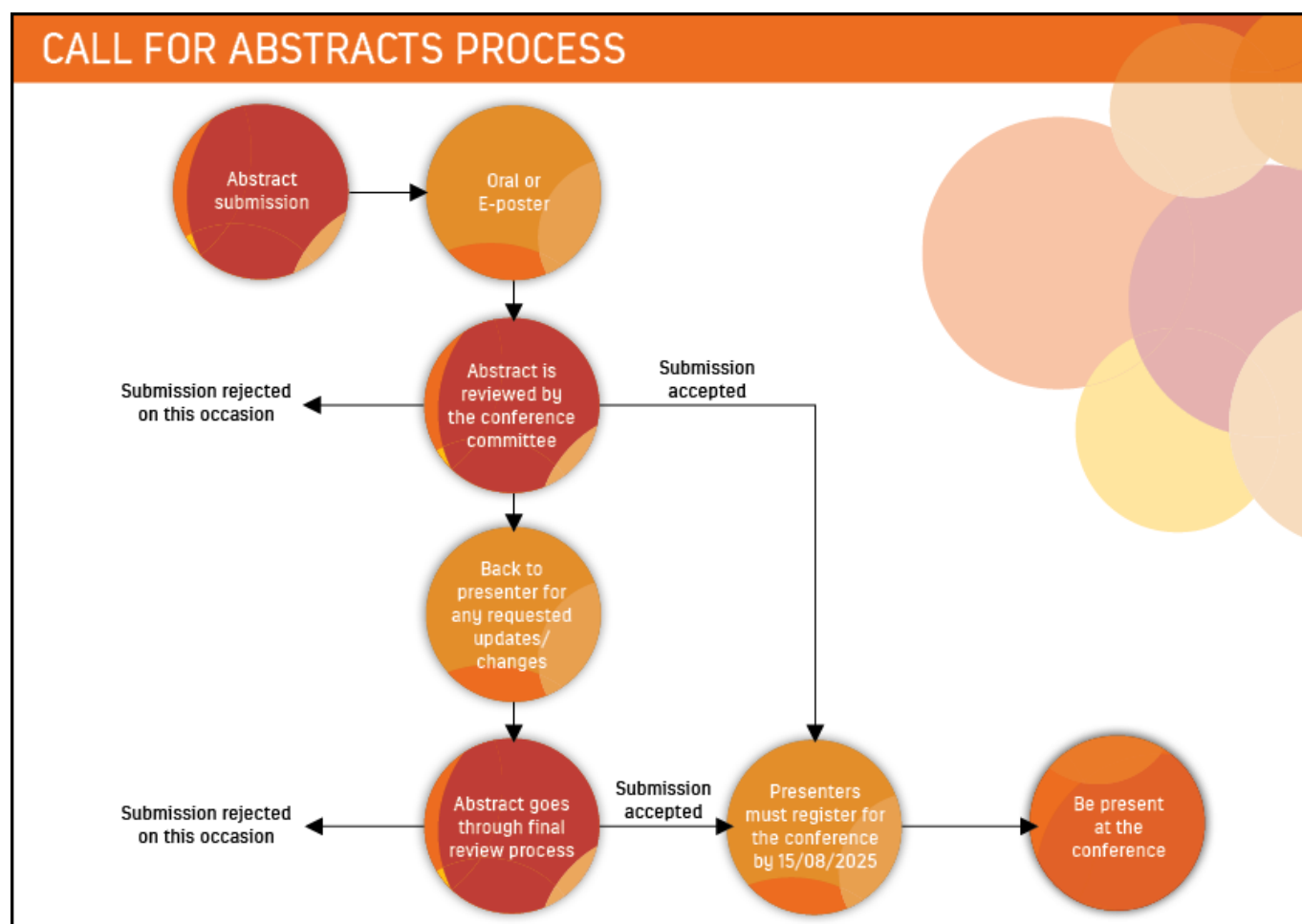
- **Oral presentation** – individual or team presentation
- **E-poster presentation** – Electronic posters are presented at the conference for delegates to view at all breaks in the exhibition area

Preference will be given to presentation and poster abstracts that are **action-oriented, strengths-based and solution-focused**.

## Abstract Submission Process

Abstracts will go through the following process:

- All abstracts will be reviewed by the Conference Committee.
  - Acceptance of an abstract will be based on the degree to which the abstract matches the streams of the conference.
  - All abstracts will be considered based on the merit of the individual submission and will be assessed according to the following criteria:
    - Relevance to conference streams and learning objectives addressed
    - Importance of presentation topic
    - Relevance of content to audience
    - Contemporary or innovative issue
  - Abstracts with a clear evidence base will be prioritised.
- The final date for submission of abstracts is **11 June 2025**. Any abstracts received after this date will not be accepted.
- Authors will be notified of their abstract results by **30 June 2025**.
- All accepted abstracts will be published on the conference website.
- Written confirmation of the presentation offer is required by **11 July 2025**.
- Presenters must have registered to attend the conference by **15 August 2025**. Payment of conference registration is a condition of presenting at the conference.
- Please note that presenters are responsible for their own travel to and from the conference.



## Abstract Submission Guidelines

- All abstracts must be:
  - Structured providing an outline of the aim/s and content of the presentation.
  - No more than 300 words long.
  - Completed in full, including a biography of each presenting author(s)
  - Submitted electronically via the **abstract portal**
  - Submitted by 5pm (AWST) on **11 June 2025**. Abstracts received after this date will NOT be accepted.
  - Presented by the specified presenting author(s) except in an emergency, such as illness, where an alternative speaker can be nominated. The first author (as given on the abstract submission form) will be the main contact for any correspondence.
- Accepted oral presentations will be allocated 20 minutes presentation and 5 minutes Q & A.
- Accepted e-poster presentations will be 10 minutes (including questions).
- The Conference Committee reserves the right to accept or refuse any paper.
- Successful abstracts will be notified by **30 June 2025** and will have until **11 July 2025** to provide written acceptance of offer and **15 August 2025** to register for the conference.

## Conditions

- Abstracts, oral presentations and posters must not contain any kind of advertising.
- Abstracts must be the author's own work.
- The invitation to submit an abstract does not constitute an offer to pay travel, accommodation or registration costs associated with the Conference. Similarly, no speaker fee is paid to successful presenters. All speakers must register for the conference.
- The Conference Committee reserves the right to allocate abstracts into sessions as they see fit in accordance with the overall program objectives.
- Abstracts that do not include sufficient data may be rejected.

## Abstract enquiries

For all abstract enquiries or if you have not received notification of your abstract results by **30 June 2025**, please contact the events team on **[rrmhc@ruralhealthwest.com.au](mailto:rrmhc@ruralhealthwest.com.au)** or **08 6389 4500**.

*We look forward to receiving  
your abstracts and meeting you  
in Undalup/Busselton for the  
WA Rural and remote Mental  
Health Conference 2025!*

