

4.20pm	Day one closing remarks Peter Richmond
4.30pm	Networking sundowner – Mas Vino Wine Bar (includes complimentary drinks and canapés)
6.00pm	Close of day one

PROGRAM – FRIDAY 8 AUGUST 2025

Please note: program is subject to change

8.30am	Registrations – tea and coffee on arrival (meeting rooms 5-7 lobby)
OPENING PLENARY – MEETING ROOMS 5-7	
9.00am	Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and day one reflection Melanie Robinson – WA Child Ear Health Steering Group member
IMPROVING CHILD OUTCOMES – SAFETY AND NEURODEVELOPMENTAL HEALTH	
9.05am	National Child Safety Framework Principles Fiona Costello – Western Australia Council of Social Service (WACOSS) Natalie Kickett – Council of Aboriginal Service Western Australia (CASWA) Mike Cordery – WA Department of Health, Phillipa Wenn – Department of Communities In recognition of WA Child Ear Health Strategy partners commitment to child safety and wellbeing, this session aims to raise awareness of the 10 National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, and to build capacity and confidence for attendees to implement the principles in their own organisations. <i>This presentation contains content that some attendees may find distressing, including references to child sexual abuse. We acknowledge that this content may be particularly difficult for those who have experienced intergenerational trauma or institutional harm. Please feel free to step out or take a break at any time, and we encourage you to prioritise your wellbeing during and after the session.</i>
10.05am	(Central) Auditory Processing Disorder – the impact of long-term otitis media on children Robyn Choi – The University of Western Australia and The Kids Research Institute From this session, delegates will gain an understanding of how persistent middle ear disease during critical periods of auditory development can contribute to auditory processing difficulties, and how these challenges may affect learning, communication, and behaviour.
10.25am	Morning tea – meeting rooms 5-7 lobby
INTERACTIVE CONCURRENT EDUCATION	
10.55am	EarTrain ear and hearing health pathways workshop Jo O’Malley and Hayley Baldwin – Tafe NSW EarTrain Join the EarTrain team for an in-depth and interactive session focused on ear and hearing health pathways. This workshop will explore a range of case studies that highlight key elements of best practice in the identification, management, and referral processes related to ear and hearing health—particularly in primary care and community settings.
11.45am	Newborn Hearing Screening Program – protocols and diagnostic audiology follow up Kristy Tomlinson and Nicole Irvine – Perth Children’s Hospital This session will provide delegates with a comprehensive overview of the Western Australian NBHS Program, including key protocols and procedures that underpin early identification of hearing loss in infants. Participants will gain insight into the screening process, referral criteria, and follow-up pathways, with a particular focus on the ‘next steps’ for babies diagnosed with hearing loss—ensuring timely access to diagnostic services, early intervention, and family support.
12.30pm	Lunch – meeting rooms 5-7 lobby
1.30pm	Ear Irrigation with a focus on ear suctioning Adam Zhao – Perth Children’s Hospital Through live demonstration and guided discussion, delegates will explore safe and effective techniques for ear cleaning, with an emphasis on patient comfort and clinical safety. The session will also address the identification and management of common ear conditions, including the presence of foreign bodies, ear infections, and complications arising from ear grommets. Dr Zhao will outline appropriate treatment approaches for each scenario, helping clinicians recognise when irrigation is suitable and when referral or alternative management is required.
2.30pm	Day two closing address Melanie Robinson – WA Child Ear Health Steering Group member
2.40pm	Forum conclusion – please join us for afternoon tea in the meeting rooms 5-7 lobby



WA EAR AND HEARING
Health Forum 2025

THURSDAY 7 AND FRIDAY 8 AUGUST 2025

Pan Pacific Perth, 207 Adelaide Terrace, Perth

9.00am to 4.30pm followed by a free networking sundowner on Thursday

9.00am to 3.00pm Friday

B O O R L O O

FINAL PROGRAM

This forum has been developed in collaboration with the WA Child Ear Health Strategy partners:



PROGRAM – THURSDAY 7 AUGUST 2025

Please note: program is subject to change

8.30am	Registrations – tea and coffee on arrival (meeting rooms 5-7 lobby)
OPENING PLENARY – MEETING ROOMS 5–7	
9.00am	Welcome to Country Freda Ogilive – Whadjuk and Ballardong Elder Welcome from Rural Health West Catherine Elliott – Rural Health West Welcome from the WA Child Ear Health Strategy Chair Peter Richmond
9.20am	Australian National Child Hearing Health Outcomes Registry (ANCHOR) – tracking ear health treatment and outcomes for children Valerie Sung – Murdoch Children’s Research Institute Associate Professor Valerie Sung is a Consultant Paediatrician at The Royal Children’s Hospital in Melbourne, Australia. Valerie serves as Co-Group Leader and Principal Research Fellow at the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute (MCRI), and holds the position of Honorary Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Paediatrics at the University of Melbourne. With a career spanning over two decades, A/Professor Sung has dedicated her work to improving the health and well-being of children, particularly children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Her research integrates clinical care with population-based studies and intervention trials, aiming to augment early diagnosis and management strategies for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. A/Professor Sung joins the Forum to discuss The Australian National Child Hearing Health Outcomes Registry (ANCHOR) project. The project is delivered in collaboration with the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute and Queensland Health and aims to develop a national registry to track ear health outcomes and minimise inequities in child hearing health service access. A/Professor Sung will discuss the project intents for systemic data to improve tracking outcomes, share project findings to date, and detail the development of the registry and its potential to drive ear health research and service delivery.
10.20am	Morning tea – meeting rooms 5-7 lobby
ABORIGINAL EAR HEALTH FROM A NATIONAL AND STATE PERSPECTIVE	
10.50am	WA Ear Health Coordination Program update from the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service (ACCHSs) sector Lorraine Taii – Aboriginal Health Council of WA (AHCWA) Lorraine Taii will provide an update from the ACCHS Ear and Hearing Health Forum that took place on Wednesday 6 August 2025. Lorraine will also provide an overview of the WA Ear Health Coordination Program, key priorities and learnings from ear and hearing health in the ACCHSs sector.
11.00am	An update on the National Ear Health Coordination Program by the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation Monica Barolits-McCabe – National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) (virtual presentation) The NACCHO will provide an update on key national ear and hearing health initiatives. These initiatives are co-designed with NACCHO members, affiliates, and key stakeholders to ensure the delivery of culturally safe, high-quality services that improve ear and hearing health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children across the country.
11.15am	Ear Health Coordination in the Northern Territory – improving ear health outcomes in primary care Ruby Bethune and Catharine Kent – Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT) This presentation will focus on how new ear and hearing clinical items in Communicare are helping to transform service delivery. As part of the AMSANT’s Ear Health Coordinator Program, updates to the electronic medical record system are designed to better support NT ACCHSs to identify, manage and track ear disease more effectively.
11.45am	Hearing Early, Hearing for Life – 25 years of WA newborn screening featuring a Kimberley case study Kristy Tomlinson – Perth Children’s Hospital Joe Ghandour – WA Country Health Service, Kimberley This session will highlight the 25th anniversary of the WA Newborn Hearing Screening (NBHS) Program—a significant milestone in the early identification and intervention of hearing loss in infants across the state. The session will highlight key successes and innovations of the program over the past 25 years, with a special focus on data collected from the Kimberley region.

12.05pm	Innovations in child ear health – insights from the ‘Blow, Breathe, Cough’ trial from the Djaalinj Waakinj team Chris Brennan-Jones – The Kids Research Institute Australia Valerie Swift – Djaalinj Waakinj Centre for Ear and Hearing Health In this session, The Kids Research Institute team will present an update on several recently completed research projects focused on improving child health outcomes, particularly in the area of ear health. A central focus of the session will be the ‘Blow, Breathe, Cough’ clinical trial—an innovative study investigating non-invasive techniques to reduce the burden of ear conditions in children.
12.25pm	Lunch – meeting rooms 5-7 lobby
COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES FOR BETTER EAR AND HEARING OUTCOMES	
1.25pm	WA Child Ear Health Strategy – an update Peter Richmond – WA Child Ear Health Strategy Chair Clare Huppertz – WA Department of Health In this session, Professor Richmond and Dr Clare Huppertz will provide an update on the current status and future direction of the WA Child Ear Health Strategy. There will be time allocated for a Q&A session.
2.10pm	Enhancing ENT access in rural and remote communities – an update on the National Indigenous Coordination of ENT (NICENT) Outreach Project Jafri Kuthubutheen – Australian Society of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery (ASOHNS) (recorded presentation) ASOHNS WA representative, Professor Jafri Kuthubutheen, joins the Forum via a recorded presentation to discuss the National Indigenous Coordination of ENT (NICENT) Outreach Project, with a particular focus on fostering effective collaboration and ensuring continuity of care with primary health care teams.
2.30pm	Afternoon tea – meeting rooms 5-7 lobby
RESEARCH, DATA AND INNOVATION	
3.00pm	Working together for healthy starts – clinical and environmental health partnerships in the Pilbara Sam Barba – Pilbara Aboriginal Health Alliance (PAHA) Scott Mackenzie – Curtin University This presentation shares a pilot program developed with agencies from the Pilbara Aboriginal Health Planning Forum’s Environmental Health Committee. It supports thriving mums and strong beginnings for babies by embedding Environmental Health (EH) referrals into routine maternal care across Pilbara Aboriginal Medical Services. Sam and Scott will walk through the development and rollout of the model, how clinical and EH teams work together, and the future we hope to build for the region. Grounded in culture, care and connection, the program aims to reduce preventable conditions.
3.20pm	Healthy ears for remote children – The Ngaanyatjarra Health Service model Mary Percy – Ngaanyatjarra Health Service The Ngaanyatjarra Health Service’s paediatric ear screening model is a culturally safe, nurse-led initiative designed to meet the needs of First Nations children living in some of the most remote regions of Western Australia. By combining on-the-ground screening with general practitioner support and telehealth consultation with otolaryngologists, this model delivers timely, effective care in areas where access to specialist services is limited. This presentation explores the strengths, challenges, and outcomes of this collaborative approach to closing the ear health gap for Ngaanyatjarra children.
3.40pm	Understanding ear health in the East Pilbara – 10 years of service delivery and outcomes Rob Eikelboom and Jessica Yiannos – Ear Science Institute Australia Christina Hunn – Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service Professor Rob Eikelboom will share key insights from a decade of ear and hearing health data collected across four service providers in the East Pilbara. Covering service reach, demographics, and patterns of otitis media and hearing loss, the presentation will highlight how care has been delivered, where progress has been made, and what the data reveals about ongoing challenges and future opportunities.
4.00pm	Audiology Paediatric Hearing Registry Pilot – Development and implementation Dayse Tavora-Vieira – South Metropolitan Health Service Dr Dayse Tavora-Viera will present on the development of a Paediatric Hearing Health Registry, a pilot initiative developed through the South Metropolitan Health Service. This data registry captures a child’s hearing history, including developmental milestones. The registry’s dashboard offers a clear summary of assessments and specified treatment plans for families and carers. It also functions as a communication tool to support efficient patient handover to general practitioners.