



WA Rural Health Conference 2026

Future-proofing rural health: Innovation, equity, and resilience

Saturday 14 + Sunday 15 March 2026 | Crown Convention Centre. Boorloo.

**RURAL
HEALTH
WEST**

Saturday 14 March 2026

	Swan (Maali)	Emu (Waitj)	Willie Wagtail (Djidi Djidi)	Western Corella (Manitj)	Magpie (Koolbardi)	White & Black Cockatoo (Ngoorlyak)
8.45am	<p>Kaya Wandju! Welcome! To the WA Rural Health Conference 2026 Master of Ceremonies – Casey Beros Welcome to Country – James Webb Conference Welcome – Dr Shirley Bowen, Director General, Department of Health</p>					
9.15am	<p>Panel Discussion: Menopause & Perimenopause: Supporting our rural women Lesley Ramage, Lucy Williams - Menopause Clinic King Edward Memorial Hospital and Natalie Martin – Menopause Alliance Australia</p>					
10.30am	<p>Morning Tea and Trade Exhibition</p>					
11.10am	<p>Keynote Address: Leveraging AI Gihan Perera</p>					
12.10pm	<p>Lunch and Trade Exhibition</p>					

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Concurrent sessions

1.00pm	Building Capacity in ADHD Management: Insights from the WA GP Training Program Tim Leahy University of Notre Dame and Sarah Youngson Bridgetown Medical	Redefining Healthcare Through Smart, Connected Solutions Karen Booth, Australian Digital Health Agency	Management of Sexual Assault Stephanie Macpherson, South Metropolitan Health Service	Syphilis Christine Dykstra WA Health	The Informed Consent Model of Care for Gender Affirmation: Principles to Practice Thomas Drake-Brockman Plantagenet Medical and Anja Ravine Murdoch Children's Research Institute and University of Melbourne	No session
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1.40pm *5-minute change over*

Workshop sessions

1.45pm	Clinical Yarning: A Person-Centred Communication Framework for Aboriginal Health Care Dawn Bessarab University of Western Australia Kelsie Crowe and Ivan Lin WA Centre for Rural Health and University of Western Australia	Listening With the Senses: Poetry Therapy for Self and Others Samir Heble WA Country Health Service Mike Eaton WA Country Health Service and Rural Health West	Fussy Eating; Red Flags, Reassurance, and Real-World Management Holly Tickner Next Bite Paediatric Feeding Centre	Supporting Children & Young People's Online Safety & Wellbeing Kayelene Kerr Esafekids	No session	Future Proofing Wound Debridement: Understanding When and When not to Debride Jenny Prentice Trojan Health
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2.45pm *5-minute change over*

Case study discussions

2.50pm	Navigating Medico-Legal Challenges in Rural Practice Sam Coten Figerio and Kate Rowan-Robinson MDA National	The Busy Brain Model: A Rural-Born Innovation for Kids with Big Emotions Aileen Mathyssen Thrive Together Therapy	Aboriginal Community-Led Models of Care for Long-Term Sustainability and Equity Kim Gates and Caitlyn White Aboriginal Health Conference WA	POCUS Case Studies Casey Parker WA Country Health Service	No session	No session
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3.15pm **Afternoon Tea and Trade Exhibition**

Concurrent sessions

3.40pm	**VC** Coersive Control from an Indigenous Perspective Aleeta Fejo GP Locum	Firearm Health Assessments. Where are we at? Mariam Bahemia and Richard Taylor Royal Australian College of General Practitioners	Healthy Hearts: Managing High Cholesterol in Children - Who, What and When? Andrew Martin Perth Childrens' Hospital	Chronic Hepatitis B in General Practice Katie Coles and Damien Zilm ASHM	NEARER SCAN Study: Implementation of a Task-Sharing Strategy to Improve RHD Diagnosis and Care James Marangou and Chantelle Pears WA Country Health Service and Menzies School of Health Research	No session
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4.15pm *5-minute change over*

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4.20pm	Panel Discussion: Neuro-Affirming Care: Supporting Neurodiverse Patients in Rural Settings Kathryn Boon - Sir Charles Gairdner Osborne Park Healthcare Group, Liz Baird - ND Therapy and Tim Leahy - University of Notre Dame					
5.00pm	Close of conference - Day 1					
6.30pm	WA Rural Health Excellence Awards 2026 (Tickets are essential)					

Sunday 15 March 2026

	Swan (Maali)	Emu (Waitj)	Willie Wagtail (Djidi Djidi)	Western Corella (Manitj)	Magpie (Koolbardi)	White & Black Cockatoo (Ngoorlyak)
Workshop sessions						
8.30am	Shared decision-making and goals of patient care Henrique Nicola St John of God Midland Hospital	Introduction to Trauma Informed care with LEGO Serious Play Tanya Hallett Trauma Informed Practice Training (TIPT)	Falls Prevention: Strengthening the collaborative approach to rural community-based falls prevention Tegan O'Rafferty and Roisin Sweeney Injury Matters	Beyond FIFO: An ecologically focused hybrid outreach model for paediatric care Millie Caddy Connect Paediatric Therapy Services	No Session	CPR Refresher RTS Training
9.30am	<i>5-minute change over</i>					

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Concurrent sessions						
9.35am	Lung Cancer Screening Update Fraser Brims Curtin University	Dermatology in Rural and Remote WA; Updates on the Use of Biologic Medications in Dermatological Conditions Louise O'Halloran Fiona Stanley Hospital	The PARTNER Network: Connecting Rural General Practice to Research Andrew Kirke and Kerry Leggett Rural Clinical School of WA	Navigating Burnout in Healthcare: What it is, workplace considerations Melissa Black Black Dog Institute	No Session	No Session
10.05am	Sunday Morning Tea and Trade Exhibition					
10.45am	The Great Rural Health Debate Pack your bags Health Professionals! - the bush is calling, and it's not optional					
11.45am	Closing Keynote: Jana Pittman					
1.00pm	Close of Conference					

Contact us

10 Stirling Highway, Nedlands, Western Australia 6009
PO Box 433, Nedlands, Western Australia 6909
6389 4500 | warhc@ruralhealthwest.com.au



Government of Western Australia
WA Country Health Service

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in partnership with WA Country Health Service

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