ACMHN 2026

50TH INTERNATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH NURSING CONFERENCE

7–9 OCTOBER 2026, ADELAIDE

ACMHN2026

7-9 October 2026, Adelaide

Tarntanya, Kaurna Country

Celebrating 50 years of mental health nursing:

The future is now

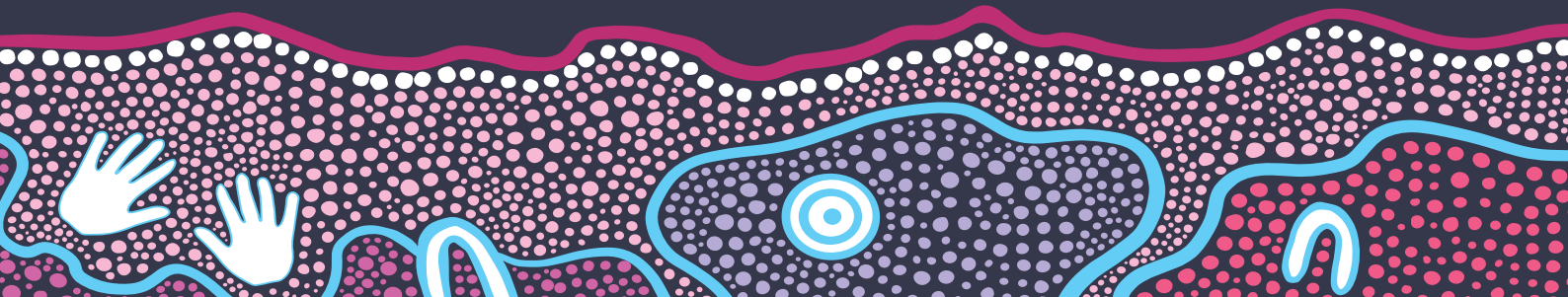
Pocket Program

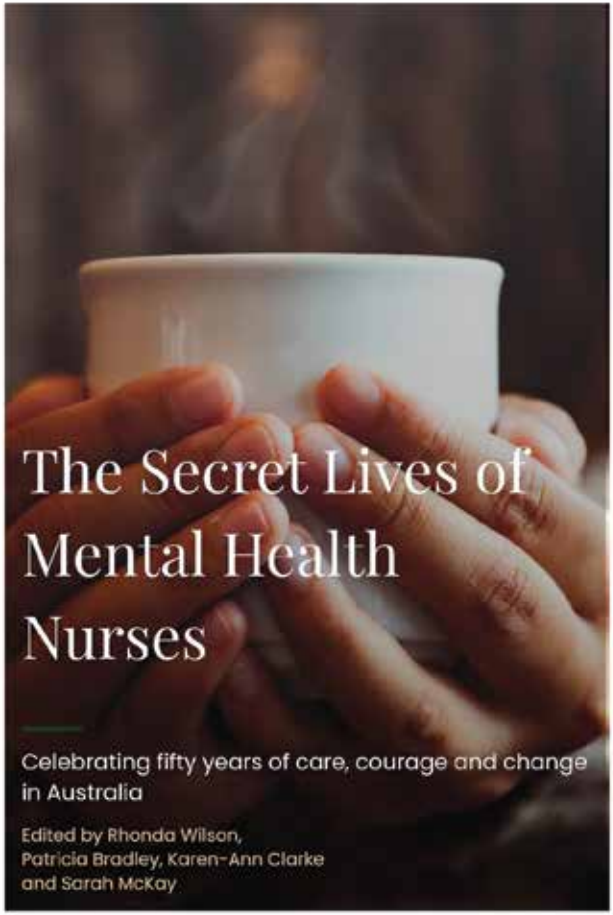
Business Events Adelaide

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Government of South Australia
Department of the Premier and Cabinet

ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE





The Secret Lives of Mental Health Nurses

Celebrating fifty years of care, courage and change in Australia

The Secret Lives of Mental Health Nurses brings together more than thirty first-person accounts spanning five decades, from nurses who trained inside sandstone asylums to those who graduated into a pandemic.

Contributors write from acute wards, community teams, rural and remote practice, forensic services, consultation-liaison roles, policing, education, research and policy.

Edited by Professor Rhonda Wilson, Patricia Bradley, Karen-Ann Clarke and Sarah McKay

Available now
Amazon, or the College exhibition booth

Scan for Amazon

Wednesday 7 October 2026

0730-1700	Registration		Foyer LMN
0730-0900	**Credential for Practice Program Committee** City Rooms 1&2 Host: Joanne Wild	**Council of Branches** City Rooms 3&4 Host: Ali Thorn	
0830-0900	Arrival tea and coffee and exhibition Coffee cart open during catering breaks Coffee cart Sponsored by cc medical FAST TRACKING CAREERS		Halls MN
0830-1700	Speakers' preparation		L1B
0900-1030	**Opening plenary and 32nd Oration and Investiture Ceremony**		Hall L
	Welcome to Country, ***Jack Buckskin*** and ***Rivva Karpany,*** *Kuma Kaaru* ACMHN President's welcome, ***Prof Rhonda Wilson***, *RMIT University* ACMHN Chief Mental Health Nurse and Executive Officer address, ***Kate Thwaites,*** *Australian College of Mental Health Nurses* ACMHN Scientific Committee Chair address, ***Dr Brent Hayward***, *Monash University* 32nd Oration and Investiture Ceremony **32nd Oration:** Mental health nursing: Learning from the past, leading the future, ***Commissioner Tracy Beaton,*** *Commissioner for Children and Young People, Victoria*		Chairs: Prof Rhonda Wilson and Dr Brent Hayward
1030-1100	*Morning tea and exhibition*		Halls MN

1100-1230	**1A: Education** Hall L Chair: Prof Brenda Happell *(Lightning session)*	**1B: First Nations** Riverbank 6 Chair: Paul Pearson	**1C: Lived experience** Riverbank 7 Chair: Nirosha Kodikara	**1D: Acute** Riverbank 8 Chair: A/Prof Adam Searby	**1E: Clinical supervision** City Rooms 1&2 Chair: Dr Claire Hayes	**1F: Masterclass** **Private practice** City Rooms 3&4 Chair: Janine Max
1105	Bridging the theory - practice gap: The importance of graduate programs for enrolled nurses ***Claire Allan,*** *Bendigo Health*	Colonial load: Mental distress and the First Nations academic workforce ***Adrienne Lipscombe,*** *University of Melbourne* *Co-authors:* ***Prof Linda Deravin, Stacey Butcher,*** *University of Southern Queensland,* ***Dr Lynne Stuart****, University of the Sunshine Coast,* ***Hayley Mongta,*** *Griffith University,* ***Prof Holly Northam****, Western Sydney University*	Two voices, one team: Lived experience workers' and clinicians' views on the lived experience role ***Prof Kim Foster,*** *Australian Catholic University,* ***A/Prof Louise Alexander,*** *Deakin University* *Co-authors:* ***Dr Sally Buchanan-Hagen, Kinga Pemo****, Deakin University,* ***Olivia Hatchman,*** *Lively Collective,* ***Dr Johanna Boardman****, Australian Catholic University*	Ethical issues in mental health nursing practice through an intersectional lens: A focus on working with women ***Dr Alison Hansen****, Monash University*	Beyond the clinic: Redefining clinical supervision for a digitally enabled mental health workforce in Australia ***Bosede Adetifa,*** *Latrobe Regional Hospital*	Things we wished we'd knew before we set out in private practice… experienced MHNs, from a range of specialisations and business models, share hacks and hints to give you a head start in shaping your own private practice. Use the suggested map provided, individualise your journey with the tips that suit your service, and be inspired to create a sustainable practice that is uniquely you.
1115	Research isn't just for academics: Five nurses, one big idea ***A/Prof Eric Lim,*** *University of Newcastle* *Co-authors:* ***Dr Rebecca Millar,*** *RMIT University,* ***Antony Mullen,*** *Hunter New England Mental Health Service,* ***Dr Katrina Campbell,*** *Southern Cross University,* ***Christopher Saunders,*** *Victoria University*					

CONCURRENT SESSION 1 (continued)

1125	Establishing a community of practice to create an open access text 'Mental health essentials: Transitioning from student to practitioner' ***Prof Phillip Maude,*** *La Trobe University,* ***Dr Russell James,*** *University of Tasmania*	Ethical and culturally grounded methods for mental health research with First Nations people: Principles, practices, and pathways to partnership ***Katrina Ward,*** *RMIT University* *Co-authors:* ***Prof Rhonda Wilson, A/Prof Oliver Higgins,*** *RMIT University,* ***Prof Kim Usher,*** *University of New England*	What actually matters: Lived experience insights for suicide prevention and mental health nursing practice ***Dr Rachael Sabrinskas****, Federation University* *Co-authors:* ***A/Prof Bridget Hamilton,*** *University of Melbourne,* ***A/Prof Cathy Daniel,*** *Australian Catholic University,* ***Prof John Oliffe,*** *University of British Columbia*	If engagement is fundamental in mental health nursing, why must it be protected? ***Donna Hristodoulidis****, Monash University* *Co-authors:* ***Dr Brent Hayward, A/Prof Adam Searby,*** *Monash University*	What happens after clinical supervision training? A qualitative study of mental health nurses' experiences ***Dr Jennifer Hamilton, Dr Lesley Barr,*** *Edith Cowan University* *Co-authors:* ***Dr Marie Boulianne, Irene Ngune,*** *Edith Cowan University,* ***Debbie Massey, Julie Sharrock****, Self employed*	***Masterclass*** *(continued)*
1135	Supporting clinical mental health nurses' engagement in research ***Dr Rebecca Millar,*** *RMIT University,* ***Christopher Saunders,*** *Victoria University,* ***Dr Katrina Campbell,*** *Southern Cross University* *Co-authors:* ***A/Prof Eric Lim,*** *University of Newcastle,* ***Antony Mullen, Angela Smith,*** *Hunter New England Local Health District*					

CONCURRENT SESSION 1 (continued)

1145 What kind of postgraduate education is wanted and needed by mental health nurses now?

Dr Hosu Ryu, *Swinburne University of Technology*

"No story without language": Understanding and improving Aboriginal interpreter attendance in the Northern Territory

Ali Thorn, *Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services,* ***Martin Musco,*** *Top End Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs*

Adapting the mental state examination for telephone-based assessment on Kaurna Country: A browser-based documentation tool for community mental health

Andrew Trotta, *Northern Adelaide Local Health Network*

Optimal acute adult psychiatric inpatient care: A qualitative study

Dr Dennis Chak Fai Ma, *Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

Co-authors: ***Sau Fong Leung,*** *Hong Kong Polytechnic University,* ***Prof Sherry Kit Wa Chan,*** *University of Hong Kong*

From fragmentation to fruition: Refreshing clinical supervision in a statewide mental health service

Julie Porter, *Tasmanian Health Service*

Co-author: ***A/Prof Pieter Van Dam,*** *University of Tasmania*

Masterclass *(continued)*

1155 Advancing mental health nursing practice: Development of an intermediate life support programme for physical health emergencies in mental health settings

Christopher Kurt-Gabel, *A to E Training and Solutions*

Co-author: ***Kevin Schwartz,*** *A to E Training and Solutions*

CONCURRENT SESSION 1 (continued)						
1205	AI in therapeutic communication training: Mapping evidence on the use of artificial intelligence functionality ***Raymond Tini,*** *La Trobe University* *Co-authors:* ***Dr Nicole Snaith,*** *Flinders University,* ***A/Prof Oliver Higgins,*** *University of Canberra*	Building a First Nations workforce ***Elaine Withers, Grady Walsh, Layla Vassallo,*** *Royal Melbourne Hospital*	Supported decision-making in mental healthcare: What does the evidence say? ***Dr Cathy Francis,*** *RMIT University* *Co-author:* ***Prof Rhonda Wilson****, RMIT University*	Safeguarding the future of acute mental health nursing: The role of protected time in supporting recovery, wellbeing and retention ***Natasha Stresnjak,*** *Australian Institute of Business*	Staff perceptions on group reflective integrated practice with Safewards (GRiP-S) in an authorised mental health service ***Brendon Robinson,*** *Darling Downs Health* *Co-authors:* ***Dr Jennifer Hamilton,*** *Edith Cowan University,* ***Jessica Elliott, Daniel Terry****, University of Southern Queensland*	***Masterclass*** *(continued)*
1230-1330	*Lunch, exhibition and poster presentations (from 1300)* *Posters: 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 14, 16, 19, 22, 25, 28, 31, 34, 37, 43*					Halls MN
1300-1330	**SIG Council of Chairs** Hall L Host: Prof Tanya Park	**TAS Branch** Riverbank 6 Host: Julia Hunt	**NSW Branch** Riverbank 7 Host: Dzikamai Mahachi	**WA Branch** Riverbank 8 Host: Dr Marie Boulianne	**VIC Branch** City Rooms 1&2 Host: Renee Molloy	**SA Branch** City Rooms 3&4 Host: Leigh Peterson
1330-1500	**Plenary 2**					Hall L
	Platinum sponsor address, ***Dr Jennifer Hamilton,*** *Edith Cowan University* Update on Apology action, ***Prof Rhonda Wilson,*** *ACMHN President, RMIT University* **Keynote:** The future is our people, ***Vanessa Browne,*** *CATSINaM President*					Chair: Ali Thorn
1500-1530	*Afternoon tea and exhibition*					Halls MN

1530-1700	2A: Forensic, policy and digital health Hall L Chair: Stuart Wall *(Lightning session)*	2B: Community and consultation liaison Riverbank 6 Chair: Nirosha Kodikara	2C: Lived experience Riverbank 7 Chair: Dr Lesley Barr	2D: Acute – Restrictive practices Riverbank 8 Chair: Adj Prof Emma Barker	2E: Clinical supervision and artificial intelligence City Rooms 1&2 Chair: Dr Jennifer Hamilton	2F: Masterclass **Yarning circle** City Rooms 3&4 Chair: Adrienne Lipscomb
1535	Improving forensic mental health care: A guide to understanding the new Criminal Law (Mental Impairment) Act 2023 WA ***Kealan Devaney,*** *Office of the Chief Psychiatrist WA*	Defacto community mental health nurses? Fifty years of evidence from Australian secondary school nursing ***Dr Anita Moyes,*** *Edith Cowan University*	Consumers and carers' voice in Collaborative Relapse Prevention Planning (CRPP) ***Okgi Sargent,*** *Queensland Health* *Co-authors:* ***Xiaoyu (Jinglin) Ren, Paul Hickey, Teresa Fawcett, Marianne Wyder, Samantha Lillie, Manawa Tini,*** *Queensland Health*	Nurses' PRN medication decision making: Understanding influencing factors within recovery oriented, person-centred mental health care ***Courtney Dunn,*** *Forensicare* *Co-authors****: A/Prof Adam Searby, Dr Brent Hayward****, Monash University*	Does research actually change our practice? Lessons from clinical supervision evaluation ***Dr Hosu Ryu****, Swinburne University of Technology* *Co-author:* ***A/Prof Bridget Hamilton,*** *University of Melbourne*	Cultural Safety, as articulated by Ramsden (2002), is not a tick-box or a training module – it is a relational and political commitment to examining power within care. Yet for many mental health nurses and practitioners, translating that commitment into everyday practice remains a genuine challenge. This panel brings together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners and allies to yarn honestly about what Cultural Safety looks, sounds, and feels like in mental health and social and emotional wellbeing (SEWB) contexts. Through shared stories, practice insights, and open dialogue, panellists will explore how culturally safe care builds trust, supports healing, and improves outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and what gets in the way.
1545	When patients are terminally ill in forensic mental health settings: Forensic mental health nurses and palliative care ***Dr Rebecca Millar,*** *RMIT University,* ***Thomas Jhonston,*** *Forensicare* *Co-author:* ***Dr Jianxia Zhai,*** *RMIT University*					

Concurrent session 2A sponsored by

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CONCURRENT SESSION 2 (continued)

1555 Why nurses stay: A strengths-based exploration of long-term retention in forensic mental health nursing

Preejith Vatakkedath, *RMIT University*

Co-authors: ***Dr Nikos Thomacos, Dr Rebecca Millar,*** *RMIT University,* ***Dr Jacqui Allen,*** *Monash University*

Re-imagining employment as early mental health intervention: A multidisciplinary approach to vocational outcomes for young people

Amelia McKey, *Everyday Independence*

Co-authors: ***Trish Hill, Madeline Hand,*** *Everyday Independence*

A description of the daily living functioning of people diagnosed with borderline personality disorder from consumer, carer and clinician perspectives

Dillon Tepper, *Adelaide University*

Co-authors: ***Dr Ben Sellar, Sheryl Shipley, Rachel Smith, Carolyn M Murray,*** *Adelaide University*

A trauma and violence informed education framework to reduce restrictive interventions and occupational violence in acute mental health settings

Ravinder Kumar, *Northern Health*

Supporting clinician wellbeing with chatbots: Mental health nurses' and social workers' perspectives on opportunities and risks

Dr Sinead Barry, *RMIT University*

Co-authors: ***Dr Ruby Walter, Dr Katrin Leifels, Dr Caroline Lambert, Dr Azizur Rahman,*** *RMIT University*

Masterclass *(continued)*

Attendees will leave with new perspectives and practical starting points for embedding Cultural Safety into their everyday practice and working in genuine partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.

1605 What counts as prevention: A systems analysis of coronial recommendations and implications for mental health nursing

Dr Rachael Sabrinskas, *Federation University*

Co-authors: ***A/Prof Bridget Hamilton,*** *University of Melbourne,* ***A/Prof Cathy Daniel,*** *Australian Catholic University,* ***Prof John Oliffe,*** *University of British Columbia*

CONCURRENT SESSION 2 (continued)						
1615	Implementing the Safer Care Victoria Ligature Point Audit Tool (LPAT) at a service level ***Adj A/Prof Janine Davies,*** *Bayside Health-Peninsula Care Group*	The future is now: Using Schwartz Rounds to heal, connect and sustain the healthcare workforce ***Anabel De La Riva,*** *Western Sydney Local Health District*	Beyond counselling: Why nurses and midwives are turning to peer support ***Prof Brenda Happell,*** *Nurse Midwife Health Program Australia* *Co-author:* ***Tayla Vella,*** *Nurse Midwife Health Program Australia*	Towards eliminating seclusion: How a women's acute mental health unit achieved sustained change in practice ***Shaveta Sood,*** *Northern Health*	AI in risk assessment and prediction: Where do we stand today? ***Cathryn Kerr****, Western Health*	***Masterclass*** *(continued)*
1625	Manosphere: A rising threat to mental health ***Renee Molloy,*** *Monash University* *Co-authors:* ***Dr Gabrielle Brand, Dr Brent Hayward,*** *Monash University,* ***Prof Agnes Higgins,*** *Trinity College Dublin*					
1635		Celebrating consultation-liaison nursing in Australia 48 years on ***Julie Sharrock,*** *Self Employed*		Sustaining zero seclusion in an acute inpatient mental health unit: A systems-based approach ***Madeline Gregory, Orla McCarthy, Kate Rowley,*** *St Vincent's Hospital Sydney*	The digital therapeutic nexus: Attachment, alliance, and harm in human–AI mental health interactions ***A/Prof Oliver Higgins,*** *University of Canberra* *Co-authors:* ***Prof Frederik Gildberg,*** *University of Southern Denmark,* ***Prof Rhonda Wilson,*** *RMIT University*	

1700-1900	**Welcome reception**	Sponsored by CATSINaM Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives *Unity and Strength through Caring*	Regatta Lawns Adelaide Convention Centre

Thursday 8 October 2026

0730-1700	Registration		Foyer LMN
0730-0830	Arrival tea and coffee and exhibition Coffee cart open during catering breaks	Coffee cart Sponsored by cc medical FAST TRACKING CAREERS	**Halls MN**
0800-0900	Members' forum		Hall L
0830-1700	Speakers' preparation		L1B
0900-1030	**Plenary 3**		**Hall L**
	Capabilities Framework launch, ***Em Prof Wendy Cross,*** *RMIT University* **Keynote:** Beyond talking therapy: Lessons from the past for the future of mental health, ***Dr Kylie Smith,*** *Emory University*		Chair: A/Prof Oliver Higgins
1030-1100	*Morning tea and exhibition*		**Halls MN**

1100-1230	**3A: Lived experience, nurse practitioner, physical and digital health** Hall L Chair: Dr Rebecca Millar *(Lightning session)*	**3B: Leadership** Riverbank 6 Chair: Dr Bindu Joseph	**3C: Forensic and nurse practitioner** Riverbank 7 Chair: Belinda Handy	**3D: Acute** Riverbank 8 Chair: Dr Cameron Marshman	**3E: Education** City Rooms 1&2 Chair: Prof Phillip Maude	**3F: Masterclass** **Preparing for a PhD** City Rooms 3&4 Chair: A/Prof Cathy Daniel
1105	Culturally safe mental health care for South Asian Tamil communities in Australia: A co-designed community 'bridge to care' pilot ***Davina Elango,*** *Northern Hospital*	Architects of access: Nurse-led system and cultural transformation in regional mental health ***Emma Callaghan,*** *South West Infant, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service,* ***Nicholas Coulter,*** *WA Country Health Service*	Safewards secure: Implementation and evaluation in a forensic mental health inpatient setting ***Laura Jeffery,*** *Forensicare,* ***A/Prof Tess Maguire,*** *Swinburne University of Technology*	Sustaining Safewards: Maintaining interventions within inpatient mental health settings with impact: A qualitative descriptive study using nominal group technique ***Adj Prof Emma Barker,*** *Austin Health* *Co-authors:* ***Kayleigh Kerr, Melissa Dineen, A/Prof Rebecca Jarden,*** *Austin Health,* ***Helena Bujalka,*** *University of Melbourne*	Mental health research nurse: A hospital-based initiative ***Ravneet Kaur, Vesna Dempster,*** *Northern Health*	This session will discuss how to prepare to commence a PhD. You will hear from current mental health nurses who are PhD candidates and experienced PhD supervisors. There will be time to ask questions and explore what is required to commence and complete a PhD.
1115	Risk formulation in early psychosis: Moving beyond checklists to meaningful understanding ***Helen Nicoll,*** *Orygen* *Co-author:* ***Donna Gee,*** *Orygen*					

CONCURRENT SESSION 3 (continued)						
1125	Investigating the mental health service utilisation by Bantu men in Adelaide, South Australia ***Kudzai Nyamande,*** *Charles Darwin University*	A global profession without a global home: Building international unity in mental health nursing ***Nathan Dart,*** *Metro North Mental Health,* ***Prof Rhonda Wilson,*** *RMIT University,* ***A/Prof Oliver Higgins,*** *University of Canberra* *Co-authors:* ***Prof Tanya Park,*** *James Cook University,* ***A/Prof Cathy Daniel,*** *Australian Catholic University,* ***Prof Kim Usher,*** *University of New England*	The development of Safewards secure-custodial mental health: A version for bed-based prison mental health units to enhance care and practice ***A/Prof Tess Maguire,*** *Forensicare*	Transforming crisis response: Expanding South Australia's mental health co-responder team beyond the ED ***Kathryn Beharrie,*** *Central Adelaide Local Health Network,* ***Eva Gill-Minero,*** *Southern Adelaide Local Health Network*	Do mental health simulations strengthen nursing capability in terms of knowledge and clinical performance: A systematic review and meta-analysis ***Dr Claire Hayes,*** *Deakin University* *Co-authors:* ***A/Prof Louise Alexander,*** *Deakin University,* ***A/Prof Chuntana Reangsing, Kunnara Maneekunwong, Chompunut Sopajaree,*** *Mae Fah Luang University*	***Masterclass*** *(continued)*
1135	Breathing in the blind spot: Preventing silent respiratory risk from undiagnosed OSA in acute mental health inpatients ***Basil George, Adrianne Canham,*** *Northern Adelaide Local Health Network*					
1145	Improving clozapine treatment in forensic mental health: A bloody simple solution? ***Glenys Van De Wildekamp,*** *Forensicare Thomas Embling Hospital* *Co-authors:* ***Monica Gilbert, Kate Roberts, Shelley Turner, Trentham Furness,*** *Forensicare Thomas Embling Hospital*	Redesigning leadership, renewing identity: A new era for mental health nursing ***Dr Fiona Dziopa, Satinder Kaur,*** *Metro South Addiction and Mental Health Service* *Co-authors:* ***Rosemary Sorrensen, Kieran Kinsella,*** *Metro South Addiction and Mental Health Service*	Nurse practitioner led hepatitis C treatment in mental health inpatient units ***Trudy Brown,*** *Northern Health*	Reinventing mental health nursing visual observation: Transforming a passive task into an active, clinically informative process ***Beth Grinham, Andrea Kavanagh,*** *Mercy Mental Health and Wellbeing Services*	Forging the future: Mental health nursing shaping tomorrow's military aviation capability ***Dave Sanderson,*** *Royal Australian Air Force*	

CONCURRENT SESSION 3 (continued)

1155	Bridging the gap: Why nurse practitioners may be key to strengthening the infant, child and youth mental health workforce ***Tarryn Bentley,*** *Bayside Health – Peninsula Care Group*				***Masterclass*** *(continued)*
1205	Rethinking decision-making in emergency mental health: The psychiatric nurse practitioner model in the emergency department ***Ravi Chopra,*** *Northern Health*	Nursing leadership facilitating improved outcomes in comprehensive care planning and review in rehabilitation mental health units ***Lurendharen Reddy, Euan MacLeay,*** *Northern Sydney Local Health District*	Eye Movement Desensitisation Reprocessing (EMDR), utilising advanced therapeutic interventions for women who have experienced trauma ***Kalina Clarke,*** *Goulburn Valley Health*	Nurses' experiences of conducting the Mental State Examination (MSE) in acute in-patient mental health settings ***Spasija Volcevska,*** *Western Sydney University* *Co-authors:* ***Dr Lauretta Luck, Dr Arianne Reis, Dr Liz Thyer,*** *Western Sydney University*	
1215	"If you didn't know. You wouldn't know" How to recognise the more subtle forms of bullying ***Prof Brenda Happell,*** *Southern Cross University*				

1230-1330	*Lunch, exhibition and poster presentations (from 1300)* *Posters: 2, 5, 8, 11, 17, 20, 26, 29, 32, 33, 35, 38, 40, 41*					Halls MN
1300-1330	**Defence SIG** Hall L Host: Dr Marie Boulianne	**Black and African Mental Health SIG** Riverbank 6 Hosts: Bosede Adetifa, Dr Tracy Tabvuma	**Perinatal and Infant Mental Health SIG** Riverbank 7 Hosts: Catherine Teague, Alexander Paterno	**Digital Mental Health SIG** Riverbank 8 Host: A/Prof Oliver Higgins	**Consultation Liaison SIG** City Rooms 1&2 Host: Leigh Peterson	**QLD Branch** City Rooms 3&4 Host: Kobie Hatch
1330-1500	**Plenary 4**					Hall L
	Secret Lives of Mental Health Nurses book launch, ***Prof Rhonda Wilson,*** *ACMHN President, RMIT University* **Keynote:** New language old lessons: 40 years of restraint reduction through the eyes of nurses, ***Sharon Paley,*** *Australian Centre for Restraint Reduction & Elimination*					MC: Dr Brent Hayward
1500-1530	*Afternoon tea and exhibition*					Halls MN
1530-1700	**4A: Clinical supervision and various** Hall L Chair: Dr Hosu Ryu *(Lightning session)*	**4B: Leadership** Riverbank 6 Chair: Ting Ting Hui	**4C: Education** Riverbank 7 Chair: Dr Rachel Tindall	**4D: Various** Riverbank 8 Chair: Renee Molloy	**4E: Education** City Rooms 1&2 Chair: Kate Rowley	**4F: Masterclass Credentialing** City Rooms 3&4 Chair: Joanne Wild
1535	Supporting a safe transition of care using the Medical Readiness for Transfer to Mental Health Unit Tool ***Catherine O'Halloran,*** *Eastern Health*	Where care meets code: Mental health nursing and artificial intelligence ***Amber Macdonald,*** *ANTSA*	We're not trying to predict suicide anymore; we're preventing it ***John Brown, Donna Hansen-Vella,*** *Barwon Health*	Behind the curtain of care. Nurses' experiences providing care to consumers with alcohol and other drug issues: Findings from a qualitative scoping review ***Kylie Kearns,*** *Australian Catholic University*	Mental health curriculum is no longer optional: Reclaiming its place in undergraduate nursing education ***Dr Karen-Ann Clarke, Dr Christine Palmer,*** *University of the Sunshine Coast* *Co-author:* ***Mark Baker,*** *University of the Sunshine Coast*	This session will provide an update on credentialing and suggestions for preparing your application.

CONCURRENT SESSION 4 (continued)						
1545	Back to the future of care: Revitalising therapeutic group work in mental health inpatient units ***Ali Thorn,*** *Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services,* ***Martin Musco,*** *Top End Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs*			*Co-authors:* ***Richard Galeano,*** *Australian Catholic University,* ***A/Prof Louise Alexander,*** *Deakin University*		***Masterclass*** *(continued)*
1555	Attitudes, anxiety and concerns about mental health clinical placements: A comparison of international vs domestic nursing students ***Dr Sini Jacob,*** *Australian Catholic University* *Co-authors:* ***Dr Johanna Boardman, A/Prof Cathy Daniel, Irene Takawira,*** *Australian Catholic University*	ANUM leadership: Building capability ***Bianca Blatchford, Monika Drew,*** *Austin Health*	Perceptions of mental health nursing identity and their engagement in continued professional development ***Dr Jane Matonhodze,*** *University of Greenwich*	Confidentiality, Gillick competency and Ubuntu: The cultural tensions shaping Sub-Saharan African migrant engagement with mental health services ***Eric Agyemang-Duah,*** *RMIT University*	Strengthening the mental health nursing pipeline in a rural setting: Enhancing undergraduate preparation and placement experience ***Dr Bindu Joseph, Alicia McKenna,*** *Federation University* *Co-authors:* ***Amanda Ford, Prof Michael Olasoji,*** *Federation University*	

1605	Peer support in domestic violence and mental health recovery: Mapping evidence on experiences, impacts, and challenges: A scoping review ***Dr Claire Hayes,*** *Deakin University* *Co-authors:* ***A/Prof Louise Alexander,*** *Deakin University,* ***Lisa Culloty,*** *Dundalk Institute of Technology,* ***Dr Sinead Heffernan,*** *West Cork Beacon,* ***Dr Andrea Kelly, Dr Aine O'Donovan,*** *University College Cork,* ***Sharon Morrissey,*** *Self employed*					***Masterclass*** *(continued)*
1615	Navigating complex care: A case study on lessons learnt in early-onset dementia in an acute older adult mental health admission ***Bec Beesley, Melbin Joy Kottarathil,*** *Bendigo Health* *Co-author:* ***Jordie Hodson,*** *Bendigo Health*	Clarifying scope, strengthening practice: A mental health nursing framework ***Jillian McDonald, Dr Fiona Dziopa,*** *Metro South Addiction and Mental Health Service* *Co-authors:* ***Amy Burkhardt, Kelly Flatley,*** *Metro South Addiction and Mental Health*	Consumers at the centre of mental health nursing practice: A consumer-centred 'bedside' handover education initiative ***Alana Robertson, Hong Cai,*** *Sydney Local Health District Mental Health Service* *Co-authors:* ***Margaret Thomas, Dr Cynthia Delgado,*** *Sydney Local Health District Mental Health Service*	A future with no seclusion rooms. Finding alternatives to seclusion on two older adult acute mental health inpatient units ***Barbara Williams,*** *Northern Health*	"They find it empowering to talk to the future nursing workforce": Students' reflections of learning from a lived experience perspective ***Abigail Leplaw,*** *University of Wollongong* *Co-authors:* ***Christopher Patterson, Prof Lorna Moxham****, University of Wollongong,* ***Dr Kelly Lewer,*** *Australian Catholic University*	

CONCURRENT SESSION 4 (continued)

Masterclass *(continued)*

1625 Perspectives of a new trauma-informed clinical supervisor at a regional healthcare setting in Bindal and Wulgurukaba Country

Alexander Paterno, *Central Queensland University,* ***Dr Debra Klages****, University of New England*

1635 Implementing reflective practice groups using Safewards: Supporting future mental health nursing practice

Antony Mullen, *Hunter New England Mental Health*

Co-authors: ***Katryna Muir, Caroline Gollan, Denise Peyton, Emily Newton,*** *Hunter New England Mental Health*

The role of mental health nurses in responding to image based sexual abuse

A/Prof Cathy Daniel, *Australian Catholic University*

Co-authors: ***Prof Tanya Park,*** *James Cook University,* ***Prof Rhonda Wilson****, RMIT University*

Mental health nurses' beliefs and experiences of caring for adults with neurodiversity: Preliminary findings from an integrative review

Sarah McKay*, RMIT University*

Co-authors: ***Hon Prof Peter Santangelo, Prof Rhonda Wilson,*** *RMIT University*

Inconsistent, incomplete, and variable: What are we offering future mental health nurses? Mapping of Australian and New Zealand postgraduate programs

Prof Phillip Maude, *La Trobe University,*

Dr Russell James, *University of Tasmania*

Co-author: ***A/Prof Adam Searby,*** *Monash University*

1830-1900 **Pre-dinner drinks** — Panorama Foyer

1900-2230 **Conference dinner** — Panorama Ballroom

Please remember to bring your name tag to the dinner, as this includes your dinner ticket (if purchased).

Sponsored by RMIT UNIVERSITY

Adelaide Convention Centre

Friday 9 October 2026

0730-0900	**Mothers of Adult Children with Schizophrenia SIG** Riverbank 6 Host: Dr Debra Klages	**Neurodiversity Mental Health Nurses SIG** Riverbank 7 Host: Sarah McKay	
0830-1640	Registration		Foyer LMN
0830-0900	Arrival tea and coffee and exhibition Coffee cart open during catering breaks	Coffee cart Sponsored by cc medical FAST TRACKING CAREERS	Halls MN
0830-1330	Speakers' preparation		L1B
0900-1030	**Plenary 5**		Hall L
	International Council of Mental Health Nurses promotion, ***Prof Rhonda Wilson,*** *RMIT University* **Keynote:** Making headway with sHedway - a nurse turned shearer, leading suicide prevention in the shearing sheds of Australia, ***Carol Mudford,*** *sHedway*		Chair: A/Prof Cathy Daniel
1030-1100	*Morning tea and exhibition*		Halls MN

1100-1230	5A: Community and leadership Hall L Chair: Dr Brent Hayward *(Lightning session)*	5B: Policy Riverbank 6 Chair: Dr Anita Moyes	5C: Psychotherapy and defence Riverbank 7 Chair: Leigh Peterson	5D: Physical health Riverbank 8 Chair: Dr Nahid Choudhury	5E: Education City Rooms 1&2 Chair: Alexander Paterno	5F: Masterclass **50 years of mental health nursing: A conversation between generations** City Rooms 3&4 Chair: Dr Peter Santangelo
1105	From crisis to recovery: What happens when mental health care meets children where they are ***Ingrid Bartrop,*** *South Western Sydney Local Health District* *Co-authors:* ***Dr Nazmul Huda, Giles Barton, A/Prof Rajeev Jairam,*** *South Western Sydney Local Health District*	Coping strategies that Culturally and Racially Marginalised (CaRM) communities in Australia used to reduce mental health impacts of new racism ***A/Prof Eric Lim,*** *University of Newcastle* *Co-authors:* ***Dr Shreesha Polta, Dr Stephanie Dryden,*** *Murdoch University,* ***Prof Jaya Dantas, A/Prof Takeshi Hamamura, Prof Sender Dovchin, Dr Ana Tankosic,*** *Curtin University*	When suicide prevention conversations stall: A contemporary solution-focused nursing approach in brief intervention settings ***Aaron Arquinez,*** *Eastern Health*	Health worker led approach to improving physical health screening in remote mental health services: A culturally safe quality improvement initiative ***Dr Katrina Campbell, Tara Douglas,*** *Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service* *Co-authors:* ***Prof Tanya Park,*** *James Cook University,* ***Dawn Miller, Martine Slevin, Adam Burns,*** *Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service*	Preparing the future mental health nursing workforce: An evaluation of an elective student clinical placement in mental health called Capstone ***Antony Mullen, Emily Bate,*** *Hunter New England Mental Health* *Co-authors:* ***Ketrina Sly, Emily Newton,*** *Hunter New England Mental Health*	We are celebrating the mental health nursing profession itself, for all that mental health nurses have achieved, all that has changed, and all that we continue to strive toward at this 50th International Mental Health Nursing conference. This panel of ACMHN Life Members, mid-career, and early-career mental health nurses will consider pertinent issues for each of the career generations, and explore the developments, challenges, and opportunities for the field for the next fifty years. The audience will be invited to contribute to the discussion.
1115	BYL: Bring your lesson – sharing, learning, connecting: A weekly group in a community care unit setting ***Lorraine Flynn,*** *Bendigo Health*					

CONCURRENT SESSION 5 (continued)

1125	Strengthening person-centred mental health care through the see, think, act framework: A qualitative evaluation ***Morgan Holloway, Anita Bizzotto,*** Southern NSW Local Health District Co-authors: ***Emma Harrington, Jo Graham,*** Southern NSW Local Health District, ***Dr Grant Kinghorn, Dr Joel Zugai, Dr Luke Molloy,*** University of Wollongong	Mental health impacts of racism and the role of protective factors for Black and African-Australians ***Dr Tracy Tabvuma,*** *Tabvuma Mental Health*	Wounded healers: Why mental health nurses need trauma-informed support too ***Prof Kim Foster,*** *Australian Catholic University*	To HITH or not to HITH? That is the question ***Kylie Hall, Khiem Lieu,*** *Metro North Mental Health* *Co-authors:* ***Charlotte Beeson, Daniel Goodinson,*** *Metro North Mental Health*	Rural learning and lasting change: A pragmatic trial of hearing voices simulation education and lived experience co-facilitation ***Carol-Ann Stanborough,*** *Flinders University* *Co-authors:* ***Lee Martinez, Dr Chloe Fletcher,*** *Adelaide University,* ***Dr Pascale Dettwiller,*** *SA Department for Health and Wellbeing*	***Masterclass*** *(continued)*
1135	Perspectives of young people, their parents/ carers and clinicians on adverse childhood experiences and navigating strategies: A qualitative study ***Ingrid Bartrop****, South Western Sydney Local Health District* *Co-authors:* ***Dr Nazmul Huda, Giles Barton, A/Prof Rajeev Jairam,*** *South Western Sydney Local Health District*					

CONCURRENT SESSION 5 (continued)						
1145	INSPIRE: Leading an innovative seminar series to advance mental health nursing practice ***Dr Sinead Barry,*** *RMIT University* *Co-author:* ***Prof Rhonda Wilson,*** *RMIT University*	Day program parent's experience of service – A quality improvement project ***Rosie Hollett,*** *Queensland Children's Hospital Queensland Health*	Beyond the therapy room: Mental health nurse-led equine-assisted psychotherapy as an innovative trauma-informed approach to enhancing engagement and recovery ***Melinda Sargent,*** *Miracle Park Stables*	Cavities in care: Perspectives of inpatient mental health nurses regarding oral health of young people ***Alisha Johnson****, South Western Sydney Local Health District* *Co-authors:* ***Prof Lucie Ramjan,*** *Western Sydney University,* ***Amanda Kenny,*** *La Trobe University,* ***Toby Raeburn,*** *Australian Catholic University,* ***Prof Ajesh George,*** *University of Western Sydney*	Utilising translational simulation to strengthen mental health nursing workforce readiness ***Stuart Wall,*** *Bayside Health – Peninsula Care Group* *Co-author:* ***Dr Samantha Sevenhuysen,*** *Bayside Health – Peninsula Care Group*	***Masterclass*** *(continued)*
1155	From role ambiguity to leadership assurance: Reimagining nurse unit manager preparation in inpatient mental health ***Caitlin Morton, Miranda Ward,*** *Hunter New England Mental Health Service*					

CONCURRENT SESSION 5 (continued)						
1205	Leading at scale: Victorian mental health nursing leadership as a statewide architecture for practice reform ***Fiona Whitecross,*** *Royal Melbourne Hospital,* ***Anna Love,*** *VIC Department of Health and Human Services* *Co-authors:* ***Donna Hansen-Vella,*** *Barwon Health,* ***Adj A/Prof Janine Davies,*** *Bayside Health – Peninsula Care Group*	The future is collaborative: Strengthening mental health nursing workforce capability through a multi-site clinical nurse educator model ***Florence Marwei,*** *Barwon Health*	From 'one-size-fits-all' to 'fit-for-risk': Developing a tiered, rights-based approach to aggression prevention training ***Leanne Johnson,*** *Bayside Health – Alfred Care Group*	Seeing the whole person: Addressing physical health needs in a forensic mental health setting ***Glenys Van De Wildekamp, Danielle Bugarski,*** *Forensicare Thomas Embling Hospital* *Co-authors:* ***Monica Gilbert, Kate Roberts, Shelley Turner,*** *Forensicare Thomas Embling Hospital*	One case, many interpretations: Variability in pre-registration nursing students' mental state examination documentation ***Dr Taylor Yousiph,*** *University of Wollongong* *Co-authors:* ***Prof Lorna Moxham, Dr Grant Kinghorn, Dr Joel Zugai,*** *University of Wollongong,* ***Dr Serife Tekin,*** *SUNY Upstate Medical University*	***Masterclass*** *(continued)*
1230-1330	*Lunch, exhibition and poster presentations (from 1300)* *Posters: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 36, 39, 42*					Halls MN
1300-1330	**Nurse Practitioners SIG** Riverbank 6 Host: Dr Susan Kidd	**Education SIG** Riverbank 7 Host: Julie Porter	**Research SIG** Riverbank 8 Host: A/Prof Eric Lim	**Clinical Supervision SIG** City Rooms 1&2 Host: Julie Sharrock		

1330-1500	**6A: Acute** Hall L Chair: Dr Alison Hansen *(Lightning session)*	**6B: Policy and digital health** Riverbank 6 Chair: Julia Hunt	**6C: Perinatal and acute** Riverbank 7 Chair: Christine Axten	**6D: Physical health and acute** Riverbank 8 Chair: Adrienne Lipscombe	**6E: Education** City Rooms 1&2 Chair: Dr Russell James	**6F: Masterclass** **Long acting injectables** City Rooms 3&4 Chair: Becky Hunston
1335	Embedding safety planning in acute inpatient mental health care: A mixed-methods evaluation ***Dr Nahid Choudhury,*** *Metro North Mental Health,* ***Erin Farmer,*** *Metro South Hospital and Health Service* *Co-authors:* ***Dr Marianne Wyder, Dr Manaan Kar Ray,*** *Metro South Hospital and Health Service*	Strengthening mental health workforce capability: Development of a Western Australian framework ***Monica Taylor, Elizabeth Tyndall,*** *WA Mental Health Commission*	Learning needs of perinatal and infant mental health nurses caring for infants ***Catherine Teague,*** *Federation University*	From training to practice: Implementing a behaviour change–informed physical health program in Queensland community care units ***Olivia Falvey,*** *West Moreton Hospital and Health Service,* ***Sarah Weighell,*** *Metro South Hospital and Health Service*	Enablers and barriers affecting enrolled nursing students' mental health placements: A qualitative study ***Preeti Dalal,*** *Federation University*	Be hip – don't wing it! Mastering the skill of ventrogluteal long-acting injection technique. This workshop provides participants with an evidence-based, best practice theory and practical session refreshing skills and knowledge for administering ventrogluteal injections. Using the format of the SA Health award winning Long-Acting Intramuscular Injection (LAI) training package, adapted for a broad audience, this masterclass aims to provide confidence and evidence for why, and how we deliver the most effective and safe injection into the ventrogluteal muscle.
1345	From containment to connection: Reducing long-term seclusion in MHICU ***Hannah Fisher, Isabella Primmer,*** *Hunter New England Health*					

CONCURRENT SESSION 6 (continued)

1355	Psychiatric intensive care in the 21st century: Reframing risk through co-design and least restrictive care ***Lee Frampton,*** *Northern Health*	Beyond diagnosis: Designing a transdiagnostic future for youth mental health ***Dr Rachel Tindall,*** *Orygen* *Co-author:* ***Helen Nicoll,*** *Orygen*	From curiosity to clarity: A co-design model for parent-infant and early childhood mental health service ***Ann De-Belin,*** *Tresillian Parenting Service*	Improving physical health outcomes using the Equally Well Framework ***Anna Love,*** *VIC Department of Health*	A new pathway for a critical workforce: Australia's first advanced diploma in nursing (mental health) for enrolled nurses ***Chad Eduati,*** *Swinburne University of Technology*	***Masterclass*** *(continued)* Conducted by mental health nurse trainers from SA Health, you will have the opportunity to explore the technique yourself in a safe, non-judgemental, learning environment. Sponsored by Government of South Australia SA Health
1405	Close nursing observation for patients with serious mental illness: A scoping review ***Dr Nahid Choudhury, Nathan Dart,*** *Metro North Mental Health* *Co-authors:* ***Kylie Burke,*** *Metro North Mental Health,* ***Dr Brighid Scanlon,*** *Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital*					
1415	Confidence, crisis and capability: What ED nurses say they really need to work better with people in mental health crisis ***Andrea Grimes,*** *James Cook University* *Co-authors:* ***Prof Tanya Park, Tanya Langtree,*** *James Cook University*	Expanding horizons: How telehealth and digital mental health enhance practice, learning, and well-being in mental health nursing ***Stefanie Brophy,*** *Serco*	When the manual misses the mother: Is it time for a PTSD perinatal specifier? ***Tracey Mackle****, Metro North Perinatal Wellbeing Team*	Development of a lifestyle intervention framework targeting physical health of young people with early psychosis using the nominal group technique ***Ting Ting Hui,*** *Bayside Health – Alfred Mental and Addiction Health* *Co-authors:* ***Prof Michael Olasoji, A/Prof Loretta Garvey,*** *Federation University*		

CONCURRENT SESSION 6 (continued)		
1425	Incident to insight: Strengthening staff hot debriefing practices in a mental health intensive care unit ***Emily Newton, Shaun Robinson, Daniel King,*** *Hunter New England Health*	***Masterclass*** *(continued)*
1440-1500	*Afternoon tea and exhibition*	Halls MN
1500-1640	**Closing plenary**	Hall L
	Government address: *Adj Prof Alison McMillan PSM,* *Commonwealth Chief Nurse, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing* **Keynote:** Mental health nursing at an inflection point, ***Em Prof Wendy Cross,*** *ACMHN Senior Mental Health Nursing Advisor, RMIT University* ACMHN President's wrap up, ***Prof Rhonda Wilson,*** *RMIT University* Award presentation, ***Prof Rhonda Wilson,*** *RMIT University* • Mental Health Nurse of the Year Award • The Meryl Caldwell-Smith First Time Presenter Award • Lightning Presentation Award • Delegates' Choice Poster Award • Stan Alchin Award • First Nations Paper Award • Policy Impact Award • Research Award • Clinical Supervision Award Clinical Supervision Award sponsored by Clinical Supervision Consultancy Paul Spurr and Associates Reflections from ACMHN Scientific Committee Chair and ACMHN 2027 announcement, ***Dr Brent Hayward,*** *Monash University*	Chair: Nathan Dart
1700	**Post conference celebration.** Join us for a relaxed catchup after the conference. Light nibbles will be provided. All other food and all beverages are at your own cost.	Level 21 Lounge Little National Hotel

Capabilities for Mental Health Nursing Practice 2026

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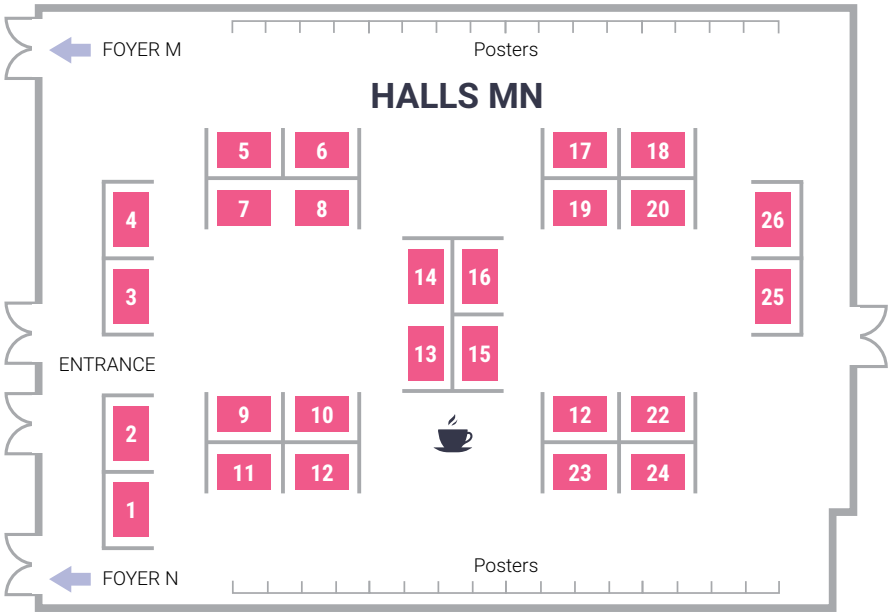
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EXHIBITION HALL: ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE



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*The 2026 ACMHN Artwork was created by Wirangu and Kokatha artist **Ashleigh Anne Bruza***