



Communicable Diseases & Immunisation Conference 2026

‘Public Health at Risk –
Collective Solutions to New Challenges’

Monday 15 to Wednesday 17 June 2026
Marvel Stadium Melbourne/Naarm
Wurundjeri Country, VIC

Printable Program

Last updated 14 June 2026



Time	Room	Session
8:00am – 5:00pm	Victory Promenade	Conference Registration Open
9:00am – 10:30am	Victory Room & Plenary Hub	<p>Opening Plenary - CDC</p> <p>Welcome to Country – Wurundjeri Elder Annette Xiberras Introductory Remarks – Adjunct Professor Terry Slevin – Chief Executive Officer, Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) Opening Address – Hon. Mark Butler– Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme Conference Welcome – Professor Caroline Miller – President, PHAA Director, Health Policy Centre, SAHMRI</p> <p>Session Chair: A/Prof. Terry Slevin and Prof. Katie Flanagan</p> <p>Keynote Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keynote 1 Speaker: Professor Zoe Wainer – Director General, Australian Centre for Disease Control Keynote 2 Speaker: Dr. Caroline McElroy – Chief Health Officer, Department of Health Keynote 3 Speaker: Dr. Lorraine Anderson – Medical Director, KAMS
10:30am – 5:00pm	Medallion Club	Exhibition Open
10:30am– 11:00am	Medallion Club	Morning Tea & Exhibition

Time	Concurrent Session 1	
Session Name & Room	Presentation Title	Speakers
11:00am – 12:30pm		
1A - Impact of RSV vaccines	The first year of nirsevimab use in Australia for RSV prevention, 2024	Ms Rachel Wilkins
	Nirsevimab and Abrysvo against RSV in neonates, infants and children (NARNIA-C).	Associate Professor Rebecca Doyle
	Population level impact of the 2025 NSW RSV prevention program	Professor Janaki Amin

(Long Orals) Skyline Room	Maternal RSVpreF vaccine effectiveness against respiratory syncytial virus in hospitalised infants	Dr Ushma Wadia
	Effectiveness of maternal or infant RSV protection against infant hospitalisation	Dr Mark McMillan
	Impact and Effectiveness of Australia's hybrid RSV immunisation program	Dr Ushma Wadia
	Effectiveness of hybrid maternal and infant RSV immunisation in Victoria, 2025	Ms Daneeta Hennessy
1B - Vaccine delivery & practice (Long Orals) Horizon Room	GSK Immunisation Award Winner 2025 - Project Presentation	Mrs Veronica Steegs
	Intranasal live attenuated influenza vaccine: an alternative influenza vaccine for Australian use	Dr Cyra Patel
	Building an equity-focused vaccinator workforce: lessons from COVID-19	Ms Sally Schnauer
	Building confidence, access and trust: Evaluating a decade of nurse-led immunisation clinics	Ms Sarah Davies
	Influenza pop-up clinics and home visits for First Nations families in Boorloo	Ms Naomi Nelson Dr Anastasia Phillips
	Embedding Opportunistic Patient Vaccination: Year One of South Eastern Sydney's VaxConnect Program	Dr Anthea Laura Katelaris
	National Priorities, Local Delivery: Victoria's Local Government Model Opportunities for the NIP	Ms Naree Atkinson
	Onscreen medical record notifications increase overdue immunisation delivery in Far North Queensland	Ms Claire Bowers Ms Caroline Taunton
1C - One health (Long Orals) Rodgers Room	Stop the bite: effective malaria outbreak responses in the Torres Strait, 2023-2025	Ms Claire Bowers Ms Colette Cashman Mr Dunstan Peniyamina
	Dengue and Q fever seroprevalence and infections in children	Dr Suzy Teutsch
	"I wouldn't wish it on anyone": patient experiences with Buruli ulcer	Dr Mohammad Akhtar Hussain
	First Nations Community Panels: Public Health Governance Tested Through Bird Flu Preparedness	Ms Bryony Roberts
	Developing on-farm management strategies for reducing H5N1 transmission in dairy cattle	Dr Oliver Eales
	An unexpected threat: responding to suspected local dengue transmission in NSW	A/Professor Linda Hueston
	Supporting travellers' vaccine decision-making: Randomised trial of a Japanese encephalitis decision aid	Dr Sarah McGuinness
	Infant botulism in South Australia, 2005-2024: case series of risks and follow-up.	Dr Emily Fearnley
1D - Outbreak preparedness & response (Long Orals) Quill Room	Surveillance, Intelligence and Insights: Strengthening public health systems through strategic intelligence	Ms Caroline Sumpton Dr Colin Malone Ms Michelle Wolthuizen
	Nosocomial outbreak of VanA uncovering environmental risk factors, informing future hospital infrastructure.	Dr Merryn Roe
	Outcomes and opportunities from the first Australian epidemic Scenario Modelling Hub exercise	Dr Alexandra Hogan A/Prof Freya Shearer
	Botulism in New South Wales - an increasing public health threat?	Ms Sarah Alland
	Sentinel: New Open-Source Software for Communicable Disease Surveillance and Outbreak Response	Dr Christian Peut
1E - Preventing respiratory transmission	A case of toxigenic respiratory diphtheria in WA: Challenges and lessons learned	Dr Paul Armstrong
	Respiratory Outbreaks in Residential Aged Care Facilities: Insights from Surveillance Data	Ms Rebecca Scott Doctor Clarissa Moreira
	Influenza outbreak in a hospital-based public health unit office	Dr Frances Ampt

(Long Orals) Foundry Room	Lessons Learned from a Chickenpox (varicella) Exposure in the Emergency Department, Melbourne	Ms Mia Brill
	Pandemic-Proofing Indoor Air: Accelerating Implementation in Victorian Schools and Council Buildings	Professor Helen Cox
	Digital communications enhancing reach and impact of health messaging for pertussis cases	Mrs Maria Penafiel
	Modelling the Impact of Macrolide-Resistance Testing on Pertussis Epidemics	Dr. Rong Liu

1F – Symposium 1 **Expanding protection: Improving vaccine coverage in Australia and worldwide**

Danvers room

Hosted by: VACSIG

Facilitated by: Professor Margie Danchin

Overview:

Poor vaccine coverage is of great concern worldwide, with the recent pandemic, socioeconomic barriers, political issues, as well as the spread of disinformation all being cited as contributors. The consequences, in terms of outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles, are now on our doorstep. This session aims to outline the pressing issues and discuss how we can all contribute to improving vaccine confidence and uptake and expanding protection in the Asia-Pacific region and Australia through understanding the drivers of vaccine hesitancy and potential, achievable, solutions. Regional health security is all our responsibility: how can we work together to enhance the health and wellbeing of our communities and minimise duplication of efforts

Opening talk: Prof. Chris Blyth - Vaccine coverage globally with a focus on the Asia-pacific region and then Australia and current status of vaccine-preventable diseases in our region- a focus on measles and polio.

Speakers/Panellists:

- A/Prof. Jessica Kaufman, Team Leader, Vaccine Social Science, Vaccine Uptake, MCRI
- Dr. Bianca Middleton, Paediatrician, Vaccine Researcher, Menzies School of Health Research
- Dr. Kristy Crooks, Public Health Aboriginal Team Lead | Health Protection
- Prof. Meru Sheel, Professor of Infectious Diseases and Global Health Infectious Diseases, Immunisation and Emergencies (IDIE) Research Group, Sydney School of Public Health
- Prof. Chris Blyth, Head Wesfarmers Centre of Vaccines and Infectious Diseases, Paediatric Infectious diseases physician and clinical microbiologist, The Kids Research Institute and UWA
- Camilla Burkot, DFAT Global Health Division, CDC

The panel will explore the practical and achievable solutions at a regional level and focused on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in Australia. The discussion will cover how we understand barriers to uptake to inform targeted solutions addressing both access and acceptance factors. We will discuss some innovative regional examples to improve coverage and on how to improve health service delivery for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. We will touch on some of the big RCTS that have been supported in these communities to try and change policy and practice ie ORVAC for rotavirus vaccines and Nirsevimab for RSV to protect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infants (THRIVE). We will explore regional health security and DFAT priorities and the National Immunisation Strategy (NIS) 2025-30 for Australia.

12:30pm – 1:30pm Lunch Tea & Exhibition		Medallion Club
Time	Concurrent Session 2	
Session Name & Room	Presentation Title	Speakers
2A - Vaccine safety monitoring (Long Orals) Skyline Room	GSK Immunisation Award Winner 2025 - Project Presentation	Dr. Sedigh Khademi
	Every week, every year, every vaccine: We are always watching....	A/Prof Hazel J Clothier
	Short-term safety of maternal RSV vaccine: results from active surveillance in Australia	Dr Thuy Nguyen
	Preventable Influenza Paediatric Complications and Antibiotic Use with Cell- vs Egg-based Vaccines	Dr Alicia Stein
	Short-term safety of concomitant vaccination in Older Australian Adults	Dr Lucy Dawes
	Quantifying short-term adverse events following influenza vaccination for children under 5 years.	Dr Evelyn Tay
2B - Disease trends and epidemiology (Long Orals) Horizon Room	Trust Built on Data: Long-Term HPV Vaccine Safety Surveillance	A/Prof Hazel J Clothier
	starling: An R Package for Probabilistic Record Linkage in Public Health Surveillance	Adj Professor Nicolas Smoll
	Burden of RSV, COVID-19, and Influenza admissions among Australian infants aged<6 months	Mr Mehyar Khair Baik
	Vaccination and disease burden in people experiencing homelessness, a data linkage approach	Dr Lauren Bloomfield
	Epidemiology of PIMS-TS in Australia During Successive SARS-CoV-2 Variant Periods, 2020-2025	Mr Mehyar Khair Baik
	Communicable Disease Hospitalisation Trends in Northern Territory: Surveillance and Indigenous Health Equity	Dr Omid Dadras
2C - Trends in notifiable diseases (Rapid Fires) Rodgers Room	The Epidemiology of Invasive Group A Streptococcus Disease in North Queensland, 2000-2020	Dr Himali Ratnayake
	MOLECULAR ASSESSMENT OF THE AETIOLOGY OF THORACIC EMPYEMA IN CHILDREN IN AUSTRALIA	Ms Monica Nation
	Australian epidemiology of vaccine-type invasive pneumococcal disease in high-risk children, 2022-2023	Ms Amanda Van Eldik
	Strains of Invasive Pneumococcal Disease (IPD) Cases in Southeast Melbourne, Australia, 2023-2025.	Mr Solomon Silverstein
	Update: Invasive Streptococcus pyogenes disease across Australian children's hospitals 2023 – 2025	Mrs Alissa Mcminn
	Acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease epidemiology in Victoria	Ms Julia Maguire
	Shifting epidemiology of meningococcal disease burden in Australia: insights for vaccine policy	Dr Rae-Anne Hardie
	What Is the Duration of Pertussis Immunity? Insights from Queensland Surveillance Data.	Mrs Mohana Rajmokan
	The epidemiology of cutaneous diphtheria in the Northern Territory in 2025	Ms Kimberley McMahon
	Buruli ulcer: Analysis of emerging endemicity in urban areas of Victoria, 2015-2024	Dr Storm Holwill
	A bite-sized souvenir: increasing overseas-acquired dengue among NSW residents	Ms Kaitlyn Vette
	Chlamydia prescribing trends before and after 2022 guideline update: sentinel surveillance 2015–2025	Dr Steph Munari
Rotavirus Burden Across Southeast Asia and Oceania, 2000–2023: insights from GBD2023	Ms Fan Yu	
Salmonella is everywhere in Timor-Leste: results of a One Health case-control study.	Mrs. Carolina da Costa Maia	

2D - Innovation (Rapid Fires) Quill Room	Designing infectious disease surveillance systems for learning infection dynamics	Dr Richard Creswell
	Forecasting Influenza-Like Illness Using Machine Learning in Australian Primary Care Influenza Surveillance	Mrs Zahra Ahsani
	Optimising early epidemic phase infection prevalence surveys to learn infection severity metrics	Dr Katharine Senior
	The Australian Blood Donor Study and Biobank- contributing to Australian Health Research	Dr Surendra Karki
	Vaccine trials with adaptive designs: Promise or peril?	Mr Michael Dymock
	Usability and Acceptability of HD-MAP Administration Among Healthcare Professionals and Lay Adults	Dr Cristyn Davies
	Use of Generative AI to assist Surveillance in Local Public Health Units	Dr Sashika Harasgama
	Digital Transformation of Local Government Immunisation: A Case Study in Operational Efficiency	Mr Anthony Renehan
	Thinking outside the box: using REDCap for public health operations	Dr Fiona May
Digital Innovation in Communicable Disease Management: A Quality-Improvement Approach in Western Sydney	Ms Jennifer Lampard	
2E - Sexually transmitted infections (Long Orals) Foundry Room	CENTRE-OF-RESEARCH-EXCELLENCE IN NEISSERIA DISEASE CONTROL (NEIS CRE): Long-term 4CMenB effectiveness against Neisseria	Professor Helen Marshall AM
	Creating solutions for an evolving syphilis outbreak: success stories from Boorloo (Perth)	Dr Grace Phua Ms Naomi Nelson
	Mathematical modelling to support public health response to mpox virus in Australia	Dr Marya Poterek
	Syphilis surveillance: A review of data systems and gaps during an epidemic	Mr Stuart Manoj-Margison
	Learnings from Public Health Reviews of Congenital Syphilis Cases, Western Australia, 2019-2025.	Prof Donna Mak
	HIV in Central and Western Melbourne – an opportunity for targeted prevention	Miss Courtney Turner
	Mpox in Western Australia: a collaborative and targeted public health response.	Prof Donna Mak

2F – Symposium 2
Danvers room

Increasing vaccination demand and uptake: The critical role for behavioural and social science

Hosted by: Collaboration on Social Science and Immunisation (COSSI)

Facilitated by: Professor Holly Seale

Overview: Immunisation coverage in Australia has declined over the past five years, with reductions observed across the lifespan, including children, high risk adults and older populations. Vaccine uptake is increasingly shaped by cost of living pressures, reduced access to primary care, declining trust in health institutions and government, and growing political polarisation. Reported challenges include loss of trust, vaccine fatigue, communication barriers, and concerns about access and affordability. Understanding these drivers is essential to inform effective strategies to close immunisation gaps in Australia, the Pacific, and globally.

A decade ago, the Collaboration on Social Science and Immunisation network was established to bring together researchers and practitioners committed to strengthening vaccine acceptance and uptake through better understanding of social and behavioural influences. This symposium will examine key national and international trends affecting coverage, address the impact of global political dynamics, and explore practical approaches to embedding behavioural and social insights into immunisation program design and delivery.

Presenters include:

- Prof. Holly Seale
- International perspective: Lisa Menning
- Domestic perspective: Julie Leask
- Prof. Kristine Macartney, Director NCIRS or delegate (10 minutes)

Panellists:

- Lisa Menning, WHO
- Prof. Julie Leask, University of Sydney
- Prof. Allen Cheng, Monash
- Dr. Stephanie Williams (Assistant Director-General for Communicable Diseases)
- Prof. Katie Flanagan, ATAGI Co Chair
- Prof. Kristine Macartney, Director NCIRS

3:00pm – 3:30pm	Afternoon Tea & Exhibition	Medallion Club
------------------------	---------------------------------------	-----------------------

Time	Concurrent Session 3	
3:30pm – 4:45pm		
Session Name & Room	Presentation Title	Speakers
3A - Maternal vaccination (Long Orals) Skyline Room	Implementation outcomes of a nurse-led antenatal immunisation service	Dr Dorothy Ling
	Maternal preferences for infant RSV preventives: an Australian Discrete Choice Experiment	Prof Margaret Danchin
	Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine choices during pregnancy	Dr Bing Wang
	MyVax Study: Understanding stakeholder priorities in designing a maternal vaccine schedule	Miss Alysha Caruso
	Implementing Maternal Pertussis Immunisation in Norway: Systems integration, uptake, and lessons learned	Dr Angela Labberton
3B - COVID and RSV in older adults (Long Orals) Horizon Room	Determinants of maternal vaccine uptake and the role of hospital-based immunisation clinics	Dr Dorothy Ling
	Patterns of COVID-19 Oral Antiviral Dispensing Across Australia, 2022–2024	Dr Angela Cadavid Restrepo
	COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness against hospitalisation in an Australian sentinel surveillance system	Dr Hannah Morgan
	The cost-effectiveness of respiratory syncytial virus vaccination for Australians aged ≥75 years	A/prof Anthony Newall
	A distributional cost-effectiveness analysis of respiratory syncytial virus vaccination in older Australians	Dr Kishor Kumar Paul
3C - Respiratory virus	Real-World Uptake and Effectiveness of Adjuvanted-RSVPreF3 Vaccine in COPD Patients in Denmark	Ms Gabrielle Paris
	Adjuvanted RSVPreF3 vaccine effectiveness against RSV-related hospitalization among US adults ≥60 years	Dr Agnes Chaumont
	SARS-CoV-2 infection patterns and immune responses by fourth-dose COVID-19 vaccination status	Mr Darren Ong
	Association between availability of LAIV and influenza VCR in children: PEARL study	Dr Merrin Tulloch
	Epidemiological Impact of School Holidays on Influenza Activity in Queensland	Dr Ashish Chandra Shrestha

epidemiology & vaccination (Rapid Fires) Rodgers Room	Emergence and impact of influenza A(H3N2) subclade K viruses in Australia, 2025	Dr Jessica Miller
	The Burden of Disease of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) in Queensland, 2024-2025	A/prof Krispin Hajkowicz
	Estimating hospitalisation and indirect societal costs RSV-related disease in West Australian children.	Dr Minda Sarna
	Early impact of nirsevimab on respiratory syncytial virus in Australian young children	Mr Darren Ong
	Population-Level Impact of Nirsevimab on Respiratory Syncytial Virus Hospitalisations in Infants	Dr Mahmudul Al Imam
	Comparative age-specific burden of respiratory viral disease in high-income settings	Dr James Wood
3D - Equity and priority populations (Rapid Fires) Quill Room	GSK Immunisation Award Winner 2025 - Project Presentation "From Arrival to Access"	Mrs Narelle Jenkins
	Developing a culturally safe data sharing agreement with First Nations communities	Mrs Elizabeth Harwood
	Embedding cultural leadership in local COVID-19 Incident Command Systems	Ms Kristy Crooks Ms Kylie Taylor Ms Elizabeth Harwood
	Pandemic Preparedness in Regional West Australian Residential Aged Care Facilities.	Ms Carla Puca
	Exploring coverage and predictors of vaccination in residential aged care homes	Dr Mairead Connolly
	Behavioural and Social Drivers of COVID-19 Vaccination Uptake Among Acehnese Elderly, Indonesia	Ms Yuyun Yuniar
	Respiratory infection Burden in Children with Down syndrome, Melbourne 2023-2024	Mr. Yifei Wang
	'No-one told me about high-risk foods!': improving communication to reduce listeriosis burden	Ms Virginia DeCourcy
	Factors affecting hospitalisation due to severe acute malnutrition among children in Timor-Leste	Mr Salvador Amaral
	Molecular evidence of Campylobacter circulation among children in Timor-Leste	Dr Lesy Atok
3E - Vaccine efficacy & effectiveness (Rapid Fires) Foundry Room	Effectiveness of adjuvanted RSVPreF3 vaccine against MACE, severe asthma, and COPD exacerbations	Dr Agnes Chaumont
	Epidemiology, vaccination status and vaccine effectiveness of varicella and herpes zoster hospitalisations	Dr Mahmudul Al Imam
	Impact of the universal QLD Nirsevimab program on infant notifications in 2024	Dr James Wood
	Effectiveness of mother's and infant's Respiratory Syncytial Virus immunisation in the ACT	Dr Nicola Irwin
	Assessing the Impact of the National Herpes Zoster Vaccination Program on Disease	Ms Sandrine Stepien
	A Systematic Review of the Humoral Response to Mpox and MVA-BN	Mr William Asquith
	An activation-induced marker assay for evaluation of pertussis vaccine-induced memory T-cell immunity	Mr Edison Foo
	Dengue knowledge and vaccine uptake: a pilot matched case-control study in Vietnam	MD Dang Khanh Linh Vien
	Increase in invasive pneumococcal disease due to serotype 4 in Victoria	Ms Janet Strachan
	Pneumococcal Disease in Non-Indigenous Australian Adults and Potential Reductions with Higher-Valency Vaccines	Dr Anna Ali
3F - Vaccination policy (Rapid Fires) Danvers Room	Conducting influenza vaccination in schools could significantly reduce Australia's health burden	Professor George Milne
	NSW Childhood Vaccination Campaign	Ms Amy Clarke Ms Leah Choi
	Impact of Village Health Worker Programs on Routine Childhood Immunisation in LMICs	Mr Jake Turvey
	Tale of Three Territories: Tailored Mandate Implementation in Australia and French Guiana	Professor Katie Attwell
	Pregnant pause? COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy in NSW, 2022	Ms Zoe Croker

A GEDSI Approach to Strengthening Vaccine Delivery: Southeast Asia and Pacific countries	Ms Bernice Sarpong Ms Sophie Chadwick
HPV Vaccine Uptake in Vietnam: Coverage, Determinants, and Strategies for National Scale-Up	Assistant Professor Doan Duong
How Vaccine Mandates Emerged Without a Mandate: Vietnam's COVID-19 Response	Dr Hang Duong Professor Katie Attwell
Closing the Gap Between Vaccination Policy and Execution Through Statewide Pharmacy Mobilisation	Mrs Anna Theophilos
Vaccination and Preventive Health Programs Reducing Expenditure in Older Adults NSW	Mrs Lakshika Gayashi Weerathunga

4:45pm – 5:00pm Break to move to Feery Oration

Time	Room	Session
5:00pm – 5:45pm	Victory Room & Plenary Hub	<p>Feery Oration – Sponsored by CSL Seqirus</p> <p>Session Chair: A/Prof. Stephen Lambert</p> <p>Orator: Professor Kristine Macartney - Director, NCIRS</p> <p><i>This is the 19th Oration to be delivered in honour of Dr. Brian Feery, a most distinguished scientist who has made a major contribution to and passion for immunisation and public health in Australia. Throughout his career Dr. Feery worked tirelessly in vaccine research, which included at CSL in the areas of preventable diseases of children, influenza vaccine, the development of Q Fever vaccine and studies into smallpox vaccine. His other key appointments included: Senior Associate in the Melbourne University Department of Medicine; Member of the research committee of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners; and he was also the director of the WHO Influenza Reference Centre from 1974-1978. He championed the promotion of immunisation in Australia through education and the development of immunisation policy until his retirement in 1990.</i></p>

5:45pm – 6:45pm	Medallion Club	<p>Welcome Reception - Sponsored by Moderna</p> <p>All delegates can join and network in a relaxed atmosphere</p>
-----------------	----------------	--

Time	Room	Session
8:00am – 5:00pm	Victory Promenade	Conference Registration Open
8:00am – 5:00pm	Medallion Club	Exhibition Open
9:00am – 10:30am	Victory Room & Plenary Hub	Plenary Session 2 - Respiratory Health: Evidence into Action Session Chairs: Professor Bette Liu and Ms. Karen Bellamy Keynote Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keynote 1 Speaker: Dr. Conall Watson – Consultant Epidemiologist, UK Health Security Agency• Keynote 2 Speaker: Dr. Ushma Wadia – Consultant, Perth Children's Hospital Followed by a panel discussion and Q&A. Moderator: Professor Nicholas Wood Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Conall Watson – Consultant Epidemiologist, UK Health Security Agency• Dr. Ushma Wadia – Consultant, Perth Children's Hospital• Professor Allen Cheng – Professor of Infectious Diseases, Monash Health• Professor Anne-Marie Eades – Professor, Curtin University
10:30am – 11:00am	Medallion Room	Morning Tea & Exhibition

*Please note: Symposium #3 starts at **10.45am** instead of 11.00am and finishes at **12.45pm** instead of 12.30pm*

Time	Concurrent Session 4
11:00am – 12:30pm	

Session Name & Room	Presentation Title	Speakers
4A - Influenza burden and vaccine effectiveness (Long Orals) Skyline Room	Trends in influenza epidemiology in Australia, 2010–2024	Ms Cyra Patel
	Epidemiological insights into the impact of influenza A(H3N2) subclade K in Australia.	Ms Lauren Welsh Ms Jenna Hassall
	Epidemiology of hospitalised influenza A/H3N2/subclade K from an Australian sentinel surveillance system	Dr Hannah Morgan
	Effectiveness of pregnancy influenza vaccination against infant influenza disease	Ms Nicole Sonneveld
	Estimated benefit of a school-based seasonal influenza vaccination program in Australia	Dr. Eliran Boksenbojm
	Influenza vaccine effectiveness in 2022 amongst a young influenza-virus-naïve cohort by dose	Ms Jessie Goldsmith
4B - Enteric diseases (Long Orals) Horizon Room	When Relationships Matter: Council Partnerships Deliver a Swift Multi-Jurisdictional Listeriosis Investigation	Mrs Jessica Travers
	Festival-Fever: When MDR Shigella stole the show at an Australian music festival	Mrs Jenny Dittmer
	Shigellosis and antimicrobial resistance in Shigella in Australia from 2017–2024	Ms Eliza Schioldann
	A multi-jurisdictional investigation of locally acquired hepatitis E in Australia, 2025-2026	Ms Sarah Alland
	Severe gastroenteritis outbreak in a remote Cape York Aboriginal community	Ms Nadine Hunt
	The epidemiology of hyperendemic salmonellosis in the Northern Territory of Australia, 2005-2024	Mr Anthony Draper
4C - TB & RHD (Long Orals) Rodgers Room	Strengthening Mass Gathering Safety Through Local Government Collaboration After a Shigella Outbreak	Mrs Jessica Travers
	ARF and RHD care: enablers and barriers among Māori and Pasifika populations	Dr Caitlin Shaw
	Deadly Heart Trek - detecting rheumatic heart disease in Northern Territory communities	Mrs Gina Majid
	National analysis of tuberculosis in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, 2002–2024	Ms Daisy Wang
	Remote Aboriginal Communities Ending TB Through Relational, Community-Led Care	Dr Emma Smith Mr Jobe Bonney
	Guidance for the Prevention and Response to Tuberculosis in First Nations Communities	Professor Justin Denholm Dr Caitlyn White Ms Nicole Tukana
4D - Respiratory vaccine immunogenicity studies (Long Orals) Quill Room	Tuberculosis contact screening and prophylaxis in an early childhood centre, Sydney, 2025.	Dr Anthea Laura Katelaris
	Heterologous COVID-19 vaccine schedules elicit mucosal IgG but not mucosal IgA responses	Ms Shania Tansil
	Observed Immunogenicity After Two Doses of aH5N8c Influenza Vaccine in Healthy Adults	Ms Ann Nguyen
	Immunogenicity of aH5N8c or aH5N6c Influenza Booster Vaccinations in Healthy Adults	Dr Jules Bayliss
	Safety of aH5N8c and aH5N6c Influenza Vaccine Priming and Boosting in Adults	Ms Ann Nguyen
	Immunogenicity and safety of AS01E-adjuvanted RSVPreF3 vaccine in immunocompromised versus non-immunocompromised adults	Associate Professor Michael Nissen
	Quantifying the association between neutralising antibodies and protection from RSV disease.	Prof Deborah Cromer
	PICOBOO: the immunogenicity of COVID-19 booster vaccines in individuals >12 years old	Dr Charlie Mcleod
	GSK Immunisation Award Winner 2025 - Project Presentation	Mrs Rachael McGuire
	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership at NCIRS: walking together for change.	Ms Kelly Trudgen
Codesigning Primary Care Interventions to Improve Vaccine Uptake in Indonesia	Ms Belle Overmars	

4E - Enhancing Vaccine programs (Long Orals) Foundry Room	Targeted recalls improve catch-up immunisation uptake among refugees in Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia	Dr Luke Wallington
	Exploring post-illness perspectives of Sunshine Coast residents who decided not to vaccinate.	Ms Kaylene Lottkowitz
	Understanding older adult views on vaccination: Asynchronous WhatsApp Focus Group	Dr Sarah McGuinness
	Monitoring HPV vaccination using the Person Level Integrated Data Asset	Dr Hamish McManus

4F – Symposium 3 Victory Room A Starts at 10.45am Finishes at 12.45pm	Australian Centre for Disease Control: Communicable Diseases Surveillance Strategy stakeholder workshop ** Please note this Session has limited capacity and will be closed off when capacity is reached. **	
	Hosted by: Australian Centre for Disease Control Facilitated by: Sean Chung - Slainte Advisory	

Overview: This workshop will support national consultation on Australia’s first Communicable Disease Surveillance Strategy to be developed and released by the Australian CDC. This foundational document will guide the development and continued enhancement of the CDC’s surveillance and data capabilities, identify priority areas, and highlight where investment, integration and innovation are needed to build a more connected and effective national surveillance network. In line with the CDIC 2026 theme, Public Health at Risk – Collective Solutions to New Challenges, this proposed workshop provides a timely forum for collective problem-solving at a moment of significant system reform.

Following release of the discussion paper, participants from across public health, community health and academic sectors will examine key themes, test options and share insights informed by operational experience, jurisdictional perspectives and community contexts. As an open consultation forum, the session offers a critical opportunity for stakeholders to directly shape the Strategy’s direction. Input gathered will inform decisions on priority areas, system improvements and governance approaches to strengthen Australia’s communicable disease surveillance capabilities .

12:30pm – 1:30pm	Lunch Tea & Exhibition	Medallion Club
	Come & Speak to Posters’ Authors	

Time	Concurrent Session 5	
Session Name & Room	Presentation Title	Speakers
5A - Increasing childhood immunisation coverage	Declining vaccine confidence among Australian parents: 2025 National Vaccination Insights Project data	A/Prof Jessica Kaufman
	Safe Start: interactive text message reminder and support service for overdue children	Ms Tara Kenny
	Just tell ‘em to come here: Parent perspectives on nurse-led immunisation clinics	Dr Kathryn Taylor
	Strategies to strengthen childhood vaccination uptake: First Nations families’ perspectives	Ms Kylie Taylor
	Continuous quality improvement of an immunisation catch-up plan support service	Dr Ciaran Kelly

(Long Orals) Skyline Room	From Story to System: How Consumer Involvement Builds Trust in Immunisation	Ms Catherine Hughes
	From Noise to Narrative: Mining MMR Vaccine Misinformation at Scale using VaxPulse-VIRAL	Dr Muhammad Javed Dr Sedigh Khademi Dr Hazel Clothier Prof Jim Buttery Dr Gerardo Luis Dimaguila
	Navigating Needle Fear: Healthcare Providers' Experiences Vaccinating Needle-Averse Children in New Zealand	Miss Isabella Hills
5B - Vaccine mandates and community perspectives (Long Orals) Horizon Room	Parents' perspectives on live attenuated influenza vaccine for young children in NSW	Dr Maryke Steffens
	Vaccine voluntarism or community coercion: Examining coercive mobilisation to vaccinate for COVID-19	Dr Joshua Lake
	Bridging Policy and Practice: Vaccine Exemptions in Australia	Ms Bianca Devsam
	Community First or My Body First? Moral Values and Vaccine Mandate Preferences	Dr Mesfin Genie
	What motivates vaccine mandate support? The role of values and trust	Dr Joshua Lake
	Collective by Design: Young Voices Reframing HPV Catch-Up Vaccination	Mr Julian Odessa
5C - Respiratory disease surveillance (Long Orals) Rodgers Room	No Jab, No Access? Preferences for Vaccine Mandates in Europe and Australia	Dr Mesfin Genie
	The Victorian Respiratory Surveillance Report: Integrating Data and Insights	Ms Ellie Robinson Ms Caroline Sumpton
	A new normal? Paediatric respiratory virus hospitalisations before and after COVID-19	Dr Dean Hayden
	Genomic epidemiology of human metapneumovirus infections in New South Wales, Australia	Dr Kingsley King-Gee Tam
	Community-Acquired Pneumonia Following Vaccine Preventable Respiratory Infections: A Statewide Retrospective Cohort Study	Dr Rebecca Brereton
	Epidemiology of Mycoplasma pneumoniae: Demonstrating the utility of the SnotWatch collaborative platform	Dr Aaron L Weinman
	Clade Typing and Monoclonal Antibody Susceptibility of Respiratory Syncytial Virus, Queensland, 2024-2025	A/prof Krispin Hajkowicz
5D - Public health practice and operations (Rapid Fires) Quill Room	A prediction model to estimate human metapneumovirus hospitalizations by climate in Australia	Dr. Belaynew Taye
	Managing Australian Bat Lyssavirus exposures in regional Queensland: a mixed-methods investigation	Dr Ho Yeung Lam
	It Took a Network: Harnessing Expertise in NSW's First Lyssavirus Case	Mr Robin Auld
	Sexually transmitted dengue virus in Victoria, a case study	Mr Malik Bendak
	Extensively-drug resistant shigellosis outbreak in three linked families in WA, 2025	Dr (PhD) Barry Combs
	Detecting and responding to a household-like cluster of invasive meningococcal disease	Mr Thomas Tamara
	Close contact matters- GAS infections among staff after emergency department iGAS exposure	Mr Jae Lee
	Understanding the role of fabrics and washing in managing Strep A infections	Dr Kate Summer
	Legionellosis Reinfection or Relapse? Lessons from Two Cases	Mrs Alana Little
	Decentralised nurse-led point-of-care hepatitis C testing and treatment in Ovens Murray	Ms Mashael Alghamdi
	Reconsidering hepatitis A post-exposure prophylaxis eligibility for household-like contacts, a guideline recommendation.	Mr Wesley David Alexander Cooper
Enhanced Public Health Follow-up of Women of Child-bearing Age with Infectious Syphilis	Ms. Zeel Patel	

5E - Rural and remote public health (Rapid Fires) Foundry Room	Un-herd: a retrospective serosurvey of Q fever exposure among Gippsland dairy farmers	Dr Shereen Labib
	Cross-jurisdictional Q fever outbreaks among shearing contractors: outbreak investigation and lessons learned	Dr Naomi Clarke
	“Querying” the status quo: the changing epidemiology of Q fever in NSW	Laura Lopez Ms Kaitlyn Vette
	Culturally Safe Tuberculosis Outreach Model for Aboriginal Communities in South Australia	Ms Hiu Kwan Wong
	Surge in melioidosis cases in north Queensland, Australia, January–June 2025	Mr Zac Doan
	Health Inequities in the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility Scheme: Opportunities for Improvement	Dr Geraldine Vaughan
	Designing scalable data-systems for mass-exposure events: Learnings from HPAI in regional Victoria	Mr. Brandon Henley-Smith
	Evaluating Remote Laundries Project for improved Rheumatic Heart Disease in Aboriginal communities.	Professor Ray Mahoney Dr Sophie Wright-Pedersen
	Rising Invasive Pneumococcal Disease in Rural-Remote Adults 50-69 Years Highlighting Vaccination Gaps	Mrs Linda Mason Mrs Lauren James
	Spatial analysis of flavivirus seroprevalence and mosquito surveillance in northern Victoria	Dr Maxwell Braddick
Getting to the point: opportunities for Japanese encephalitis vaccination in community pharmacies	Ms Brody Bamford	

5F – Symposium 4
 Danvers room

Digital innovations in Public Health

Hosted by: North Eastern Public Health Unit (NEPHU)

Facilitated by: Dr. Katherine Ong

Overview:

Harnessing digital innovation initiatives in the public health management of communicable diseases has the potential to improve data collection, improve public health reach and improve operational efficiency, thereby improving public health data and outcomes. With resource constraints, local public health units are well placed to identify operational needs and develop and trial digital innovations in an agile and responsive manner. Currently there are many such initiatives being developed, trailed and implemented across the country, and therefore many ideas and lessons that can be shared.

This symposium is an opportunity to bring together public health agencies nationally to share their digital innovation experiences, initiatives and barriers that have been overcome. Sharing of information could promote uptake of similar initiatives in other areas which could reduce duplication of efforts and increase reach, thereby improving Australia’s ability to effectively respond to communicable disease threats.

The symposium will also explore options to create a Digital Innovations Community of Practice, to be able to continue national discussions and collaborations in an ongoing manner.

Presenters include:

- Dr. Claire Gordon

- Dr. Bart Willems
- Dr. Charles Alpren
- Dr. Ben Scalley
- Dr Fiona May
- Dr. Rebecca Hogbin

3:00pm – 3:30pm Afternoon Tea & Exhibition

Medallion Club

Time	Room	Session
3:30pm – 4:45pm	Victory Room & Plenary Hub	Plenary Session 3 - Regional Threats & Response

Session Chair: Dr. Hazel Clothier and Dr. Christian McGrath

Keynote Presentations

- **Keynote 1**
Speaker: **Dr. Gina Samaan** – Regional Emergency Director, World Health Organization
- **Keynote 2**
Speaker: **Dr. Fiona Kupe** – Senior Paediatrician, National Capital District Health Authority (NCDPHA)
- **Keynote 3**
Speaker: **Dr. Joshua Hayward** – Research Team Leader, Burnet Institute
- **Keynote 4**
Speaker: **Ms Emma Denehy** – Assistant Director-General, Australian Centre for Disease Control

Those keynote presentations will be followed by Q&A with the keynotes.

15 min Break before Aileen Joy Plant Oration

5:00pm – 5:45pm	Victory Room & Plenary Hub	Aileen Joy Plant Oration
-----------------	----------------------------	---------------------------------

Session Chair: Professor Bette Liu

2026 Orator: Dr. Jeremy McAnulty

Professor Plant was a renowned and highly respected public health physician and epidemiologist. She was a consultant to the World Health Organization and to the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing for the management and prevention of infectious disease outbreaks and a long standing and active member of the Communicable Disease Network of Australia. She was passionate about her work and travelled extensively, often at great risk to herself, to help people and countries in need of her expertise.

Break before Conference Dinner

**7:00pm – Victory
10:00pm Room A**

Conference Dinner & GSK Immunisation awards

We are encouraging delegates to wear their favourite football colours/ outfit.

This is a ticketed function - Please wear your conference lanyard as this is proof of your dinner ticket purchase.

- Free seating
- Two courses (entree and main), plus non-alcoholic beverages.
- Alcoholic beverages will be available to purchase at the cash bar. See PHAA's 'Public Health Catering Guidelines around healthy food and alcohol' on the FAQ's page at www.cdic2026.com for more information.

2026 GSK Awards winners will be announced during the dinner.

Time	Room	Session
8:00am – 1:30pm	Victory Promenade	Conference Registration Open
8:00am – 1:30pm	Medallion Club	Exhibition Open
9:00am – 10:30am	Victory Room & Plenary Hub	<p>Plenary Session 4 - Public health under challenge five years post pandemic</p> <p>Session Chair: A/Prof. Stephen Lambert</p> <p>Keynote Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Keynote 1 Speaker: Professor Joseph Doyle – Professor of Infectious Diseases, Monash University</p> <p>Keynote 2 Speaker: Mr Abe Ropitini – Executive Director, Population Health, Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation</p> <p>Keynote 3 Speaker: Ms Catherine Hughes AM – Founder & Executive Director, Immunisation Foundation of Australia</p> <p>Keynote 4 Speaker: Dr. Nadia Toutounji – Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for Infectious Diseases and Microbiology - Public Health</p> <p>Those keynote presentations will be followed by Q&A with the keynotes.</p>
10:30am – 11:00am	Medallion Club	Morning Tea & Exhibition

Time	Concurrent Session 6	
Session Name & Room	Presentation Title	Speakers
11:00am – 12:30pm 6A - Surveillance and response (Long Orals)	Invasive Meningococcal Disease in Australian Children 2016-2022: A Multi-Centre, Prospective Surveillance Study	Dr Bing Wang
	From lived experience to action: Turning notifications data into hepatitis C Care	Ms Nicole Matthews
	Burden of public health follow-up typhoid and paratyphoid cases, South Australia, 2024-2025.	Dr Emily Fearnley

Skyline Room	The epidemiology of rotavirus and rotavirus vaccine-like strains in Australian infants	Mr Paul Young
	Rotavirus vaccine effectiveness by type, age-group, and region: systematic review and meta-analysis	Ms Fan Yu
	The pathway to making Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacterales a nationally notifiable disease	Ms Aruna Phabmixay
	Shifting landscapes for carbapenemase-producing-organisms (CPOs) in Victoria after 10-years of genomic surveillance	Ms Mathilda Wilmot
6B - Communicable disease control in our region (Long Orals) Horizon Room	Introducing Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine in Vietnam: A Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Impact Analysis	Dr. Xinyu Zhang
	Exploring Immunization Factors of Influence in Urban Centers Suva, Fiji.	Mrs Keleti Wainiqolo
	Optimising Vector-borne Sentinel Site Sampling in Papua New Guinea	Dr Katalina Bobowik
	Training Vaccine Champions in Eastern Highlands and Morobe, Papua New Guinea	Ms Milena Dalton
	Household food and water safety in Timor-Leste	Dr Lesy Atok
6C - Respiratory vaccines in children (Long Orals) Rodgers Room	Evaluation of the Rotavirus Immunization Program in Timor-Leste: National Surveillance Study	Dr Nevio Sarmiento
	Infant RSV Immunisation Coverage Following the Introduction of Nirsevimab and Abrysvo	Adj Professor Nicolas Smoll
	Modelling RSV in northern Western Australis	Fiona Giannini
	Routinely collected health data to characterise neonatal and maternal RSV prevention uptake	Dr Luke Spence
	Understanding parental acceptance of RSV immunisation in Western Australia in 2025.	Dr Shevaun Drislane
6D - Measles & Varicella (Long Orals) Quill Room	No Needle, No Flu, No Worries-2026 NSW Nasal Spray Influenza Vaccination Program	Ms Eve Wu
	Influenza vaccination uptake in children: impact of 2026 state-funded FluMist programs	Dr Alexandra Hendry
	2026 Queensland LAIV Immunisation Program: Consumer preferences for messaging and resources	Associate Professor Rebecca Doyle
	Australia's population susceptibility to measles in 2019	Ms Zoe Croker
	Measles epidemiology in Australia, 2014 to 2024	Ms Lizzie Gorrell
6E - Implementing immunisation (Rapid Fires) Foundry Room	Significant small-area measles immunity gaps threaten maintenance of Australia's elimination status	Mr Brynley Hull
	Timeliness and Equity: An Analysis of Measles Herd Immunity in Regional NSW	Ms Katrina Clark
	Shingrix vaccination uptake and Adverse Events Following Immunisation in regional Queensland	Mrs Michelle Butler
	Variation in varicella vaccine coverage and equity in Australian children, 2010–2022	Dr Calan Spielman
	Mr Ryan Noronha	
6E - Implementing immunisation (Rapid Fires) Foundry Room	Impact of Varicella Vaccination on Paediatric Varicella and Zoster Hospitalisations, 2002–2022, Australia	Dr Joanne Jackson
	What motivates people to participate in active vaccine safety surveillance?	
	The Power of Consumer Signals in Vaccine Safety: From Concern to Trust	
	Double Stakes: Vaccine administration errors in pregnancy: Victorian experience	
	The MyVax Study: Understanding pregnant women's priorities for maternal vaccination	
	Understanding Knowledge and Attitudes Towards RSV Immunisation: A STAMP RSV Project	
	From Reaction to Reassurance: A Victorian Experience Managing Vaccine Hypersensitivity in Children	
	Strengthening Cold Chain Management in Residential Aged Care via an Audit Project	
	Keeping the door open: staff experiences and perspectives on nurse-led immunisation clinics	
	Enhancing Workforce Immunisation in a hospital: Implementation and outcomes at Austin Health.	
Implementing Evidence-Based Strategies to Improve Immunisation Coverage in ENB, Papua New Guinea		

6F - Rapid outbreak reports (Rapid Fires) Danvers room	Pacific-Led, Partner-Supported: Australia’s Response to the 2025 Pacific Dengue Outbreak	Ms Camilla Burkot Ms Lynette Phuong
	Enhanced surveillance confirms an outbreak of hepatitis C in a Canberra prison	Ms Alexandra Marmor
	Using whole genome sequencing to identify and investigate tuberculosis clusters	Ms Maddy Whelan
	Evaluating the impact of pathogen genomics on a tuberculosis outbreak in Victoria	Ms Daisy Wang
	Better Together: How Collaboration Revealed the Source of a Yersinia Outbreak	Miss Hannah Shanks-colla
	A Streptococcus pyogenes outbreak (ST-178 emm44) in a residential aged care setting	Ms Gina Stuart
	Shared food, shared risk: a Salmonella outbreak in childcare	Ms Hibaq Ahmed
	Investigation of a large outbreak of cryptosporidiosis in Western Australia, 2025	Dr (PhD) Barry Combs
	Acute gastroenteritis outbreak from a hospital-wide staff lunch	Ms Gabrielle Hales
From COVID-Safe to Disease-Safe: Lessons from an unusually large norovirus outbreak	Ms Jenny Post	
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Lunch Tea & Exhibition <i>A session will take place during lunch – See below for details</i>	Medallion Club

Time	Room	Session
1:00pm – 1:30pm	Victory Room & Plenary Hub	<p>LUNCH SESSION – Poster Winners Announced & Lighting Update on Recent Outbreaks - Expansion</p> <p>Poster Judges: Ms Karen Bellamy, Ms Katrina Clark & A/ Prof. Hazel Clothier</p> <p>The update on recent outbreaks is an expansion on topics touched on in Plenary 3 discussion of "Regional threats & responses" from a representative of the Australian CDC.</p> <p>Presenter: Ms Emma Denehy – Assistant Director-General, Australian Centre for Disease Control</p>
1:30pm – 3:00pm	Victory Room & Plenary Hub	<p>Closing Plenary Debate – Influencers are more impactful than experts in changing public health</p> <p>Panel Moderators: Prof. Meru Sheel and Prof. Christopher Blyth</p> <p>Yes Debaters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Richard Brett – CEO, Ogilvy • Assoc. Professor Sanjay Senanayake – Infectious Diseases Physician, Australian National University <p>No Debaters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Paul Kelly – Founder & Principal, PK Public Health Advisory • Dr. Monique Ryan, MP – Federal Member for Kooyong

Conference Close - Adjunct Professor Terry Slevin, Chief Executive Officer, Public Health Association of Australia

Venue Map

Please note: Each concentric circle is a different level.

