

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AGEING AND AGED CARE CONFERENCE

AGEING OUR WAY THROUGH CULTURE, CONNECTION AND COMMUNITY



PROGRAM
2026



NATSIAACC

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Ageing and Aged Care Council

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

NATSIAACC acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters on which we work, live and gather, as well as Country throughout Australia, and their enduring connections to land, sea and community. NATSIAACC acknowledges that these lands and waters were never ceded, and we acknowledge the sovereignty and self-determination of the Traditional Owners.

NATSIAACC pays its deepest respects to Elders past and present and recognise the continued cultural and spiritual connection to Country and/or Island Home, community, culture and knowledge.

NATSIAACC thanks them for their wisdom and courage, and for sharing their ways of knowing, being and doing - teachings that guide us to cherish and protect our Elders and Older People.

This always was, and always will be Aboriginal Land.



MASTER OF CEREMONIES



Shelley Ware

MC, Author, TV Presenter

Shelley has an established presence across television and radio, she contributes a fortnightly opinion and AFL column for the Koori Mail, and has worked extensively within the AFL and AFLW. She is recognised as a thought leader in First Nations education, working at the intersection of cultural knowledge, wellbeing and contemporary teaching practice.

Shelley has spent over a decade developing nationally used curriculum resources through SBS Learn and many highly regarded organisations, supporting educators to embed First Nations perspectives in meaningful, respectful and practical ways. Her work centres on identity, cultural understanding and the role education plays in shaping more inclusive futures.

She is a Lifetime Ambassador for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation, where she has supported and mentored young people to become authors, contributing to the creation of multiple community-led books. She is also the author of *We Are Matildas* celebrating diversity, friendship and being a part of a team. Shelley was named Football Woman of the Year in 2019 and was a finalist in the 2024 National NAIDOC education award, recognising her contribution across education, sport, media and community.

As a keynote speaker and facilitator, Shelley works with educators and organisations across Australia, creating spaces for reflection, dialogue and deeper understanding, grounded in storytelling, relational learning and community connection.

PROGRAM DAY 1

TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2026

Theme: Truth, Reform and Community Realities

TIME	PROGRAM
8:00am	Registration and Community Gathering
8:30am	Smoking Ceremony Walk through smoke to begin our 2-day conference. <i>Presented by: Uncle Richie Allan, Ngunnawal Elder.</i>
9:00am	MC Shelley Ware Welcome Welcome and Conference Framing.
9:10am	Welcome to Country Welcome to Country performed by Ngunnawal Elder. <i>Presented by: Aunty Violet Sheridan, Ngunnawal Elder.</i>
9:20am	Wiradjuri Echoes Performance Grounding delegates in culture and connection.
9:35am	Chair Opening Address National leadership reflections and conference purpose. <i>Speaker: James Atkinson, Acting NATSIAACC Chair, CEO, ACES.</i>
9:45am	CEO Address Positioning the conference as a national First Nations-led gathering. <i>Speaker: Kim Whiteley, CEO, NATSIAACC.</i>
9:55am	<u>Panel What Communities Are Telling Us</u> Families, workforce and communities experience the Aged Care system from different perspectives. This conversation brings those voices together to share what Elders and Older People are experiencing when seeking and receiving care, and what those experiences tell us about where the system needs to listen and respond differently. <i>Facilitator: Kim Whiteley, CEO, NATSIAACC.</i> <i>Panellists: Aunty Angela Brown, Elder, Yerrabi Yurwang; Lorice Douglas, Support Worker, Yaandina Community Services; Ana Malupo, Aged Care Worker, Mala'la; Tess Peters, Eldercare Coordinator, Orange Aboriginal Medical Service.</i>
10:25am	<u>Speaker Personal Address</u> Pre-recorded Message Hear directly from Natalie Siegel-Brown, former Inspector-General of Aged Care, as she shares her reflections and insights with the Ageing and Aged Care sector. <i>Speaker: Natalie Siegel-Brown, Former Inspector-General of Aged Care.</i>
10:30am	Morning Tea

Theme: Truth, Reform and Community Realities

TIME	PROGRAM
11:00am	<p><u>Panel Reform to Reality: One Year into Change</u></p> <p>Across communities, people are still asking whether reform is making Aged Care easier, safer and more connected for Elders and Older People. This session brings reform back to its purpose: what has actually changed for Elders, Older People, families and communities, where expectations have not yet been met, and what must remain in focus as implementation continues.</p> <p>Facilitator: Cassara Hardie, Director of Operations, NATSIAACC.</p> <p>Panellists: James Atkinson, CEO, Aboriginal Community Elder Services; Barbara Kimber, Malpa Manager - Aged Care, Disability, Social Support, Purple House; Aunty Rachel Atkinson, CEO, Palm Island Community Company; Mishelle Brewer, Community Aged Care Manager, First Peoples' Health and Wellbeing.</p>
11:40am	<p><u>Panel Strength Through Culture and Community</u></p> <p>Care has always existed within family, community and culture. Through personal storytelling and reflection, this session celebrates the relationships, humour, cultural knowledge and community strength that support Elders and Older People to age well, reminding us that care is about much more than services alone.</p> <p>Facilitator: Joshua Kelly, Strategic Reform & Intelligence Officer, NATSIAACC.</p> <p>Panellists: Dr Kate Smith, Research Lead, UWA Aboriginal Ageing Well Research Team; Dr Tiffany McComsey, CEO, Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation.</p>
12:05pm	<p><u>Panel Ageing in Urban, Regional, Rural, Remote and Thin Market Communities</u></p> <p>Where Elders and Older People live shapes how Aged Care is accessed and delivered. Providers will share their experiences across urban, regional, rural and remote communities, the realities of delivering care in different settings, and the initiatives they have developed in response. The conversation will give delegates practical insight into how place, community and local conditions shape different approaches to care.</p> <p>Facilitator: Ellen Finlay, Senior Policy & Research Officer, Australian Association of Gerontology.</p> <p>Panellists: Matt Moore, Executive Director - Aged Care, Institute for Urban Indigenous Health; Kylie O'Bryan, CEO, Booroongen Djugun Limited; Lorraine Webb, team Leader - Aged Care, Karadi Aboriginal Corporation; Ana Malupo, Aged Care & Community Services Manager, Mala'la Health Service.</p>
12:30pm	Lunch

Theme: Truth, Reform and Community Realities

TIME	PROGRAM
1:30pm	<p><u>Panel Navigating Care with Trust, Dignity and Advocacy</u></p> <p>For many Elders and Older People, the first challenge is knowing where to start. This session follows the experience of navigating assessment, My Aged Care, advocacy and support, examining where trust is built or lost and what a culturally safe pathway through the system should feel like from the perspective of an Elder or Older Person.</p> <p>Facilitator: Kim Whiteley, CEO, NATSIAACC.</p> <p>Panellists: Samantha Edmonds, Director of Policy, Education, and Systemic Advocacy, Older Persons Advocacy Network; Aunty Margret Campbell, Elder of the Dunghutti - Djirringanj Nations, Wyanga Aboriginal Elders Program; Marion Dwyer, Elder Care Program Senior Coordinator, Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council.</p>
2:10pm	<p><u>Speaker Community-Led Solutions in Action</u></p> <p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled organisations are designing care around the needs of their own communities. Through real examples, this session showcases solutions developed on the ground, the cultural and service responsibilities these organisations carry, and what their experience can teach the broader sector about designing care around community rather than expecting community to fit the system.</p> <p>Speaker: Aaron Chambers, Executive Manager - Positive Ageing & Disability, Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative.</p>
2:30pm	<p><u>Video Stories and Reflections Why This Work Matters: Personal Journeys Through Care</u></p> <p>Behind every policy, program and service is an Elder or Older Person, family and community experiencing its impact. Through video stories and reflections, this session explores personal journeys through care, the moments that made a difference, positively or negatively, and the role of community-led support - bringing the conversation back to what dignity, culture, connection and good care mean in people's lives.</p> <p>Speaker: Debbie Alexander, Healthy Ageing Manager, Orange Aboriginal Medical Service</p>
3:00pm	Afternoon Tea and Melbourne Cup Gathering

Theme: Truth, Reform and Community Realities

TIME	PROGRAM
3:30pm	<p><u>Panel Workforce, Leadership and Sustainability</u></p> <p>We know the workforce pressures facing Aged Care. This conversation hears from organisations and leaders building the workforce differently. It will examine the cultural load carried by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers, approaches to growing and retaining workforce, and how stronger First Nations leadership and career pathways can change the future of the sector.</p> <p>Facilitator: Joshua Kelly, Strategic Reform & Intelligence Officer, NATSIAACC. Panellists: Karl Briscoe, CEO, NAATSIHWP; Jed Fraser, Government Relations Lead, Indigenous Allied Health Australia; David Roberts, Director - Innovation and Training, Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council.</p>
4:05pm	<p><u>Speaker Knowledge into Practice: Supporting Community-Led Ageing and Aged Care</u></p> <p>Evidence has greatest value when communities can use it. This session demonstrates how research, knowledge and practical tools can be translated into better practice, giving delegates tangible examples of how evidence can strengthen and support culturally safe, community-led Ageing and Aged Care.</p> <p>Speaker: Associate Professor Rebecca Bilton, Program and Research Director, Aged Care Research & Industry Innovation Australia.</p>
4:25pm	<p><u>Panel Truth-Telling and System Accountability</u></p> <p>Communities have raised many of the same concerns for years. This leadership conversation asks a harder question: when the evidence and community voices are clear, what prevents systems from changing? Senior system leaders will reflect on their responsibilities, where accountability sits and what must be different if reform is to translate into better outcomes for Elders and Older People.</p> <p>Facilitator: Ellen Finlay, Senior Policy & Research Officer, Australian Association of Gerontology. Panellists: Kim Whiteley, CEO, NATSIAACC; Gary Rake, Deputy Commissioner, Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission; Sonja Stewart, Deputy Secretary for Ageing and Aged Care, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing; Kate Pope PSM, Acting Inspector General of Aged Care.</p>
5:10pm	<p><u>MC Shelley Ware Day One Reflections, Connection and Closing Gathering</u></p>
5:15pm	<p><u>Community Connection Gathering</u></p> <p>Delegates are invited to join us in connection, conversation and informal yarning at our social event.</p>

Theme: Healing, Leadership and Future Generations

TIME	PROGRAM
8:30am	Arrival and Morning Gathering On arrival, tea and coffee will be available.
9:00am	Welcome Scene setting and Day 2 framing.
9:05am	Acknowledgement of Country
9:10am	Aboriginal Cultural Immersions Opening cultural performance.
9:25am	<p><u>Panel Community Control as Care: Honouring Our Past, Shaping Our Future</u></p> <p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities have always led their own solutions for caring for Elders and Older People. This conversation traces the strength and legacy of Community Control, what it makes possible for Elders and communities, and why the future of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ageing and Aged Care must be grounded in community leadership, self-determination and Community Controlled delivery.</p> <p>Facilitator: Kim Whiteley, CEO, NATSIAACC. Panellists: LaVerne Belleair, CEO, Aboriginal Medical Service Redfern; Jodi Cassar PSM, Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner; Elsja Dewis, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advocate, Aged and Disability Advocacy Australia.</p>
10:10am	<p><u>Speaker Culture, Dignity and Belonging</u></p> <p>Ageing well is about more than receiving services and supports. This reflection considers what it means to remain connected to identity, family, culture and community throughout the ageing journey, and why dignity and belonging must be understood as fundamental to good care rather than an addition to it.</p> <p>Speaker: Aunty Jill Gallagher AO, CEO, VACCHO.</p>
10:30am	Morning Tea
11:00am	<p><u>Panel Healing, Memory, Culture and Care</u></p> <p>Trauma, racism, grief, loss and disconnection can continue to shape people's experiences as they age. This conversation brings together perspectives across healing, dementia, grief and palliative care to consider how culture, memory, family and community can remain sources of identity, strength and healing throughout changing care needs.</p> <p>Facilitator: Cassara Hardie, Director of Operations, NATSIAACC. Panellists: Leonie Williamson, Deputy CEO, The Healing Foundation; Merisa Holland, Facilitator/Reconciliation Action Plan Lead, Dementia Australia; Chelsea Menchin, National Projects and Operations Director, Palliative Care Australia; Uncle Richard Campbell, Stolen Generations Survivor.</p>

Theme: Healing, Leadership and Future Generations

TIME	PROGRAM
11:40am	<p><u>Speaker Conversation with Community Leadership</u> Pre-recorded Message</p> <p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and Older People continue to carry culture, knowledge and leadership within communities. In this conversation, Minister McCarthy will reflect on the national priorities affecting Elders and Older People, the role of First Nations leadership in shaping government responses, and what stronger outcomes should look like for communities.</p> <p><i>Speaker:</i> Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy, Minister for Indigenous Australians.</p>
11:45am	<p>Ministerial Address Government Reflections on First Nations Ageing and Aged Care</p> <p><i>Speaker:</i> The Hon Sam Rae MP, Minister for Aged Care and Seniors.</p>
12:00pm	<p><u>Open Yarn Healing, Care and Community</u></p> <p>Delegates are invited into the conversation to reflect on what they have heard throughout the morning, share their own knowledge and experience, and consider what the discussion means for the way care is designed and delivered in their own communities and organisations.</p>
12:30pm	Lunch
1:30pm	<p><u>Panel Elders Voices: What Does Ageing Our Way Mean?</u></p> <p>This session centres the voices of Elders and Older People as they share stories, reflections and hopes for the future. Through lived experience, truth-telling and cultural reflection, they will share what ageing our way means to them, what they value and expect from Aged Care, and what they want future generations to protect and carry forward through culture, connection, community, dignity and self-determination.</p> <p><i>Facilitator:</i> Joshua Kelly, Strategic Reform & Intelligence Officer, NATSIAACC. <i>Panellists:</i> Uncle Warren Daley, Ngunnawal Elder; Aunty Ruth, Yerrabi Yurwang; Aunty Narelle Hutchin, Yerrabi Yurwang; Aunty Lee-Anne Daley, Yerrabi Yurwang; Ebony Joseph, Family Member/Carer.</p>

Theme: Healing, Leadership and Future Generations

TIME	PROGRAM
2:20pm	<p><u>Facilitated Yarn Future Generations: Leadership, Workforce and Cultural Continuity</u></p> <p>The next generation will inherit responsibility for caring for Elders and carrying culture, knowledge and leadership forward. Through the voices of emerging leaders and workforce, this session explores what draws younger people into Ageing and Aged Care, what will keep them there and how intergenerational knowledge and cultural continuity can strengthen the future workforce.</p> <p>Facilitator: Ellen Finlay, Senior Policy & Research Officer, Australian Association of Gerontology.</p> <p>Panellists: Amy Hayes, Aged Care Worker, Ltyentye Apurte; Ana Malupo, Aged Care Worker, Mala'la; Rebecca Morris, Intergenerational Carer, Booroongen Djugun Ltd; Jed Fraser, Government Relations Lead, Indigenous Allied Health Australia.</p>
2:50pm	<p><u>Speaker Who Owns the Story? Data, Evidence and Accountability</u></p> <p>Data influences what governments see, what gets funded and how success is measured. This session asks whose knowledge counts, who controls the story told by the data, and whether current evidence reflects what Elders, Older People and communities say matters. It will challenge delegates to think differently about Indigenous Data Sovereignty, community ownership and how outcomes should be understood and measured.</p> <p>Speaker: Dr Terri Janke, Solicitor Director, Terri Janke and Company.</p>
3:10pm	Afternoon Tea
4:00pm	<p><u>Panel Looking Forward: National Priorities and Collective Action</u></p> <p>Leaders will reflect on the priorities that require national attention, where First Nations leadership must be strengthened, and the responsibilities different parts of the system must carry to translate discussion into action.</p> <p>Facilitator: Cassara Hardie, Director of Operations, NATSIAACC.</p> <p>Panellists: Kim Whiteley, CEO, NATSIAACC; James Atkinson, CEO, Aboriginal Community Elders Services; Kate Pope PSM, Acting Inspector General of Aged Care; Jodi Cassar PSM, Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner.</p>
4:40pm	<p><u>Conference Closing Reflections and Shared Commitments Forward</u></p> <p>The Conference closes by bringing together the key reflections, priorities and challenges heard across the two days. These will inform NATSIAACC's post-conference Reflections Paper and ongoing national advocacy, carrying the voices and priorities shared at the Conference forward into the work that follows.</p> <p>Speaker: Shelley Ware</p>
4:50pm	End of Proceedings

FACILITATORS



Kim Whiteley

CEO | NATSIAACC

Kim Whiteley is a respected national leader whose expertise and lived experience are deeply grounded in her culture and identity. A proud descendant of the Warramunga Bogan River people, born and raised in Wellington, NSW, Kim brings more than 40 years of leadership across education, health, justice, and land rights - with a strong focus on First Nations strategy, governance, and partnered community engagement.

Kim has held leadership roles within government, community-controlled, and not-for-profit sectors, including Chief Executive Officer of the Remote Area Health Corps (RAHC), Western Zone Director at the NSW Aboriginal Land Council, and Head of First Nations Strategy & Engagement at Cancer Council Australia. She is widely respected for championing cultural safety, advancing governance, driving transformative reform, and achieving measurable outcomes that advance equity and improve services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, families, and communities.

Kim has also contributed her expertise and leadership through service on advisory bodies such as at the NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation, the NSW/ACT PHN Aboriginal Primary Health Care Executive, and the Cancer Institute NSW Indigenous Advisory Committee. In addition, she currently holds a ministerial appointment as a Board Member of the Homes NSW Aboriginal Housing Office.

As Chief Executive Officer of NATSIAACC, Kim brings her deep cross-sector expertise and cultural authority to champion the voices of Elders and Older People, strengthen national advocacy, and influence policy reform. She is committed to ensuring ageing and Aged Care services are culturally safe, trauma-aware, community-led, and grounded in respect, dignity, and self-determination.

Cassara Hardie

Director of Operations | NATSIAACC

Cassara Hardie is a proud Dunghutti woman from Northern New South Wales. Born and raised on Dharug Country, Western Sydney, NSW. Cassara has been working within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Sector for the last 7 years, starting from working in an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation to a state peak body, whilst undertaking a Masters degree in Human Resources Management.



Cassara's overall passion is to enhance career pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in order to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and Communities.

FACILITATORS



Joshua Kelly

Strategic Reform and Intelligence Officer | NATSIAACC

Josh Kelly is a proud Aboriginal man from Worimi with family ties to Biripi Country, he is a leader, strategist, and passionate advocate for families, and community empowerment. His work is driven by a commitment to creating equitable opportunities for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Peoples through leadership, policy reform, and community-led solutions.

With experience across the public sector, Josh has contributed to workforce strategy, diversity, equity and inclusion, Indigenous engagement, organisational transformation, and Aged Care reform. In his role as Strategic Reform & Intelligence Officer, he will bring together data, insight, and strategic thinking to support better decision-making and stronger outcomes for communities across the Country. He is committed to strengthening partnerships between government and communities, ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices are central to the design of policies and services across the life course, including for Ageing and Aged Care.

As a father of six, Josh brings both lived experience and professional insight to his advocacy. He is a strong voice for culturally safe education, youth wellbeing, and improved outcomes for Aboriginal children and families, and dignified, culturally responsive support for older Aboriginal People. His leadership is grounded in integrity, respect, and a belief that lasting change comes from listening, collaboration, and empowering communities.

Ellen Finlay

Senior Policy & Research Officer | Australian Association of Gerontology

Ellen is a public health researcher and policy specialist with expertise in ageing, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, and social inequality. She holds a PhD in Public Health from UNSW, where her research focused on the ageing experiences of Aboriginal Elders and older Aboriginal people in Greater Sydney.



Ellen is a Senior Policy and Research Officer at the Australian Association of Gerontology, where her work spans research, policy development and advocacy. She is also undertaking research at UNSW in the drug and alcohol support sector, examining mainstream and Indigenous ways of working with people who experience substance misuse. Across her work, Ellen is strongly committed to ethical research practices, community control, and translating research into meaningful policy and practice.

SMOKING CEREMONY



Uncle Richie Allan

Ngunnawal Elder | Smoking Ceremony

Uncle Richie is a Ngunnawal Kamilaroi custodian who was born in Ngunnawal Country and raised on both Ngunnawal and Kamilaroi Country. He is Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation's (TOAC) Cultural Director where he manages cultural awareness, education and Ngunnawal relationships. He is also a Ngunnawal expert and provides valuable advice to organisations on culture and creating safe workplaces for Aboriginal people to thrive in.

Uncle Richie is a highly respected Cultural man with decades of experience. He is on Cultural Boards including, ACT Ministerial Creative Council, ACT Tourism Leadership Committee, and the ACT Chief Police Officer Indigenous Advisory Board.

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Aunty Violet Sheridan

Ngunnawal Elder | Welcome to Country

Aunty Violet Sheridan is a pillar of the community in Canberra and the region. She is a passionate Ngunnawal Elder who shares her cultural knowledge and expertise with the entire community. She generously donates her time at events, schools, and for a broad range of organisations - in a bid to bring all Australians together.



CULTURAL PERFORMANCES

Wiradjuri Echoes

Day 1



Duncan Smith was born in Wiradjuri Country, Wellington NSW. Duncan spent his younger years learning his culture and painting with his elders and members of his family. Elders in Duncan's community took him hunting and gathering and taught him cultural dances.

He has a strong family connection with his mother who taught him about art, and he has now made his own connections painting with acrylic paint and ochre. Duncan's paintings reflect his connection to the land. He runs a very successful business in teaching his culture through arts and dancing and is very well respected in Canberra and NSW. Jakida grew up dancing with her family. She works alongside her father, Duncan, sharing Aboriginal culture through art, story and dance. She is dedicated to teaching the next generation to be strong and proud of their culture. Jakida is passionate about making a positive impact within the Wiradjuri culture and making sure we all play a part in carrying on long-lived traditions.

Aboriginal Cultural Immersions

Day 2

Leading the cultural Immersions for this event is Luke McLeod Ebsworth, a Wandandian man, Aboriginal dancer, storyteller and cultural knowledge keeper. A member of the Doonooch Dancers and grandson of renowned Aboriginal musician, activist and poet Bobby McLeod, Luke brings knowledge passed down through generations to create meaningful opportunities for learning, understanding and connection.



His family's stories include the McLeods travelling through Braidwood and Ngunnawal Country, following a right of way to the Murray River and back in search of native honey. These journeys form part of a continuing connection to Country, family and cultural knowledge. The Immersions are delivered through Aboriginal Cultural Immersions (ACI), an organisation providing Aboriginal-led cultural experiences and performances across Australia. Founded by CEO Darrel Baird in Lightning Ridge, NSW, ACI works with corporate organisations, government agencies, schools and communities to share and celebrate Aboriginal culture. Working with Traditional Owners, cultural practitioners, musicians and dancers, ACI delivers experiences ranging from Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremonies to didgeridoo performances, corroboree dance and cultural workshops. Grounded in cultural authority, authenticity and respect, these experiences invite participants to deepen their understanding of and connection with the world's oldest continuing living cultures.

SPEAKERS



James Atkinson

Acting Chair | NATSIAACC
CEO | ACES

James is a Yorta Yorta/Bangerang man who is currently employed as the Chief Executive Officer of the Aboriginal Community Elders Service. James' previous employment was as Chief Executive Officer of the Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative and as Manager of Koorie Education with the Department of Education and Training.

James has a great deal of organisational experience and has served on Boards at a state and national level. James has been a VACCA Board Member for 19 years. He was one of the founding members of the first Victorian Aboriginal Youth Advisory Committee and a participant in the Koorie Leadership Program.

Presentations and Panels: Chair Opening Address, Looking Forward: National Priorities and Collective Action.

Aunty Angela Brown

Ngiyampaa/Wailwan/Ngembra Elder | Yerrabi Yurwang

Aunty Angela is a Ngiyampaa/Wailwan/Ngembra woman living on Ngunawal/Ngambri country in Canberra. She was a Federal Public Servant for 14 years, including as a CPSU delegate, but retired at 63 due to very poor health. She is the Chair of the Consumer Advisory Committee for Musculoskeletal Health Australia and has contributed to university research committees and provided input to other committees on medications and procedures.



Aunty Angela has a Diploma in Welfare, many short courses and advocates - especially for Mob. It is her passion. She has volunteered for cancer support as a volunteer and grief counsellor (her first-born boy passed away from a rare muscle cancer at 6 years old) for her Mob in many capacities including working on NAIDOC celebrations, both nationally and locally, and for musculoskeletal health for all Australians.

She has 3 surviving children and 14 grandchildren, whom she would love to see so much more, but strokes have curtailed her ability to travel. She is so glad we have technology, and she can see videos and instant pics of their lives. She loves to paint, create and chat.

Panels: What Communities Are Telling Us.

SPEAKERS



Lorice Douglas

Family Carer | Yaandina Community Services

Lorice Douglas was born at Roebourne District Hospital in 1967 and has lifelong connections to Roebourne and Ngarluma Country. She spent her early childhood at Andover Station/Woodbrook before growing up at Weerianna Hostel, while her parents, Tim Douglas and Rita Bobby, lived and worked at the Old Reserve in Roebourne.

Lorice has continued to live, work and contribute to the Roebourne community throughout her adult life. She currently works at Yaandina's Turner River Rehabilitation Centre, supporting people across the Pilbara. Lorice also helps care for her 84-year-old father, Tim Douglas, a respected Cultural Authority and Lore Boss on Ngurin Ngarluma Ngurra and across the Pilbara. Tim is supported by Yaandina Community Services through the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program (NATSIFACP), helping him remain connected to community, culture and Country.

Panels: What Communities Are Telling Us.

Ana Malupo

Aged Care & Community Services Manager | Mala'la Health Service

Ana moved to Australia from Tonga in 1988. She started as a Receptionist at Yirrkala clinic where she picked up her interest in Nursing and studied Nursing externally while raising a large family in Nhulunbuy. All her Nursing career is in the NT, working in RDH, Katherine Hospital then Remote clinics. Ana has been a Remote Area Nurse & Health Centre Manager for over 20 years.



She spent 15 years as a Health Centre manager in East Arnhem region then moved to West Arnhem in 2022 to work at Mala'la Health Service as the Rheumatic Heart Disease Coordinator for 2 years. She then applied for the Aged Care manager role early this year and started in February. One of her strengths is working and empowering Indigenous workforce.

Panels: What Communities Are Telling Us, Ageing in Urban, Regional, Rural, Remote and Thin Market Communities, Future Generations: Leadership, Workforce and Cultural Continuity.

SPEAKERS



Tess Peters

Eldercare Coordinator | Orange Aboriginal Medical Service

Terese Peters is a proud Gundungurra woman, born and raised in Robertson on the beautiful lands of the Gundungurra Nation. Robertson has always been her home, and Carrington Falls holds a very special place in her heart. It is her safe place, a place of peace, connection and reflection, where her beloved father is laid to rest and where she feels his spirit most strongly.

She raised her four amazing children on Wiradjuri Country and now takes great pride in watching her beautiful grandchildren learn about their culture, connect with their community, and develop a deep respect for the land they call home. For the past three and a half years, Tess has worked at Orange Aboriginal Medical Service. Prior to this, she worked in disability and aged care, supporting some of the community's most cherished people. Caring for others has always been her passion, particularly supporting Elders. She believes Elders should be honoured, respected and cherished for their wisdom, strength and resilience, and for the foundations they have built for future generations. Tess is also passionate about supporting people living with dementia and helping families better understand how to care for and support their loved ones throughout their dementia journey.

Panels: What Communities Are Telling Us.

Barbara Kimber

Malpa Manager - Aged Care, Disability and Social Support | Purple House

Barbara Kimber was born and raised in Mparntwe (Alice Springs), where she maintains deep connections to the community she calls home. With more than 20 years' experience in the not-for-profit and community services sector, Barbara began her career as a support worker while completing tertiary studies in Queensland.



She went on to build extensive management experience across aged care, disability, homelessness and mental health services before returning to Mparntwe to be closer to family. After returning home, Barbara joined Purple House, an Indigenous-led and directed dialysis service, as Malpa (Companion) Manager. Six years on, she remains passionate about her role and proudly describes it as the best job in the world. As Malpa Manager, Barbara is dedicated to growing the Indigenous workforce, fostering cultural safety, and expanding training and development opportunities. She works closely with Purple House clients, families, staff and communities to provide innovative social support and aged care services in Mparntwe and the remote Central Australian communities of Yuendumu and Mt Liebig.

Panels: Reform to Reality: One Year into Change.

SPEAKERS



Aunty Rachel Atkinson

Director | NATSIAACC

CEO | Palm Island Community Company

Rachel Atkinson is a proud Yorta Yorta woman who is dedicated to improving the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. She is a qualified Social Worker with over 25 years' experience as CEO of large community-based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations delivering health, and child and family services.

She has been the CEO of Palm Island Community Company since its incorporation in 2007 and has overseen its growth to become the largest non-government service provider and employer on Palm Island. Ms Atkinson is the current Co-Chair of the Queensland First Children and Families Board, Co-Chair of Family Matters Queensland, Board Director of SNAICC and Deputy Chairperson of Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council. She is a previous Chair of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak and CEO of Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Service.

Panels: Reform to Reality: One Year into Change.

Mishelle Brewer

Community Aged Care Manager | First Peoples' Health and Wellbeing

Mishelle is currently working and living on Bunurong/BoonWurrung Country and works across Wurundjeri Woiwurrung lands of the Kulin Nation to support Elders. Mishelle has a background in Psychology and Social work and has worked in the Aged Care sector in various roles for the past 30 years.



She has been fortunate enough to work for First Peoples' Health and Wellbeing in their implementation of their Aged Care services for Elders in Community as they started this journey in 2024. She is passionate about advocacy and ensuring that Elders are able to access services that are needed to continue to live their best life with the focus being self-determination.

Panels: Reform to Reality: One Year into Change.

SPEAKERS



Dr Kate Smith

Research Lead | Good Spirit Good Life, UWA Aboriginal Ageing Well Research

Dr Kate Smith is Associate Professor at Boola Boola Djinda, Medical School, University of Western Australia, on Nyoongar Country. She is an occupational therapist and Co-director of the National Good Spirit Good Life Centre of Research Excellence in Indigenous Ageing Well.

She was a founding member of the National Advisory Group for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aged Care, and Co-Chair of the NNIDR-NHMRC Indigenous Dementia Roadmap committee. Kate's 25 years of translational research governed by Elders includes the co-design with Elders and service partners of Good Spirit Good Life (Elder wellbeing assessment and framework), KICA (dementia assessment package), DAMPAA (brain health program) and partnership models of care for health and aged care policy and practice.

Panels: Strength Through Culture and Community.

Dr Tiffany McComsey

CEO | Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation

Dr Tiffany McComsey is CEO of Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation, a Stolen Generations Survivor-led Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation. She joined KBHAC in 2011 and was appointed CEO in 2015. Tiffany holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Manchester. Her research explored Aboriginal community development in Redfern and the intergenerational impacts of Stolen Generations policies.



She was a Co-Chair of the National Sorry Day Committee and inaugural coordinator of Just Reinvest NSW and has spent close to two decades working alongside Aboriginal communities and organisations in Sydney.

Panel: Strength Through Culture and Community.

SPEAKERS



Matt Moore

Executive Director – Aged Care | IUIH

Matt Moore works as part of the IUIH Home Support Aged Care Services, who provide household and social support services to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders aged 50 or over to maintain their independence, improve their quality of life and stay in their homes for longer. The IUIH Home Support team works across multiple aged care planning regions with a focus of bringing Elders together.

Panels: Ageing in Urban, Regional, Rural, Remote and Thin Market Communities.

Kylie O'Bryan

CEO | Booroongen Djugun Limited

Ms Kylie O'Bryan – CEO of Booroongen Djugun Limited – has worked in diverse roles, such as Nursing, Case Management and Service Delivery for Booroongen Djugun. With over 25 years of experience in the Aged, Disability, Community Care and Training sectors specific to the Aged Care industry, Kylie has a strong understanding of and capability in service delivery.



She has worked with local and regional Elders in the Kempsey and Mid North Coast areas in community and service provision, including supporting clients through the new Aged Care reforms and Elders with disability. She has provided countless hours of advocacy for Aboriginal Elders and their carers across the Mid North Coast region, having spent her career working across other organisations in WA, the Pilbara and NSW.

Kylie has a passion for traditional and culturally safe care for our Elders, with her career beginning on the grassroots frontline, where she was directly mentored and educated by her traditional Dunghutti Elders, both of that generation and currently.

Kylie is a proud Dunghutti woman who has raised her children and grandchildren on Country. She understands the impact of Stolen Generations trauma on Elders, with her great-grandmother being from the traditional lands of the Yugara people. Kylie has walked alongside many Elders, listening to their challenges in accessing quality care to live independently and in a culturally safe way in their homes and on Country.

Panels: Ageing in Urban, Regional, Rural, Remote and Thin Market Communities.

SPEAKERS



Lorraine Webb

Team Leader - Aged Care | Karadi Aboriginal Corporation

Lorraine Webb is a dedicated aged care professional with over 20 years of experience in the sector. Currently serving as the Team Leader for Aged Care at Karadi Aboriginal Corporation, Lorraine brings extensive industry knowledge, practical experience and a longstanding commitment to supporting the needs and wellbeing of older people.

Throughout her career, Lorraine has undertaken significant leadership responsibilities, developing a strong understanding of aged care service delivery, team coordination and the importance of providing respectful, person-centered support. Her years of hands-on experience have equipped her with valuable insight into the evolving needs of older people and the challenges faced within the aged care sector.

In her current role, Lorraine draws on this experience to support the coordination and delivery of aged care services, contributing to a positive and supportive environment for both clients and staff. With more than two decades of experience, Lorraine brings a knowledgeable, practical and grounded perspective to conversations about aged care, leadership and the importance of delivering quality services that respond to the needs of individuals and communities.

Panel: Ageing in Urban, Regional, Rural, Remote and Thin Market Communities.

Samantha Edmonds

Director, Policy, Education and Systemic Advocacy | Older Persons Advocacy Network

Samantha is the Director of Policy, Education and Systemic Advocacy at the Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN). Sam has extensive knowledge and experience in policy, advocacy, human rights, and a strong commitment to social justice. Sam is on the Board of the International Federation of Ageing, Chairs the DHDA Diversity Consultative Committee and is a distinguished member of the Australian Association of Gerontology.



Sam holds Masters Degrees in Social Administration, Politics and Public Policy and International Relations. She advocates strongly for the voices of older people to be included in and listened to across the aged care sector.

Panel: Navigating Care with Trust, Dignity and Advocacy.

SPEAKERS



Aunty Margret Campbell

Elder of the Dunghutti - Djirringanj Nations | Wyanga Aboriginal Elders Program

As founder and Managing Director, Margret Campbell is a proud Djunghutti and Djirringanj Elder who has been operating Dreamtime Southern X on Gadigal Country in Sydney NSW for 30+ years, with Dreamtime Southern X rebranded in 2009. Dreamtime Southern X offers immersive experiences, tours and training programs that share Dreaming environmental knowledge, storytelling detailing culture and heritage with corporate groups, government agencies, educational institutions and community. Dreamtime Southern X was founded to pass on detailed DreamTime knowledge, to share cultural knowledge with visitors and locals and provide opportunities for increased understanding and connection.

Panel: Navigating Care with Trust, Dignity and Advocacy.



Marion Dwyer

Elder Care Program Senior Coordinator | Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council

Marion Dwyer has dedicated her career to supporting older people and their families, with extensive experience across residential, community and home care. She currently works with QAIHC, supporting the Elder Care Support workforce across Queensland through training, workforce development and helping Elders navigate the aged care system.

Her background includes senior case management, aged care navigation, the Aged Care Navigator Trials and My Aged Care Agent Pilot, and Care Finder services. Marion is passionate about making aged care easier to understand and navigate and is also continuing her own personal journey of connecting with her Aboriginal heritage through her father, who was a Kamilaroi man.

Panel: Navigating Care with Trust, Dignity and Advocacy.

SPEAKERS



Aaron Chambers

Executive Manager - Positive Ageing & Disability Services | Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative

Aaron is presenting on behalf of Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative, an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation on Yorta Yorta Country in Shepparton and Mooroopna, Victoria. Since 2020 he has led Rumbalara's Elders and Community Care team: more than 90 staff delivering residential aged care, home care, disability and community programs from Albury to Mildura.

Aaron has previously held roles at Ernst & Young, the National Disability Insurance Agency and local government. He holds a Master of Social Work from La Trobe University.

In this session, Aaron shares what Rumbalara has built with its community and Elders, and what that experience can teach the wider aged care system.

Presentation: Community-Led Solutions in Action.

Debbie Alexander

Healthy Ageing Manager | Orange Aboriginal Medical Service

Born and raised in the beautiful town of Orange, nestled in the heart of Wiradjuri Country, Debbie feels incredibly blessed to still live, work and call Orange home. Debbie is one of nine siblings, a proud mother of two beautiful adult daughters and grandmother to three spunky grandsons. She is happily married after 38 years.



For the past 22 years, Debbie has worked in the aged care industry. Her journey began as a Care Assistant with what was then Uniting Care. Here she developed into a full-time coordination role which she held for 14 years. For the past seven and a half years, Debbie has worked with Orange Aboriginal Medical Service (OAMS), where she continues to learn every day what it means to be an ally to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community she has the privilege of supporting.

Today, Debbie is the Healthy Ageing Manager, overseeing the Elder Care Support Program and Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) services alongside her dedicated team. Every day brings something different. Through it all, Debbie and her team never lose sight of the privilege they have in supporting Elders and the broader ageing community.

Presentation: Why This Work Matters: Personal Journeys Through Care.

SPEAKERS

Karl Briscoe

CEO | NAATSIHWP

Karl Briscoe is the Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners (NAATSIHWP), the national peak body representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners. In this role, he provides national leadership on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce development, cultural safety, health policy and advocacy, working with governments, health services and community-controlled organisations to strengthen healthcare outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



A proud Kuku Yalanji man from the Mossman-Daintree region of Far North Queensland, Karl brings more than two decades of experience across Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. His career spans community-controlled health organisations, Queensland Health and senior executive positions in the hospital and health system, including Executive Director of Indigenous Health and Outreach Services for the Cape York and Torres Strait Hospital and Health Service and Clinical Services Manager at Galambila Aboriginal Health Service. Through these roles, he has led major initiatives in service delivery, workforce development, partnership building and health system reform.

Panel: Workforce, Leadership and Sustainability.



Jed Fraser

Government Relations Lead | IAHA

Jed is a proud Bidjara and Mandandanji man with family and cultural connections to South West Queensland, particularly Charleville and Augathella. He has worked in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector for almost a decade, spanning workforce development, policy, research and advocacy. His work focuses on advocating for policies, investment and reform that

strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing, workforce development and community-led approaches to health. Central to his work is the recognition that culture is fundamental to the health, wellbeing and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities, and must be embedded in the policies, systems and services that affect their lives.

Panel: Workforce, Leadership and Sustainability, Future Generations: Leadership, Workforce and Cultural Continuity.

SPEAKERS

David Roberts

Director – Innovation & Training | AH&MRC

David Roberts is Director of Innovation and Training at the Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council of NSW. He directs the organisation's Registered Training Organisation and the broader training portfolio that supports First Nations health and community services. He oversees strategy, curriculum design, compliance, and delivery across a broad suite of qualifications and skill sets, from primary and public health programs to leadership, community, and pre-employment training.

Panel: Workforce, Leadership and Sustainability.



Associate Professor Bec Bilton

Program and Research Director | ARIIA

A/Prof Bec Bilton, works and lives on Kurna country in Adelaide, South Australia. She is the Program and Research Director of ARIIA, an aged care support organisation that delivers national capability building and knowledge mobilisation programs to increase aged workforce capability to implement best practice, innovate and embed technology.

Her career, experiences and achievements have been underpinned by her role as a boundary spanner – to ensure knowledge is shared between research, best practice and service delivery to achieve practical solutions-focused outcomes for vulnerable Australians.

Presentation: Knowledge into Practice: Supporting Community-Led Ageing and Aged Care.



Gary Rake

Deputy Commissioner | Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission

Gary Rake is the Deputy Commissioner of the Regulatory Operations Division at the Commission. Prior to this, he was CEO of the Australian Building Codes Board. An economist and accountant, Gary brings broad regulatory and leadership experience, having held senior roles across the Commonwealth, ACT and NSW Governments focused on community service, regulation and consumer protection.

Gary was born, lives and works on Ngunnawal & Ngambri Country in Canberra. In his spare time he volunteers as a surf life saver on the Lands and Waters of the Yuin People on the south coast of NSW.

Panel: Truth-Telling and System Accountability.



SPEAKERS



Sonja Stewart

Deputy Secretary of the Ageing and Aged Care Group

Sonja Stewart joined the Department of Health and Aged Care in December 2024 as the Deputy Secretary of the Ageing and Aged Care Group. Sonja is a Yuin woman with extensive senior leadership experience across State and Commonwealth governments including as Deputy Secretary at the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet and as Deputy Commissioner of the NSW Public Service Commission.

Her more recent roles include CEO of the Law Society of NSW and CEO of Arrilla Indigenous Consulting.

As a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors she has been a Director and Chair of Government, Academic and Not for Profit Boards for over 25 years and is currently the Chairperson of the Goodes O'Loughlin Foundation – which aims to improve educational outcomes of Aboriginal children and young people.

Panel: Truth-Telling and System Accountability.

Kate Pope PSM

Acting Inspector General of Aged Care

Kate commenced as the acting Inspector-General of Aged Care on 1 August 2026 while the process to appoint a permanent Inspector-General continues. Kate has held a broad range of policy, program delivery and executive leadership roles across the Federal Government, beginning her career with the former Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs. While at Immigration, Kate had postings in Jakarta, Hanoi and Warsaw.



During her time overseas, Kate also completed a Masters of International Development Policy at Duke University in the United States. In 2015, Kate joined the Department of Health leading grants reform, before moving to the Department of Veterans' Affairs in 2016, where she held several senior leadership roles prior to retiring in 2024. For four years, Kate held the statutory position of Deputy President of the Repatriation Commission. In recognition of her service to the Commonwealth, Kate was awarded a Public Service Medal as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours list in 2012.

Panel: Truth-Telling and System Accountability, Looking Forward: National Priorities and Collective Action.

SPEAKERS



LaVerne Bellear

CEO | Aboriginal Medical Service Redfern

Ms Kim (LaVerne) Bellear is a proud Bundjalung woman from the North Coast of New South Wales. She is the Chief Executive Officer of the Aboriginal Medical Service Co-operative Limited (AMS Redfern) – the first Aboriginal community-controlled health organisation in Australia. LaVerne is a respected leader in Aboriginal Health and an advocate for self-determination.

She has held senior leadership and directorship roles, with a particular focus on Aboriginal Health reform that delivers culturally responsive services to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. She is the Deputy Chairperson of the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (AH&MRC), a Director for Thirrili, a national provider of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide postvention support and assistance, she is the Co-Chair of the Sydney Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Health Partnership and a Member of the Board of Sydney Local Health District, one of the leading public health organisations in New South Wales. She is a former Director of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO). LaVerne has had a key role in shaping Aboriginal Health policy at both state and national levels. She holds a Bachelor of Business, a Professional Certificate in Indigenous Research: Training and Practices, and a Graduate Diploma of Public Health from the University of New South Wales.

Panel: Community Control as Care: Honouring Our Past, Shaping Our Future.

The Hon. Jodi Cassar PSM

Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner

Hon Jodi Cassar PSM is the Interim Commissioner of the Australian Government's Office of the Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner. A proud Gamilaraay woman with strong connections to Worimi Country in New South Wales, Jodi is a senior public sector leader with extensive experience driving national reform across aged care, disability inclusion, social policy and community wellbeing.



As Interim Commissioner, Jodi led the establishment of the permanent First Nations Aged Care Commissioner role, and works in partnership with First Nations Elders, communities, service providers, and governments to strengthen culturally safe, accessible, and high-quality aged care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Her work focuses on amplifying the voices of First Nations older people, supporting systemic reform, and ensuring aged care policies and services better reflect the needs and aspirations of communities. She is recognised for her collaborative leadership style, commitment to codesign and ability to bring together governments, communities and lived experience voices to achieve meaningful change.

Panel: Community Control as Care: Honouring Our Past, Shaping Our Future, Looking Forward: National Priorities and Collective Action.

SPEAKERS



Elsja Dewis

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advocate | ADA Australia

Elsja Dewis's people are the Wuthathi people from the Cape of Far North Queensland on her mother's side and Boigu Island on her father's side from the Torres Straits. She has spent the last 4 years advocating for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders as an aged care and Disability Advocate. Prior to working as an advocate, she worked in the state and federal government for over 35 years.

Elsja has always been passionate about positive change and enhancing the wellbeing of all peoples. She has a strong belief that through her efforts she is only part of a solution and ensure she is not part of the problems and is always finding ways to encourage others to speak up not just through their words but through their actions. Aged and Disability Advocacy Australia (ADA Australia) is a not-for-profit, independent, community based advocacy and education service with 30 years' experience in supporting and improving the wellbeing of older people and people with disability. Headquartered in Brisbane they provide advocacy services to older people and people with disability in metropolitan, regional, rural and remote communities across Queensland.

Panel: Community Control as Care: Honouring Our Past, Shaping Our Future.

Aunty Jill Gallagher AO

CEO | VACCHO

Jill Gallagher AO is a proud Gunditjmara woman from Western Victoria who has worked within, led and advocated for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Victoria for all her life. Jill is a highly respected leader who has dedicated her life to advocating for self-determination outcomes on behalf of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.



Jill is the CEO of the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation where she has spent the past 25 years advancing Aboriginal health and wellbeing. Jill was recognised for her outstanding contribution to community when she was inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women in 2009, awarded the Order of Australia in 2013, and inducted into the Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll in 2015. Jill was also closely involved in leading the Victorian journey to treaty serving as Victoria's Treaty Advancement Commissioner from 2017 to 2019.

Presentation: Culture, Dignity and Belonging.

SPEAKERS



Leonie Malezer Williamson

Deputy CEO | The Healing Foundation

Leonie Malezer Williamson is a descendant of the Gubbi Gubbi and Butchulla peoples through her father, with her maternal side having roots in North West Queensland. With over twenty years of experience in Indigenous policy and programs, Leonie has worked in policy, research and advocacy across both government and the Aboriginal Community Controlled sector.

Her work spans various themes including community development, employment, economic development, and health and wellbeing. Leonie is firmly committed to the importance of Indigenous governance and leadership. She has a keen interest in processes that empower communities by shifting policy and decision-making to the local level. Leonie believes that healing and overcoming intergenerational trauma are intrinsically linked to truth-telling and the restoration of rights.

Panel: Healing, Memory, Culture and Care.

Merisa Holland

Facilitator/Reconciliation Action Plan Lead | Dementia Australia

I am a proud Wiradjuri woman living and working on Yuggera and Turrbal Country in Meanjin. I am on an ongoing journey of learning and connection with my culture, guided by the wisdom and generosity of many Elders. As the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Lead and Educator at Dementia Australia, I bring experience in dementia care, wellbeing and education.



Through storytelling, yarning and relationship building, I work with colleagues to build understanding of culturally safe dementia care and what this can mean for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. I am committed to breaking down barriers, building awareness and supporting people living with dementia, their families and communities. I want to help ensure people can maintain connection to culture, identity, family, community and Country, as these connections are central to wellbeing and remain important as care needs change. My mission is simple: to help close the gap.

Presentation: Healing, Memory, Culture and Care.

SPEAKERS



Chelsea Menchin

National Projects and Operations Director | Palliative Care Australia

With more than 25 years' experience working in health policy and project management, Chelsea Menchin has contributed to a range of national programs and reform processes in primary care, chronic disease management and mental health. In her role as National Projects and Operations Director at Palliative Care Australia, Chelsea provides strategic oversight to the project team working to develop and implement projects and collaborations

that aim to improve awareness of, access to and quality of palliative care for all who need it, from neonates to the elderly. This work includes the Quality Improvement Suite of Resources for specialist and primary palliative care services; PCA Member, sector and stakeholder project collaborations; and the management of the National Register for Palliative Care Consumers and Carers.

Personally, Chelsea is an active volunteer in aged care, social inclusion and homelessness initiatives on Ngunnawal and Ngambri country, in Canberra and the Southern Tablelands region.

Panel: Healing, Memory, Culture and Care.

Uncle Richard Campbell

Stolen Generations Survivor

Uncle Richard Campbell is a respected Aboriginal Elder and proud Stolen Generations survivor with strong cultural and historical connections to community. As a former resident of the Kinchela Aboriginal Boys' Training Home in New South Wales, Uncle Richard carries lived experience of the policies that forcibly removed Aboriginal children from their families.



His story reflects both the profound impacts of these practices and the enduring strength, resilience, and cultural continuity of First Nations people. Throughout his life, Uncle Richard has been committed to sharing his story to educate others about the Stolen Generations and to support truth-telling, healing, and reconciliation. Drawing on his experiences, he contributes to community conversations, awareness initiatives, and cultural programs that aim to ensure this history is acknowledged and understood. Uncle Richard is widely respected for his generosity in sharing knowledge, his advocacy for justice and recognition, and his ongoing dedication to supporting younger generations. His voice plays an important role in preserving cultural memory and guiding reconciliation efforts across communities. Through his work and lived experience, Uncle Richard continues to inspire understanding, respect, and meaningful change.

Panel: Healing, Memory, Culture and Care.

SPEAKERS



The Hon Sam Rae MP

Minister for Aged Care and Seniors | ALP

Minister Rae was elected to the Federal Parliament in 2022 and appointed Minister for Aged Care and Seniors on 13 May 2025. He is the Federal Labor Member for Hawke.

Presentation: Ministerial Address

Aunty Ruth

Yerrabi Yurwang

Aunty Ruth is a Barkendji Women by her mother and a Wiradjuri Woman by her father. She was born in a tent on the fringes of Dubbo, NSW. Wiradjuri is the Country she grew up on. She is 63 years old, and is the youngest child of 18. Both of her parents were married twice. She is the youngest now, but she had a younger brother Edward. He passed on when he was 20 months. Both of her parents were Aboriginal, but she is blonde haired and blue eyed.

From her youngest memory she was told she was black and taught her mother's culture. Aunty Ruth was told how to walk, talk and under no circumstances tell anybody she was black. It was a no no back then, as kids got taken. She is retired after working for most of her adult life.

Panel: Elders Voices: What Does Ageing Our Way Mean?



Aunty Narelle Hutchin

Yerrabi Yurwang

Aunty Narelle Hutchin was born in Condobolin and has lived in Canberra on and off for the last 24 years. She weaves and makes bush medicine.

Panel: Elders Voices: What Does Ageing Our Way Mean?

SPEAKERS

Aunty Lee-Anne Daley

Senior Cultural Practitioner | Yerrabi Yurwang

Lee-Anne is a proud Wiradjuri Woman from Wellington NSW and has more than 15 years' experience working in the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector. She is a passionate advocate for ensuring Aboriginal self-determination, views and values underpin service delivery to the local Aboriginal community.



Lee-Anne moved to Canberra over 20 years ago and has worked in various strategic policy service delivery positions that included Winnunga Nimmityjah as a Bringing Them Home Counsellor, before moving to the ACT government in several roles and is now a Senior Child and Family Worker supporting vulnerable children and their families and coordinating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs. Lee-Anne has completed several VET Sector and tertiary qualifications, including an Advanced Diploma Health Science (Aboriginal Mental Health), a Graduate Diploma of Health Management and a Diploma of Health Science (Aboriginal Health).

Panel: Elders Voices: What Does Ageing Our Way Mean?

Ebony Joseph

Family Member and Carer | Yerrabi Yurwang



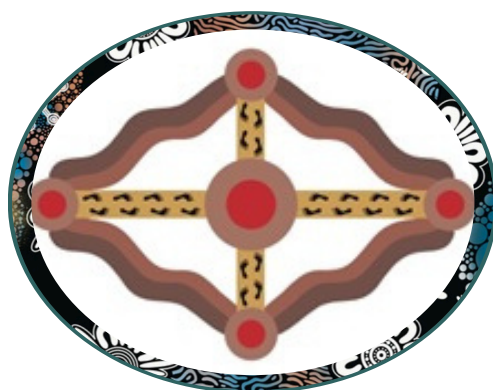
Ebony Joseph is a family member and carer at Yerrabi Yurwang. Yerrabi Yurwang Child & Family Aboriginal Corporation was established in 2019, due to the high unmet health and wellbeing needs of the local Aboriginal Community residing in Canberra's Northwestern Ngunnawal region. Yerrabi Yurwang means to walk strong and was bestowed upon the organisation by esteemed and respected Ngunnawal Elder Aunty Agnes Shea OAM.

Panel: Elders Voices: What Does Ageing Our Way Mean?

Amy Hayes

Aged Care Worker | Ltyentye Apurte Community Care

Amy Hayes is an Aged Care Worker at Ltyentye Apurte Community Care and is based in Santa Teresa, Northern Territory. Ltyentye Apurte Community Care offers aged care and home support programs designed to help older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remain connected to their family, community, and culture while receiving care in a safe and supportive environment.



Panel: Future Generations: Leadership, Workforce and Cultural Continuity

SPEAKERS



Rebecca Morris

Intergenerational Carer | Booroongen Djugun Limited

Rebecca (Beccy) Morris is a proud young Dunghutti woman who carries the rich legacy of her heritage. Raised by her beloved grandmother, Aunty Debra Morris and her grandfather, Uncle Gary Morris OAM, co-founder of Booroongen Djugun Limited and the CEO for 34 years, Beccy has been shaped by the powerful influence of her family.

Beccy grew up in a nurturing environment rich in cultural traditions, she has been taught the ways of her ancestors, gaining invaluable knowledge and wisdom from her Elders. As a young intergenerational carer, Beccy embraces her role with dedication, reflecting the lessons of resilience and compassion imparted to her by her family. Her lived experiences have guided her in forging her own path while staying connected to her roots. Beccy's commitment to honouring her cultural identity not only enriches her own life but also strengthens the bonds within her community, as she seeks to uplift and support others through her unique journey.

Beccy is a role model for all young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and can pass on her knowledge and wisdom to ensure our generations are ready to lead us with the wisdom and determination taught by our Elders.

Panel: Future Generations: Leadership, Workforce and Cultural Continuity.

Dr Terri Janke

Solicitor and Owner | Terri Janke and Company

Dr Terri Janke is a Wuthathi, Yadhaigana and Meriam woman and a nationally and internationally recognised authority on Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP). As Solicitor Director of Terri Janke and Company, she has spent her career developing ethical, practical pathways for working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, grounded in respect for cultural authority and self-determination.



Photo: Nick Cubbin

Terri advises governments, researchers and organisations on Indigenous Data Sovereignty, ethical data-sharing and research agreements, and the emerging intersection of artificial intelligence and Indigenous rights. Her keynote will explore who controls First Nations data and stories, and what must change so that data and evidence in the ageing and aged care sector reflect what Elders, Older People and communities say matters.

Presentation: Who Owns the Story? Data, Evidence and Accountability.



Your Trusted Source on LGBTI Ageing

Providing older LGBTI people, their friends, family and supporters with key information to help them navigate aged care services and supports.



Visit the website:
navigator.lgbtiqhealth.org.au



SILVER RAINBOW
LGBTI AGEING & AGED CARE

Training, tips and resources to support LGBTI+ older people in aged care.

Designed for the aged care workforce, Silver Rainbow provides a range of opportunities and resources to raise awareness and understanding of the needs of LGBTI+ older people.

Visit the website
silerrainbow.lgbtiqhealth.org.au



BOTTLEBRUSH PARTNERS



Dementia Australia®

Dementia Australia is the source of trusted information, education, and services for the estimated more than 466,500 Australians living with dementia, and the more than 1.7 million people involved in their care. We advocate for positive change and support vital research. We are here to support people impacted by dementia, and to enable them to live as well as possible. No matter how you are impacted by dementia or who you are, we are here for you.

To learn more, visit Dementia Australia: www.dementia.org.au



Booroongen Djugun Ltd

Booroongen Djugun Limited (BDL) is a unique Aboriginal community-controlled organisation located on the Mid-North Coast of New South Wales. We proudly operate a Residential Care Facility, Community Care Services and RTO training, dedicated to meeting the emotional, spiritual, and physical needs of Aboriginal people while honouring their rich traditions and customs. Our facility is situated in the beautiful area of Greenhill, Kempsey Mid North Coast NSW, and offers a variety of care options designed to accommodate the diverse needs of our residents. We extend our services to both Aboriginal and non-Indigenous individuals, including those with disabilities who may find it challenging to maintain their independence within the community.

To learn more, visit Booroongen Djugun Limited at: www.booroongendjugun.com.au

MEDIA PARTNER

THE AGEING AGENDA

The Ageing Agenda is an independent and authoritative news hub for people who work in or around the Australian aged care and retirement living sectors.

The Ageing Agenda brand was established on 8 October 2026 when three of Australia's most respected aged care media brands – Australian Ageing Agenda, Aged Care Insite and Community Care Review – merged to deliver a stronger, unified source of independent news, insight and analysis for those supporting older Australians. The publication's history dates to 1990 under former titles including National Healthcare Journal and National Healthcare.

To read more, visit The Ageing Agenda at: theageingagenda.com.au

COFFEE CART PARTNER



The Healing Foundation is a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation that provides a platform to amplify the voices and lived experience of Stolen Generations survivors and their families.

We work with communities to create a place of safety, providing an environment for Stolen Generations survivors and their families to speak for themselves, tell their own stories, and be in charge of their own healing. We promote trauma-aware, healing-informed practice to help government, policymakers, and workforces understand their role in intergenerational healing. By addressing unresolved trauma in First Nations communities – trauma that was caused by colonisation and actions like the forced removal of children – we are walking alongside communities on the path to healing. Through genuine partnerships, cultural strength, and community-led initiatives, we can support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to restore connections, reclaim identity, and nurture resilience for future generations. Healing is not just about addressing the past, but about building a stronger, safer, and more hopeful future together.

Our work honours our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestors and our future generations.

To read more, visit The Healing Foundation: www.healingfoundation.org.au

CO-BRANDING PARTNERS



CPOP is a University of Canberra initiative funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. CPOP partners with higher education providers (ECU, Curtin, UniSC, CQU, SCU, USyd and UTas), educating clinical facilitators in gerontological nursing, who then facilitate later stage nursing students undertaking quality placements with older people. Students are paired with Registered Nurse (RN) preceptors to ensure visibility of the RN role. CPOP is achieving amazing results in supporting students to learn about the complex and rewarding career of gerontological nursing and working with older people and helping to make a difference in the lives of older Australians.

To learn more, visit CPOP's website: www.canberra.edu.au/faculties/health/carat/cpop



ARIIA is leading the positive transformation of aged care across Australia. We address critical sector needs, support government and professional commitments, and foster collaboration and innovation to empower aged care professionals and support positive change. Our initiatives include incubators, grants, programs, and events, and our website provides trustworthy information for aged care workers, service providers, older Australians, and their families. At ARIIA, our mission is to equip the aged care sector with knowledge and skills to implement evidence-based practices and new technologies. Guided by principles of co-design, inclusion, connection, and innovation, we ensure every voice is heard, and every individual's needs are met with respect and dignity. Join us in shaping the future of aged care.

To learn more, visit ARIIA's website: www.ariia.org.au



FIRST PEOPLES'
HEALTH AND WELLBEING



First Peoples' Health and Wellbeing is a dynamic Aboriginal community-controlled health organisation offering affordable primary healthcare and Aged Care services to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People and their families in urban Melbourne. As an Aboriginal-led organisation, we honour and respect the wisdom, strength, and resilience of our Elders. They are the heart of our communities, and it is our privilege to walk alongside them on their journey to safe, independent, and culturally supported living. We understand that staying strong and connected to family, culture, and Country is essential. That's why we are proud to offer the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP)—a government-funded initiative that provides practical support to help our Elders remain in their homes and communities for as long as possible.

To learn more, visit FPHW's website: www.fphw.org.au

EVENT PARTNERS



We don't take shortcuts... we're in it for life

We're not your typical healthcare company. In a modern world of quick fixes, Novo focus on solutions to defeat serious chronic disease and create long-term health.

Our distinctive mindset is at the heart of everything we do. We seek out new ideas and put people first as we push the boundaries of science, make healthcare more accessible, and work to treat, prevent, and even cure diseases that affect millions of lives. Because we believe it takes an unordinary approach to drive real, lasting change in health.

We recognise and deeply respect the over 60,000 years of First Nations science and knowledge around medicine and health. First Nations people have long had an intimate understanding of the natural world, harnessing the medicinal properties of native plants and traditional practices to maintain health and wellbeing. This profound connection to the land and its resources has fostered a holistic approach to health that emphasises balance, community, and sustainability.

To learn more, visit Novo's website: www.novonordisk.com.au



Our mission is to promote Canberra as an exceptional business events destination to Australia and the world. With the support of a highly collaborative community, our team secures conferences, meetings, incentives programs and other business events to the region by working with associations, corporate organisations and meeting planners.

To learn more, visit Canberra Convention Bureau's website: www.canberraconvention.com.au



Kaigi Conferencing and Events was founded in 2013 with a vision to bring clarity, creativity, thoughtful planning and professionalism to event delivery. Derived from the Japanese word for "meeting" or "conference," Kaigi reflects our global outlook and purpose-driven approach. We love partnering with clients to deliver events that connect people, inspire ideas, and drive meaningful outcomes. We see ourselves as an extension of your team. We collaborate closely with clients, ensuring your objectives stay front and centre — while we manage the complexities behind the scenes. Every event is tailored, inclusive, and built to engage.

To learn more, visit Kaigi's website: kaigi.com.au

ATTENDEE PARTNERS

STUDENT ATTENDEE



**Clinical Placements
with Older People**

Transforming Care, Enriching Lives

CPOP is a University of Canberra initiative funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. CPOP partners with higher education providers (ECU, Curtin, UniSC, CQU, SCU, USyd and UTas), educating clinical facilitators in gerontological nursing, who then facilitate later stage nursing students undertaking quality placements with older people. Students are paired with Registered Nurse (RN) preceptors to ensure visibility of the RN role. CPOP is achieving amazing results in supporting students to learn about the complex and rewarding career of gerontological nursing and working with older people and helping to make a difference in the lives of older Australians.

To learn more, visit CPOP's website: www.canberra.edu.au/faculties/health/carat/cpop

STUDENT ATTENDEE



**Palliative Care
Australia**

Matters of life and death

Palliative Care Australia is the national peak body for palliative and end-of-life care. It represents all those who work towards high-quality palliative care for all Australians who need it. Working closely with consumers, its Member Organisations, national health stakeholders, and the palliative care workforce, we aim to improve access to, and promote the need for, palliative care. PCA believes high-quality palliative care should be available and accessible to people living with a life-limiting illness when and where they need it. PCA supports the health, aged care and community sector workforce who all have a role in providing palliative care to people with a life-limiting illness and supporting carers, and communities.

To learn more, visit PCA's website: www.palliativecare.org.au

ELDER ATTENDEE



**Meaningful Ageing
AUSTRALIA**

Honouring the whole person. Celebrating connection, culture and spirit.

At Meaningful Ageing Australia, we believe every older person deserves to feel valued, connected and supported in what gives their life meaning and purpose. As a national peak body for spiritual care and wellbeing in aged care, we champion a whole-person approach that recognises the importance of identity, relationships, culture and belonging. We are proud to be an affiliate member of NATSIAACC, and advocating for culturally safe, respectful and person-centred aged care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders. Through advocacy, education, practical resources and professional development, we support aged care organisations to provide care that honours each person's story, strengthens connection and nurtures spiritual wellbeing.

To learn more, visit Meaningful Ageing Australia's website: www.meaningfulageing.org.au

NATSIAACC MEMBERSHIP

Are you an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander-led organisation delivering ageing or aged care services, or considering doing so? Are you a non-Indigenous aged care provider or organisation who delivers ageing or aged care services to Elders?

If yes, NATSIAACC exists for you. You can be part of a collective voice to Government and decision-makers. You can access information and analysis about systems and changes. You can collaborate with other NATSIAACC members, and the Elders Council (once established).

This will all ultimately help Elders to access care and support that is culturally safe, trauma aware and healing informed and recognises the importance of their personal connections to community and Country. We have two types of memberships:

- Full membership is open to any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander provider of ageing or aged care services.
- Associate membership is open to any organisation with an interest in ageing and aged care services, who supports the aims of NATSIAACC.

Membership fees are \$250 per year (ex GST).



Ageing well starts with staying connected

Connection to Culture, Community and Country plays an important role in staying well as we age.

The LiveUp First Nations Resource Hub is a free place to find practical information, stories, and resources created with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across Australia. Find ideas, support, and trusted information to help you keep doing what matters most.



Explore resources at
liveup.org.au/first-nations

Artwork: Walking Hand in Hand
Artist: Matty Atkinson (Bangerang and Wiradjuri)



EXHIBITORS

BOOTH	ORGANISATION	LOGO
1	Weaving Booth	
2	Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission	 Australian Government Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission
3	Australian Association of Gerontology	
4	Booroongen Djugun Ltd	
5	Office of the Inspector-General of Aged Care	
6	Dementia Australia	
7	Dementia Training Australia	
8	Older Persons Advocacy Network	
9	Heidi Health	
10	Native Secrets/First People Facilities Management	

EXHIBITORS

BOOTH	ORGANISATION	LOGO
11	Palliative Care Australia	 Palliative Care Australia <i>Matters of life and death</i>
12	Indigenous Health Australia	 IAHA Indigenous Allied Health Australia
13	National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners	 NAATSIHWP National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners
14	Commissioned Artwork Leanne Troth	
15	Wurrumay Collective	W U R R U M A Y C O L L E C T I V E
16	Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner	INTERIM FIRST NATIONS AGED CARE COMMISSIONER
17	Craft Booth	
18	ionMY	 ionMy
19	The Healing Foundation	 HealingFoundation Strong Spirit • Strong Culture • Strong People
19	NATSIAACC	 NATSIAACC National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ageing and Aged Care Council



NATSIAACC

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Ageing and Aged Care Council

Cultural Safety in Aged Care Definition

Cultural safety is essential to ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and Older People receive Aged Care that recognises and respects their unique identities, lived experiences, histories and culture.

In 2023, the Department of Health, Disability and Aged Care engaged NATSIAACC to develop a definition of “Cultural Safety in Aged Care” for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and Older People. NATSIAACC worked with Dr Elizabeth McIntyre and The Healing Foundation to consult with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aged Care Providers and Elders and Older People as well as providing a discussion paper that speaks to the approach, impacts, and resources available to support Stolen Generation Survivors.

The Cultural Safety in Aged Care definition is now included in the Explanatory Memorandum of the Aged Care Act 2024. This serves as a foundation for a culturally safe and responsive Aged Care system grounded in truth, respect, and self-determination.

NATSIAACC’s Cultural Safety in Aged Care Definition is:

Cultural safety in aged care for older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, is understanding one’s own culture and the impact that your culture, thinking, and actions may have on the culture of others through ongoing critical self-reflection. Gaining such truthful insight about oneself is critical for ensuring access to a culturally safe, respectful, responsive and racism free aged care system providing for the optimal safety, autonomy, dignity, and absolute wellbeing of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Elders and older people, and their families. Only the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person who is the recipient of a service or interaction can determine whether it is culturally safe.

Aged care service providers and workers must take responsibility for building trust and relationships with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander service users, and their families, and for creating a new aged care system which centres on their living experience, cultural, and ageing needs, as determined by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander service users themselves. The implementation of a trauma aware, healing informed approach to professional practice, and facilitating a greater understanding and respect for individual and collective cultures, histories, knowledges, traditions, stories, and values of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander service users, and their families, will greatly support the delivery of a quality and culturally safe aged care system. Aged care service providers must also firmly commit to continuously measure and improve structures and behaviours necessary for cultural safety and quality support to remain embedded in the Australian aged care system.



NATSIAACC

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Ageing and Aged Care Council

'dhuurran' Artwork by Kenneth Knox

You can find more information at:



www.natsiaacc.org.au



National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Ageing and Aged Care Council



NATSIAACC