

The Royal Australian & New Zealand
College of Psychiatrists, WA Branch
2026 Conference



The Royal
Australian &
New Zealand
College of
Psychiatrists



Western Australian Branch

Saturday 29 August 2026, 9am – 5pm
The UWA Club, Hackett Drive, Crawley
followed by a social "Sundowner" from 5- 6.30pm

Mental health in focus: care, community, leadership and research

Conference Handbook



The Royal
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Western Australian Branch

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The information provided in this handbook is for information purposes only and is not intended as an endorsement.

Welcome



Associate Professor Davinder Hans

RANZCP WA Conference Convenor

On behalf of the RANZCP Western Australian Branch Committee, it is my privilege to welcome you to the 2026 WA Branch Conference.

Following the tremendous success of our 2024 conference, I am delighted to once again bring together colleagues from across Western Australia for a day of learning, collaboration, and connection.

This year's theme, *Mental health in focus: care, community, leadership and research*, reflects the breadth of contemporary psychiatric practice and our shared commitment to improving mental health care for the communities we serve.

Our program has been thoughtfully curated to showcase clinical expertise, lived and living experience, emerging research, and system leadership. In doing so, it reflects the aspirations of the College's 2026–2030 Strategic Plan—to foster a thriving and connected psychiatric profession, strengthen leadership, embrace collaboration, and build trusted partnerships that improve mental health outcomes.

Meaningful progress in mental health is built through collaboration, respectful dialogue, and a willingness to learn from one another. Conferences such as this provide an invaluable opportunity not only to hear from outstanding speakers, but also to exchange ideas, strengthen professional relationships and contribute to the conversations shaping psychiatry in Western Australia.

I encourage you to engage fully throughout the day by asking questions, sharing your perspectives, and connecting with colleagues. I also hope you will join us at the Conference Sundowner, where the conversations can continue in a relaxed and collegial setting; another opportunity to reconnect with familiar faces, welcome new members to our community and celebrate our profession together.

Before closing, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the WA CPD Subcommittee. The quality of today's program is a testament to their dedication, expertise and collaborative approach. My heartfelt thanks to Dr Thamei Damoderam, Dr Dharma Sathiaselvan, Dr Eileen Tay, Dr Kalliste Black, Ms Sharon Taylor, our WA Branch Committee Community Member, and Dr Mike Verheggen, whose thoughtful curation of the scientific program and valuable contributions to the broader development of this conference have been instrumental to its success.

I also extend my sincere thanks to our speakers, sponsors, and exhibitors for their valued support, and to everyone whose efforts have helped bring this conference to life.

Thank you for being part of the 2026 WA Branch Conference. I hope you leave feeling informed, inspired and energised by the collective expertise, leadership and collegiality that define our profession and strengthen mental health care across Western Australia.

Keynote Speaker



Professor Marie Bismark

Professor Marie Bismark is a psychiatrist, public health physician, health lawyer, and company director. She divides her time between the Kapiti Coast, New Zealand and Melbourne, Australia. In addition to her clinical work, Marie leads a research team at the University of Melbourne, focusing on the interface between patient safety and clinician wellbeing. She serves as a Director of several health sector organisations including the Royal Women's Hospital and Summerset aged care. Her research has influenced regulatory policy in Australia and internationally. Marie completed a Harkness Fellowship at Harvard has been named as one of the Australian Financial Review's 100 Women of Influence.

RANZCP WA Branch Committee Members

Dr Murugesh Nidyananda

Member (Chair)

Dr Eileen Tay

Member (Deputy Chair)

Dr Chinar Goel

Member

Dr Julia Feutrill

Member

Dr Kavita Seth

Member

Dr Kalliste Black

Member

Dr Binu Jayawardena

Member

Dr Dharmenderi Sathiaselalan

Member

Dr Ben Sketcher

Representative - WA Psychiatry
Training Committee

Dr Rengen Miles Parlane

Representative, Binational Committee
for Trainees

Ms Sharon Taylor

Community Member

Professor Wai Chen

Co-opted Member

Dr Gary Avital

Co-opted Member – Rep, WA
Association for Psychiatrists in Training

The RANZCP WA Branch acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation, the Traditional Owners and Custodians on whose lands we meet today. We honour and respect the Elders past and present, who weave their wisdom into all realms of life.

The WA Branch celebrates the diversity of all our members and the rich community that we cultivate together. We appreciate the perspectives and contributions of people from all backgrounds, abilities and cultures., and we acknowledge the voice and insight of people with lived experience.

Speakers



Prof Osvaldo Almeida

Osvaldo completed his medical training at the University of São Paulo, Brazil, and his postgraduate training at the University of London, UK. He is a psychiatrist with clinical and research expertise in the mental health conditions of older age. Osvaldo has been working in Australia since 1998, and during this time has been involved in research supported by over \$40M in grants (primarily NHMRC/MRFF).

He has supervised numerous postgraduate students and psychiatry trainees. His research activities have generated over 400 peer-reviewed publications (over 43,000 citations). His areas of research interest include depression and bipolar disorder in older age, healthy ageing, cognitive impairment and dementia, and pharmacoepidemiology. Osvaldo took up the position of Director of the Institute for Health Research at the University of Notre Dame Australia in May 2024. He is also an Adjunct Professor with the Medical School of the University of Western Australia and with the School of Population Health of Curtin University.



Dr Kalliste Black

Dr Kalliste Black, FRANZCP, is a Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist and currently the A/Director of WACHS ICAMHS. She is also the Assistant Director of Training for Rural Psychiatry Training WA (Great Southern/Goldfields) and has worked as a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist in the Great Southern region for the past 5 years.

Dr Black serves on the RANZCP WA Branch Committee and the Western Australian Psychiatry Training Committee (WAPTC). She chairs the WA Advanced Training Subcommittee and is the WA jurisdictional representative on the Section of Rural Psychiatry Subcommittee.

She is passionate about delivering high-quality psychiatric training in regional areas to retain exceptional psychiatrists—strengthening the rural workforce and improving access to specialist mental healthcare for rural children, families and communities.



Jessica Brentnall

Originally from Sydney, NSW, Jessica (Jess) relocated to Menang Country in Western Australia in 2014. In 2020, she led groundbreaking work to embed the Lived Experience (Peer) voice across the Great Southern Mental Health Service, before stepping into the first formally established designated Senior Lived Experience role within WA Health.

Working in close partnership with the WA Mental Health Commission (MHC) and metropolitan health services, Jess brings both a health system and rural lens to strategically progress recommendations at State, Federal and Ministerial Taskforce levels aimed at growing, embedding and professionalising the Lived Experience (Peer) workforce across WA Health.

Jess draws on her experiences as both a service user and as a supporter of loved ones navigating mental health and alcohol and other drug challenges within regional public adult and child and adolescent mental health services. Her work is informed by the collective wisdom and advocacy of country consumers, families, communities and the broader Lived Experience workforce.

She is currently leading the development of a Lived Experience Inclusion Plan for WA Country Health Service, highlighting the invaluable contributions of the workforce in creating services that are safe, equitable, trauma-informed and culturally safe, responsive and secure.



Dr Leighton Chadwick

Dr Leighton Chadwick obtained his medical degree from the University of Western Australia in 1991 and obtained his fellowship with the Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Psychiatry in 2005. He has been a Visiting Medical Officer at Ramsay Clinic Hollywood (Perth) for 21 years, from where he also runs his outpatient practice.

Leighton currently holds the positions of Ramsay Clinic Hollywood Psychiatry Advisory Committee Chair and is Medical Director of the inpatient Eating Disorders Program there, and is involved with registrar and medical student training. His clinical areas of interest are mood disorders, eating disorders, and intellectual disability mental health. His experience of disability care for a family member has driven his work in the area of intellectual disability psychiatry, and he hopes that more training to registrars can be facilitated so that more psychiatrists would work in this specialised area.

Speakers



Dr Emma Crampin

Dr Emma Crampin is WA's Deputy Chief Psychiatrist and is an adult psychiatrist with extensive specialist experience in Australia and the UK. Trained in London and Melbourne, she is a fellow of both the RANZCP and RCPsych (UK) and has held senior medical leadership positions in both countries.

Having moved from London to rural WA, she was Director of Psychiatry for the WA Country Health Service, where she led the establishment of acute telehealth services for rural and remote hospitals, before commencing her current role in 2020.

Her clinical career has taken her from inner city to remote settings, and has included emergency mental healthcare, general adult psychiatry, youth mental health, addictions, rehabilitation psychiatry, refugee healthcare and medicolegal work.

She is interested in mental health legislation, engaging frontline staff and people with lived experience in effective system improvement, embedding just culture and system based understanding into governance and quality improvement, and women's mental health.



Dr Tim Leahy

Tim is the new Chair of the RACGP ADHD working group. He is a member of the first cohort of WA GPs trained in the diagnosis and management of ADHD and is now assisting with the facilitation of the second cohort. He has been a member of the ADHD WA Professional Advisory Body and is a member of the Australian ADHD Professionals Association (AADPA). He has lived experience of ADHD in his family and has a special interest in ADHD and mental health in his general practice work.

He is a GP with 35 years' experience, including 14 years practice in Aboriginal health. He has been Associate Professor in the UNDA School of Medicine for 15 years, working in the Aboriginal health and Personal and Professional Development domains. He has previously served on the boards of the Heart Foundation, Rural Health West and Anawim Aboriginal women's refuge.



Dr Ken Orr

Dr Ken Orr is a psychiatrist with decades of experience in general adult psychiatry. He completed his medical training at the University of Western Australia and holds Fellowship with the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists.

He served as a co-Director of postgraduate training in psychiatry. Ken works exclusively with adult patients. Outside of practice, he enjoys music and quiet living.



Dr Giulia Pace

Dr Giulia Pace is an Italian trained Developmental Neuropsychiatrist who moved to Perth in 2010, where she has since been working as a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist in inpatients and outpatients' settings. Since 2016 she has been the Clinical Lead of Touchstone CAMHS, a specialized program for families and adolescents with emerging personality disorder, that offers a partial hospitalization Mentalization Based Therapy program. Her areas of interest are psychotherapy, particularly psychodynamic psychotherapies, multigenerational family therapy, group psychotherapy, applied to infant, child and adolescent mental health.



Dr Ramya Raman

Dr Ramya Raman is a Specialist General Practitioner, medical educator, and health policy leader.

She is the Director of The Garden Family Medical Clinic in Piara Waters, where she continues in clinical practice and leads a modern, forward-thinking teaching practice. She is also Discipline Head of General Practice at the University of Notre Dame, Fremantle, leading the training of future doctors. Dr Raman is an experienced board director with a strong focus on governance, strategy, and health system reform. She currently serves as Chair of RACGP WA and Vice President of the RACGP nationally.

She has built a national profile as a leading advocate for patient safety and evidence-based reform, and is a confident media communicator, regularly contributing to public discussion on healthcare policy and the future of general practice.

Recognised as RACGP WA GP of the Year (2020) and AMA (WA) Advocate of the Year (2024), her leadership is driven by a clear principle: strengthening general practice is essential to strengthening Australia's health system.



Dr Dharma Sathiaselalan

Dr Dharma Sathiaselalan is currently a Consultant Psychiatrist with Wungen Kartup Specialist Aboriginal Mental Health Service. With an interest in Indigenous Health, her practice centers on bridging Western psychiatry and Aboriginal worldviews, ensuring accessible, culturally informed care. Dr Sathiaselalan works closely with Aboriginal mental health clinicians to deliver services that would reflect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander needs, including adapting assessments and treatment approaches that align with their understanding and embedding cultural safety.

Dr Sathiaselalan serves on the Western Australian Psychiatry Training Committee and RANZCP Western Australian Branch Committee and contributes to RANZCP led leadership and education initiatives for Aboriginal medical students, doctors and psychiatry trainees. Dr Dharma Sathiaselalan completed her MBBS and Masters of Psychiatry with the University of Melbourne and attained FRANZCP in 2018 after completing her psychiatry training in Melbourne.

Speakers



Dr Felice Watt

Felice was born in Perth Western Australia, completed medicine at University of WA, and has been a psychiatrist for nearly 30 years. She has a special interest in service development in perinatal and women's mental health.

After 10 years in private practice, Felice worked at KEMH and went on to be a Medical Co Director at Women's and Newborn Health service. A highlight was co-leading Western Australia's Perinatal and Infant Model of Care.

From 2017-2021 she worked at Sidra Medicine, Qatar where she led the establishment of the first perinatal mental health service in the region. In addition, she was invited by Qatar Ministry of Public Health to co-lead the building of the national plan for perinatal psychiatry services. Achievements included co-convening Qatar's first Perinatal Mental Health (2019) Infant Mental health Symposiums, co-development of the Qatar Clinical Guideline for Obstetric Psychiatry and developing perinatal mental health curricula for medical students and psychiatry trainees.

More recently, Felice has enjoyed the privilege of taking part in the development and opening of Cockburn Health, WA's first public women's mental health unit.

2026 Conference Program

8:30 – 8:45		Welcome by conference convenor, Associate Professor Davinder Hans Acknowledgement of Country & Lived Experience Housekeeping
8:45 – 9:15		Dr Dharma Sathiaselan — <i>Wungen Kartup: An Indigenous-specific mental health service model to improve social and emotional wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples</i>
9:15 – 9:45	 	Ms Jess Brentnall & Dr Kalliste Black — <i>A conversation with a carer: lived experiences of navigating CAMHS, neurodivergence & mental health in regional WA</i>
9:45 – 10:15		Professor Osvaldo Almeida — <i>Research in Psychiatry: interface of GLP-1 receptor agonists with mental health</i>
10:15 – 10:45		Tea
10:45 – 11:15		Dr Leighton Chadwick — <i>Assessment, medication use and general management in intellectual developmental disability and autism</i>
11:15 – 12:15		Professor Marie Bismark (Travelling Scholar) — <i>The paradoxes of doctors' health</i>
12:15 – 12:45		Dr Emma Crampin — <i>WA Chief Psychiatrist's update</i>
12:45 – 1:45		Lunch
1:45 – 2:15		Dr Ken Orr — <i>Mood disorders: pharmacology updates and emerging treatments across sectors</i>
2:15 – 2:45		The John Penman Lecture — Dr Giulia Pace — <i>The unique complexities of adolescent suicidality</i>
2:45 – 3:15	 	RACGP — Dr Tim Leahy & Dr Ramya Raman — <i>ADHD: updates from the Specialist GP Training Program in WA</i>
3:15 – 3:30		Tea
3:30 – 3:50		Dr Felice Watt — <i>Women's mental health: an update</i>
3:50 – 5:00		Abstract presentations (5 × 15 minutes)
5:00 – 6:30		Sundowner

General Information

General enquiries

Please refer any enquiries to ranzcp.wa@ranzcp.org. For in person enquiries on the day please speak to the WA Branch Coordinator, Angie Padoan

Name badges

All delegates will be provided with a name badge upon registration. This badge must be worn to obtain entry to all conference sessions including social functions.

Mobile phones and pagers

Mobile phones and pagers should be switched off or on silent mode during sessions.

Dress code

Dress code for all conference sessions and the sundowner is smart casual

Smoking policy

Smoking is not permitted in The UWA Club rooms and grounds. Please ask the venue staff for directions to designated smoking areas.

Internet

The UWA Club will provide complimentary wireless internet for conference delegates.

Food service and refreshments

During the conference, tea, coffee and lunch will be served in the foyer area outside the conference room. The sundowner will take place on the terrace on the ground floor, where canapes and drinks will be served.

Every effort has been made to ensure that delegates with special requirements are catered for. To assist us with ensuring your attendance at the conference is a pleasant and comfortable one, if you have not advised of your special dietary or other requirement during the registration process online, please speak to Angie Padoan, RANZCP WA Branch Coordinator who will be happy to help you.

Conduct of attendees

Attendees of the conference should be considerate, respectful and collaborative, refrain from discriminatory or harassing behaviour and be mindful of their surroundings and of fellow participants. Unacceptable behaviour will not be tolerated at the conference or related events. The College, in its discretion, may remove or reprimand any participant who behaves inappropriately.

Photography

The RANZCP WA Branch Conference is held in a public space, therefore we do not prohibit participants, exhibitors, news organisations and other companies from photographing or video or audio-taping some conference activities.

Additionally, RANZCP may arrange for photos to be taken during the conference. RANZCP reserves the right to use images taken at the conference with your photograph and/or likeness in future marketing materials, including on the internet.

Conference attendees who prefer their images are neither taken nor published in any format, can object by sending an email request to the WA Branch Coordinator on ranzcp.wa@ranzcp.org.

Recording

None of the sessions at this year's conference will be recorded. We respectfully ask that you do not record any of the content on your personal devices.

COVID safety

The RANZCP is committed to conducting the 2026 RANZCP WA Branch 1 day conference safely and effectively for all involved and we thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding in complying with the COVIDSafe guidelines and protocols at the conference venue.

The health and safety of conference attendees is our highest priority. The College urges any delegate who is feeling unwell or has cold or flu like symptoms, or who may have been in contact with someone with COVID-19, not to attend the conference or sundowner social.

Parking

Parking is free after 5.00 pm on weekdays and all day on weekends in all university car parks, unless otherwise signposted.

Accessible Parking

Accessible bays are available in both Car Park 4 (basement) and Car Park 5 (adjacent to the Club).

If designated accessible bays are full, ACROD or UWA-accessible permit holders may park in Red (staff) or Yellow (student and visitor) bays without payment

Payment is required when parking in green (special purpose) bays at \$3.00 per hour via the EasyPark app or machine.

A valid ACROD or UWA-accessible permit must be clearly displayed at all times.

Is the Club accessible by public transport?

Buses 24, 96, 97, 102, 103, 107 and 950 provide an excellent, regular service to UWA. The closest stop is on the corner of Stirling Hwy and Hackett Drive, approximately 5 minutes' walk from the Club.

Can I cycle to the Club?

There are bicycle racks located across campus; however, the University's end-of-trip facilities are only available to UWA staff.

Is the venue accessible?

The Club is committed to providing an accessible and inclusive experience for all guests.

Wheelchair access is available via ramps at the main and rear entrances, with lift access from the basement car park. 2 x dedicated ACROD bays are located in the Club's basement car park with easy access to the lifts.

Accessible restrooms are located on both ground and first floors, and wheelchair-friendly seating can be arranged across all event spaces. Service animals are welcome throughout the venue.



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Notes

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