



The Royal
Australian &
New Zealand
College of
Psychiatrists

ACT + NSW Conference 2026

Capital to Coast:
Unified Approaches

6th – 8th November 2026

**Fairmont Resort,
Blue Mountains NSW**



Program

Outline



The Royal
Australian &
New Zealand
College of
Psychiatrists

Friday 6th November

Jamison Valley Green

6:00pm – 7:00pm Welcome reception

Saturday 7th November

Blaxland Lawson

8:00am – 8:30am	Registration tea & coffee
8:30am – 8:40am	Welcome
8:40am – 9:30am	Keynote presentation Dr Peggy Brown
9:30am – 10:10am	Dr Bree Wyeth Presentation
10:10am – 10:30am	Morning tea
10:30am – 11:10am	Dr Florian Wertenauer presentation
11:10am – 12:00pm	Debate 'Mental health services in ACT should be subsumed into NSW rather than remaining a standalone jurisdiction to improve patient care.'
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm – 4:00pm	Networking activity
6:00pm – 11:00pm	Dinner and awards

Sunday 8th November

Blaxland Lawson

8:30am – 9:00am	Registration tea & coffee
9:00am – 9:40am	Keynote presentation Dr Peggy Brown
9:40am – 10:20am	Dr Ian Korbel presentation
10:20am – 10:50am	Morning tea
10:50am – 11:30am	Dr Annie Parsons presentation
11:30am – 12:10pm	Dr Kathryn Hutt presentation
12:10pm – 1:10pm	Lunch

End of Conference



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1 Sublime Point Road, Leura NSW 2780

Presentations



Trading the stethoscope for the compass: reflections on a career in administrative psychiatry

Explore the challenges, rewards and costs of a career in administrative psychiatry, the role in system stewardship and service reform, and the importance of partnerships and learning how to influence government.

Learning outcomes

At the end of this session participants will have:

1. An understanding of the tension between clinical and administrative imperatives
2. Greater cognisance of the hidden architecture of mental health systems
3. Increased awareness of what shapes reform and how governments work
4. Enhanced appreciation for why psychiatrists should remain involved in system leadership

From Silence to Strength: Shaping Tomorrow's Mental Health Services

We hear often that the current mental health system is an 'illness system maze' that is 'broken'. Contemplate what a future-ready system looks like, what is required to achieve it, and reimagine the role of psychiatry when the focus is on outcomes beyond the clinical.

Learning outcomes

At the end of this session participants will have:

1. Increased understanding of the challenges of the current mental health system from the perspective of different stakeholders.
2. An appreciation of the drivers shaping reform and the essential components of a reimagined mental health system, including balancing prevention and treatment.



Keynote
Dr Peggy Brown



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Presentations



Trading the stethoscope for the compass: reflections on a career in administrative psychiatry

Advocacy in Mental Health, Always look on the bright Side of Life

Learning outcomes

1. Understanding of what the scope of the problem in psychiatric service delivery in Australia.
2. Understanding of what is needed to advocate for Psychiatry.
3. Awareness of what the current barriers are and how advocacy should be approached.

Radicalisation in adolescents: mental health considerations for violent extremism

Learning outcomes

At the end of this session participants will have:

1. Understand the relationship between psychiatric disorder and violent extremism, focusing on youth.
2. Consider implications for assessment, intervention and multi-agency working in the violent extremism space.



Dr Ian Korbel



Dr Annie Parsons

Presentations



When doctors seek help: insights from Doctors' HealthNSW

Advocacy in Mental Health, Always look on the bright Side of Life

Learning outcomes

1. Understanding of the role of Doctors' Health NSW and the support provided to doctors and medical students who use the service.
2. Awareness of the personal and professional challenges doctors may experience when seeking help.
3. Develop key considerations in providing care to doctors and medical students, and practical ways to support a colleague seeking help.



Dr Kathryn Hunt



Abstracts



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After Trieste – the NHS neighbourhood mental health centres

Following on from her presentation at the last ACT branch conference Dr Bree will share her insights into the newly established NHS mental health neighborhood centers. These programs have shared the vision and recent senior leadership of the WHO model community program that began in Trieste Northern Italy and has shaped mental health policy and program design worldwide.

Dr Bree will share her insights into the program following her visit to the Barnsley Street NHS neighborhood mental health center in London and invite discussion about best models for community-facing funded services drawing on her experience, discussions with other providers and published literature. This will take a broad comparative view of the Italian/Trieste model, The NHS neighborhood centers and the current ecosystem in Australia's state and federally funded community programs in NSW and the ACT.



Dr Bree Wyeth

Emergency Psychiatry in Canberra We must be doing something right

AIHW data presented in the AMA Public Hospital Report Card (mental health edition 2025) highlighted sustained improvement in performance measures of emergency mental health services in the ACT over recent years. Our figures are low in comparison to other states and territories.

Examples of this are median length of stay in the ED and the 90th percentile time, which have been declining over the last three years and are now around 5 hours and 11 hours, respectively. These indicators are a reflection of sustained positive work and governance processes throughout the mental health and wider health system, including outpatient services both prior to and after hospital presentation, Emergency Department and Inpatient Mental Health Unit performance, Bed Access Coordination and others.

This presentation examines the interventions and investments that have led to measurable positive outcomes and culture change in our system.



Dr Florian Wertenauer

Thank you

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