15th NSW Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program Forum
Connections: Promoting consumer outcomes through partnerships
13-15 November 2019
Program
# 15th NSW Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program Forum

**Connections: Promoting consumer outcomes through partnerships**

## Overview

The Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) is the lead agency for innovation in clinical care.

We bring consumers, clinicians and healthcare managers together to support the design, assessment and implementation of clinical innovations across the NSW public health system to change the way that care is delivered.

The ACI’s clinical networks, institutes and taskforces are chaired by senior clinicians and consumers who have a keen interest and track record in innovative clinical care.

We also work closely with the Ministry of Health and the four other pillars of NSW Health to pilot, scale and spread solutions to healthcare system-wide challenges. We seek to improve the care and outcomes for patients by re-designing and transforming the NSW public health system.

Our innovations are:
- person-centred
- clinically-led
- evidence-based
- value-driven.


## Aims

This event aims to connect a broad range of stakeholders working with children, young people and adults following severe traumatic brain injury (TBI). It will explore how professionals and people with TBI can work together through the continuum of recovery, from rehabilitation to community re-integration, to support positive long-term outcomes.

## Audience

This event will bring together clinicians working in brain injury rehabilitation, consumers with lived experience, public and private health and disability providers, researchers, policy planners, educators, insurers and others.

## Please note

Photographs taken at this event may be published by the ACI for internal and/or external promotion, education or research purposes. If you do not wish your photograph to be taken please notify our staff.

## Sponsor

We would like to thank icare for their sponsorship of this event.
# Schedule of event

**Wednesday 13 November 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.30 am</td>
<td><strong>Registration, morning tea on arrival (30 mins)</strong></td>
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| 10.00 am| **Morning workshops**  
Three workshops are available to choose from, each running for 2.5 hours  

**Workshop 1: Realising the potential of assistive technology (AT) for the NSW BIRP.** (Ruse room)  
- **Professor Grahame Simpson**, Brain Injury Rehabilitation Research Group  
- **Liza MacLean**, icare  
- **Reem Rendell**, Liverpool Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit  
- **Nick Taylor**, icare  

This workshop will highlight the potential of emerging technologies to revolutionise the delivery of support for people with disability. Smart home and mobile technologies, including apps, smartphones and tablets, virtual assistants or smart speakers, smart home ecosystems, wearable devices and bespoke cognitive support and sensor technologies offer new and innovative approaches to compensate for cognitive difficulties after traumatic brain injury. It will provide a hands-on interactive experience with some of these technologies and opportunity to discuss the role of AT in specialised brain injury rehabilitation and to join a new community of practice for AT.

**Workshop 2: Positive behaviour support for individuals with brain injury: the active ingredients for success** (Macarthur room)  
**Dr Alinka Fisher**, Flinders University  

This workshop will discuss the active ingredients of effective positive behaviour support interventions for individuals with brain injury, underpinned by theory and best practice.

**Workshop 3: NSW guardianship and brain injury updates** (Bligh room)  
- **Joshua Allum**, NSW Department of Justice  
- **Carolina Gonzalez**, NSW Department of Justice  

This workshop will outline present processes and principles of the Guardianship Division in relation to the appointment of a Public Guardian. It will provide examples of working with people who have had a brain injury as far as decision making and orders from the Division. Participants will be able to engage in dialogue with staff from the Office of the Public Guardian and the Guardianship Division regarding some specific cases.

<p>| 12.30 pm| <strong>Lunch (30 mins)</strong>                                                   |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</table>
| 1.00 pm | **Afternoon workshops**  
Three workshops are available to choose from, each running for 2.5 hours |
|       | **Workshop 4: Resilience spirituality and hope: strengths-based among approaches to working with families supporting relatives with acquired brain injury** (Ruse room) |
|       | **Professor Grahame Simpson**, Brain Injury Rehabilitation Research Group |
|       | This workshop provides an introduction to strengths-based approaches for working with families providing informal care to relatives with acquired brain injury. |
|       | **Workshop 5: Positive behaviour support for individuals with brain injury: the active ingredients for success** (Macarthur room) |
|       | **Dr Alinka Fisher**, Flinders University |
|       | This workshop will discuss the active ingredients of effective PBS interventions for individuals with brain injury, underpinned by theory and best practice. |
|       | **Workshop 6: Assessment and interventions with perpetrators of domestic and family violence with an acquired brain injury** (ABI) (Bligh room) |
|       | **Stephen Walton**, New South Wales Health Education Centre Against Violence |
|       | This workshop will explore intersectional considerations in the context of the perpetrator with an ABI; how clinicians can identify and assess the user of violence and introduce risk, safety and engagement responses with the ABI client who uses violence. |
| 3.30 pm  | **Afternoon tea (15 mins)** |
| 3.45 pm  | **Special Interest Meeting**  
*Where are the service gaps for people with a brain injury?* (Bligh room)  
- **Felicity Wotton**, icare Lifetime Care  
- **Jacqueline Scott**, icare Lifetime Care |
|       | icare Lifetime Care is committed to investing in research and development that drives excellence in providing services to meet the long term needs of people with severe injuries. Key to ensuring that we support projects in the areas of greatest need is consulting with stakeholders, including clinicians, to find out what issues they are dealing with in their regions and what are the priority areas for service & resource development, and research.  
This special interest meeting will provide an overview of current icare funded projects that support people with a brain injury and then explore with attendees’ possible service gaps that may be limiting outcomes for people with a brain injury and the issues they are experiencing in their regions. The information gained will help to inform icare Lifetime Care’s Service Development and Research Strategy currently under review. |
<p>| 4.45 pm  | <strong>Close</strong> |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.00 am</td>
<td>Registration, tea and coffee served</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00 am</td>
<td><strong>Session 1: Plenary addresses</strong> (Phillip/Hunter room)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00 am</td>
<td>Welcome to Country: Graham Kirrpaitja, Deerubbin Aboriginal Land Council, Penrith</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.15 am</td>
<td>Welcome: Jenni Johnson, Agency for Clinical Innovation</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.30 am</td>
<td>Opening message: Steven Davison, NSW Ministry of Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.45 am</td>
<td>Plenary address: Dr Anne Woodhouse</td>
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<td>Brain injury meets doctor: 10 years on and still learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.10 am</td>
<td>Plenary address: Dale Forbes and Anne Darton</td>
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<td>Shared value of consumer engagement, how we have applied this in the NSW Burn Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.35 am</td>
<td>Panel discussion: Jenni Johnson will host a panel discussion</td>
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<td>Panel: Steven Davidson, Dr Anne Woodhouse, Dale Forbes and Anne Darton</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00 am</td>
<td>Morning tea (30 mins)</td>
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**Session 2: Concurrent sessions**

**Stream 1: Service initiatives promoting outcomes (part 1)** (Phillip/Hunter room)
- Session chair: Jenni Johnson
  - Keeping babies safe: brain injury, child protection and inflicted injuries. Harriet Ferguson and Barbara Church
  - Are talking mats a useful tool for people with acquired brain injury undertaking community-based rehabilitation? A Clinical Improvement Project Meredith Porter and Angela Vass
  - Stepping out with day rehab. Pene Ingle and Linda Nelson
  - Self-identity after brain injury: a ‘flying by the seat of your pants’ approach to group work. Rebekah Reurich and Jason Cusack

**Stream 2: Working to make life transitions effective** (Marsden room)
- Session chair: Anita Barbara
  - Outcomes of a goal-focused pilot transition program for young people with acquired brain injury. Tracey Williams
  - NDIS and brain injury: three year experience of a specialist inpatient rehabilitation program. Joe Gurka
  - The power of peers: support for carers, by carers. Sonya Green and Lauren Bannerman
  - Opsoclonus myoclonus: a case study. Vicki McKinnon and Amy Shaw
Stream 3: Partnering for better outcomes (part 1) (Macquarie room)  
Session chair: Adeline Hodgkinson
- Vocational participation across the NSW Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program  
  Grahame Simpson
- Hospital + school: concussion partnerships. Vicki Evans and Leanne Neal
- Bridging the gap: facilitating transition of adolescents with acquired brain injury to adult services. Jasmine Xavier
- Partnering in play. Adrienne Thorne

Stream 4: Connecting the evidence (Elizabeth room)  
Session chair: Vidya Ramnath
- Don’t stay in bed after you hit your head: increasing therapy dosage and opportunities for social engagement in brain injury.  
  Rebecca Ormerod and Alana Stoeger
- Physical outcomes for people admitted to an adult brain injury rehabilitation unit: a cohort study. Siobhan Wong

12.50 pm Chair session summary / stream discussion (5mins)
12.55 pm Lunch (45 mins)

Session 3: Concurrent sessions

Stream 1: Service initiatives promoting outcomes (part 2) (Phillip/Hunter room)  
Session chair: Kelly Berry
- More than just a multidisciplinary plan in rehabilitation. Catherine O’Sullivan
- Use of the Brannagan executive functions assessment in increasing self-awareness in relation to the goal of return to work in individuals post traumatic brain injury. Fiona Mason
- ‘It takes a village...’: an overview of paediatric inpatient rehabilitation for children and adolescents following acquired brain injury. Julie-Anne Macey and Anne Marie Sarandrea
- Partnerships with parents: Parent-child interaction therapy (PCIT) use in paediatric neuro rehabilitation. Anne Marie Sarandrea

Stream 5: Promoting health and wellbeing (Marsden room)  
Session chair: Nick Rushworth
- Values identification and achievement after a severe TBI for individuals undergoing both acceptance and commitment therapy and befriending therapy. Diane Whiting
- Heading back to work following brain injury: Paul’s story  
  Paul Barrett, Alison Andrews, Janelle Gillar and Philippa McRae
- Evaluation and feasibility of eHealth for individuals with a TBI experiencing psychological distress: ACT-Adjust (via video conferencing). Diane Whiting
1.40 pm

- Evidence based emotional freedom techniques (EFT / Tapping) as an innovative tool for stress reduction. **Carol Fear**

**Stream 3: Partnering for better outcomes (part 2) (Macquarie room)**
Session chair: **Adeline Hodgkinson**
- SynapsePeer: reconnecting lives. **Megan Baker**
- R they OK? A collaborative approach to managing suicide risk. **Cassie Carswell**
- Chronic pain after TBI: a new service model and framework. **Regina Schultz**
- The Alcohol and Drug Cognitive Enhancement (ACE) Program: addressing cognitive impairment in the alcohol and other drug sector. **Jenni Johnson**

3.00 pm
**Chair session summary / stream discussion (5mins)**

3.05 pm
**Afternoon tea (15 mins)**

3.20 pm
**Session 4: Plenary addresses (Phillip/Hunter room)**

3.20 pm
**Plenary address: Nick Rushworth**
Bringing to light: an Australian-first study into domestic and family violence and brain injury

3.50 pm
**Plenary address: Naomi Deck**
Identifying the ‘true’ consumer in partnerships

4.20 pm
**Forum wrap-up, feedback and evaluation**

4.30 pm
**Close**
### ACI Brain Injury Rehabilitation Directorate meetings (members only)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Room</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00 am - 2.00 pm</td>
<td>BIRP Directors and Managers</td>
<td>Macarthur room</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00 am - 3.30 pm</td>
<td>BIRP Paediatric Reference Group</td>
<td>Bligh room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.30 am - 11.00 am</td>
<td>VIP Clinician Focus Group</td>
<td>Rose room</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.30 pm</td>
<td>Close</td>
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</tbody>
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Speaker biographies

Anne Darton
Anne Darton is a physiotherapist who worked clinically for twenty years; much of this was in the Burn Unit at The Children’s Hospital at Westmead. Since 2003 she has worked in the directorate for the NSW Statewide Burn Injury Service, ACI as the Clinical Network Manager. In this role she is responsible for monitoring, supporting and improving burn care throughout NSW in collaboration with the multidisciplinary governing committee. She is an active member of the Australian & New Zealand Burn Association and is currently the secretary of this organisation.

Steven Davison
Steven Davison is Director, Social Policy Implementation with the Government Relations Branch of the NSW Ministry of Health, a role he has held since 2017. He has previously worked with the Commonwealth Department of Human Services in national system change and operational project roles as well as managing service delivery in Western Sydney. He has a professional background as a psychologist and public health, and has also worked in tribunals and occupational health sectors.

Naomi Deck
Naomi is a passionate and inspirational speaker, helping people tap into their inner strengths to overcome obstacles that come into their lives. Combining her personal, clinical and professional insight, Naomi inspires others to challenge their perspective. Over the last 15 years in her professional and personal journey (sustained STBI in 2007) Naomi has worked with a diverse range of clinicians and practitioners and found that through collaborating together a mutually beneficial outcome can be achieved. Recognising the need for flexibility, creativity and to be able to think ‘out of the box’ is essential for individuals living with STBI have hope for returning to a semblance of the quality of life they have previously experienced. Naomi’s lived experience with STBI combined with her professional expertise and experience as a speaker and facilitator leaves her as the obvious candidate to assist others on this journey of better understanding consumer partnerships.

Dale Forbes
Dale is an Aboriginal man from Coonamble NSW. Dale received a severe burn injury at age 2 which led him to enter the Out-of-Home-Care system. He spent the majority of his childhood in foster-care in Western Sydney. As a young man Dale became involved in volunteering and charitable work in the burns sector. While finishing a social work degree, Dale is working as an Aboriginal Senior Project Officer with the NSW Department of Family and Community Services and continues his volunteering and advocacy work for burn survivors as the NSW Burns Consumer Representative and has deep commitment to collaborative consumer-centred approaches.
**Nick Rushworth**
Nick has been Executive Officer of Brain Injury Australia since 2008. In 1996, he sustained a severe traumatic brain injury as a result of a bicycle accident. Formerly a producer with the Nine Television Network’s *Sunday* program and ABC Radio National, Nick’s journalism has won a number of awards, including a Silver World Medal at the 2003 New York Festival, a National Press Club and TV Week Logie Award. Nick represents consumers on a range of advisory bodies, including the recently announced $50 million Federal Government Mission in Traumatic Brain Injury.

**Dr Anne Woodhouse**
Dr Annie Woodhouse is a psychologist who undertook her PhD in Medicine, in the Department of Anaesthesia and Pain Management at the University of Sydney, studying opioid pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. After completing her PhD, she worked in the USA in pharmaceutical development, pain management and research. She returned to Australia and continued working with government and in research. Then, approximately 10 years ago, her life changed when she suffered a major traumatic brain injury. Overcoming major physical and psychological challenges. Dr Woodhouse now works full time in a rural GP facility, providing psychological counselling to a diverse range of people. She is still closely connected to and specialises in pain management but is involved in increasing services in rural and remote communities for all injured workers, including those with brain and spinal cord injuries. Dr Woodhouse is committed to a multidisciplinary, holistic approach that addresses both the physical and psychological impacts of injury and disease.