

Nursing Research and Clinical Innovations Symposium



Thursday 19 November 2026, Ella Latham Auditorium, The Royal Children's Hospital

8.30am Welcome: Adjunct Professor Kath Riddell, Executive Director Nursing Services and Chief Nursing Officer

8.40am Session 1: Transforming models of care

Taking a big leap forward: Implementing a Vascular Access Team

Eloise Borello, The Royal Children's Hospital, The University of Melbourne

Implementation and evaluation of a new Cystic Fibrosis Clinical Nurse Consultant model of care

Elena Sunderland, The Royal Children's Hospital

A dedicated procedure space for paediatric oncology patients: Improving access, patient experience and theatre capacity

Emma Wardlaw, The Royal Children's Hospital

Evaluation of a nurse-developed educational booklet for home-based paediatric care

Jessica Taranto, The Royal Children's Hospital, The University of Melbourne, Murdoch Children's Research Institute

"We're not robots" Experience of direct-care-workers who provide respite care

Ingrid Sutherland, The Royal Children's Hospital, The University of Melbourne, Murdoch Children's Research Institute

10am Rapid Research Round 1: Understanding and supporting complex health needs

Support worker utility of child-specific manuals for medically complex children

Emma Price, The Royal Children's Hospital

Uncovering neurofibromatosis type 1: Parent perspectives on diagnosis in Victoria

Kylie Clark, The Royal Children's Hospital

Cardiac escape room: Clinical innovation

Ebony Larter, The Royal Children's Hospital

10.15am Break

10.45am Session 2: Partnering in critical care

Navigating sibling inclusion through PICU

Jessica Appleyard, The Royal Children's Hospital, La Trobe University, Murdoch Children's Research Institute

Consumer involvement in doctoral research: A collaborative autoethnography

Alyssa Serratore, The Royal Children's Hospital, The University of Queensland

Paediatric donation after circulatory determination of death heart donation: A simulation-based approach

Melissa Short, The Royal Children's Hospital, Donate Life, The University of Melbourne

End-of-life practice recommendations in PICU: A modified e-Delphi study

Professor Melissa Bloomer, La Trobe University

Development and implementation of the post-anaesthetic care unit paediatric program

Maia Hester, Epworth Healthcare and Michael Larin, The Royal Children's Hospital

12.05pm Rapid Research Round 2: Perioperative innovation in action

Reducing disposable pulse oximetry probes: A perioperative sustainability success

Poilin Howland, The Royal Children's Hospital

That's LMA-zing: Exploring the management of LMAs in PACU

Alana Heaven, The Royal Children's Hospital

Hungry and thirsty: Transforming paediatric fasting practice through clinical innovation

Tania Ramos, The Royal Children's Hospital

12.30pm Lunch break

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1pm **Keynote speaker:** Professor Helen Petsky, Head of Nursing and Midwifery, College of Healthcare Science, James Cook University

Listening, learning and leading: A nursing journey towards improving First Nations respiratory health



Professor Helen Petsky is a leading Australian respiratory nurse whose work focuses on improving health outcomes for children and communities experiencing disproportionate burdens of chronic lung disease. As a clinician–researcher, she has built a distinguished career advancing evidence. Helen worked clinically as a paediatric nurse for 16 years in various roles for Queensland Health. She is currently the Head of Nursing and Midwifery, James Cook University and based in Cairns.

A major driving force behind her work is her desire to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' respiratory health. Professor Petsky collaborates closely with First Nations communities, clinicians, and researchers to codesign studies that reflect community priorities and lead to meaningful, lasting change. Her projects focus not only on clinical outcomes but also on strengthening local capacity and ensuring that culturally safe care is at the centre of every intervention.

Her contributions continue to shape national and international guidelines and strengthen the evidence base for culturally responsive respiratory care across Australia.

Kindly supported by The Royal Children's Hospital & League of Former Trainees (LOFT).

2pm **Poster viewing**
La Trobe University Coffee Cart

2.45pm **Session 3: Perspectives that shape practice**

MHP ready: Building ward nurse confidence

Janine Evans, The Royal Children's Hospital

Improving patient flow through a real-time bed management dashboard

Emily Kuc, The Royal Children's Hospital

Do you hear me? Nurses' experiences of recognising and responding to parental concern in the ED waiting room

Leah Woodford, The Royal Children's Hospital

Parents' and caregivers' experiences of procedural holding: A qualitative survey

Sage Hay, The Royal Children's Hospital

3.50pm **Parkville partnership**
Professor Melissa Bloomer, La Trobe University

4pm **Prizes and closing**
Kindly sponsored by La Trobe University