



JDOC

JUNIOR DOCTOR CONFERENCE FRASER COAST

Sat 17 – Sun 18 May 2025

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Wide Bay
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Health Service



►► Sustainability

Everyone has a role to play for sustainability and even small steps can make a big difference.

See what we have done to help the environment while creating an amazing program for you!

Recycled plastic lanyards!

Sponsored by Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service



RPET lanyards (Recycled Polyethylene Terephthalate) are an environmentally conscious alternative to traditional lanyards, as they are crafted from recycled plastic bottles. The process begins with the collection of discarded PET bottles, which are then cleaned, sorted, and stripped of labels and caps. The bottles are crushed into small flakes, and through a series of processes, the flakes are melted and extruded into fine threads. These threads are then woven or knitted to create the durable and versatile RPET fabric. The resulting lanyards not only reduce the demand for virgin plastic materials but also contribute to waste reduction by giving a new life to plastic bottles that might otherwise end up in landfill or oceans. RPET lanyards exemplify sustainability in events and responsible manufacturing.

Did you go vego?

Thank you to 33 per cent of delegates who said they would go vegetarian to help AMA Queensland lower our conference carbon footprint!

Fun facts:

- ▶ 138 meat meals = 1 tonne of carton
- ▶ 2,000 vegetarian meals = 1 tonne of carbon
- ▶ 30 trees for 25 years = 1 tonne of carbon





AMA Queensland membership



Join now

What is AMA Queensland?

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) Queensland is the state's peak medical body representing Queensland doctors and medical students. Nationally, the Australian Medical Association represents all doctors, including residents and registrars, public and private specialists, and general practitioners.

We are proud to be supporting Queensland doctors throughout every stage of their career and creating better health outcomes for our community and profession.

We assist members through the secretariat who specialise in workplace relations, media and public relations, lobbying campaigns and policy development for the betterment of the medical profession.

We also actively campaign for the rights of patients, better services in the public system, guaranteed freedom of choice in the private system and the right to access high quality medical services.

AMA Queensland's *Advocacy Priorities 2024-26* outline the pathway to better health for Queensland doctors, patients and communities. We aim to work with doctors and all levels of government to improve the efficiency, transparency and accountability of the Queensland health system.

The AMA has a long and proud history of advocacy on behalf of doctors and their patients.

We are continually striving to improve our service to members and maintain the AMA's position at the forefront of the profession.

What are the benefits?

Besides being a part of the state's most trusted peak medical association that advocates on your behalf as a doctor in Queensland, you will have access to a range of exclusive discounts and special offers.

Between our members-only benefits program, you can save money on everything from fuel and food to holidays, technology and fashion across Australia.

You will also receive updates on everything happening in Queensland healthcare and our work to protect and advocate on your behalf through our fortnightly newsletter *Connect* and our quarterly magazine *Doctor Q*.

Why should I become a member?

Explore the benefits of AMA Queensland membership:

- ▶ save money through exclusive member benefits
- ▶ access expert workplace relations support
- ▶ connect with colleagues at our many events
- ▶ access trusted corporate partners that specialise in our profession
- ▶ receive joint membership with and industrial relations support from ASMOFQ
- ▶ stay informed with member-only access to updates, publications and resources
- ▶ influence policy and advocacy through our Board, Council, committees and groups
- ▶ join our campaigns supporting doctors from all

crafts and communities

▶ follow us and join the conversation on Facebook, LinkedIn, Bluesky, Instagram and AMA Queensland Member Portal

▶ give back to your community, including medical students facing financial hardship, through our charity AMA Queensland Foundation.

Committee of Doctors in Training

As a member you get a front row seat to the work of our dynamic Committee of Doctors in Training (CDT) who advocate on behalf of all junior doctors. With regular updates via *The Script* newsletter, you will be able to see the work they undertake to better the lives of medical students and junior doctors. The CDT created the *Junior Doctor Conference* to ensure these groups could meet, be inspired and discuss the issues affecting them. There are usually hands on sessions too!

One of the most important campaigns created and carried out by CDT, in partnership with ASMOFQ, the Doctors' Union, is the annual *Resident Hospital Health Check*. The survey gives a voice to hardworking but vulnerable junior doctors about their working conditions and training opportunities at their hospital. In turn, we create and distribute a report on each hospital's performance and work with Hospital and Health Services on ways they can improve.

ama.com.au/qld
membership@amaq.com.au
07 3872 2222

Coast

into your future

Belong in a community where days pass unnoticed while you are busy living in the moment. Career, family, self: whatever goals you seek, embrace the relaxed, fulfilling lifestyle that breathes balance into an ever-changing world.

With a spectacular natural landscape as your backyard alongside kilometres of bikeways, abundant parks, playgrounds and sporting fields complemented by a vibrant art and events scene, a thriving outdoor culture is enhanced by one of the world's best climates.

A choice of a sea or tree change is available with 7,105 km² of richly diverse Butchulla country dotted with idyllic coastal villages and quaint country townships anchored among the Heritage City of Maryborough, the aquatic playground of Hervey Bay and the Paradise that is K'gari. You are never too far from anywhere, including a 45-minute flight or three-hour drive to the state capital, Brisbane.

Home to over 112,000 people and forecast to grow to over 144,000 by 2041, the region currently boasts two large public hospitals, the private St Stephen's Hospital – Australia's first fully digital private hospital, and an expansive range of specialist care.

A growing population and the region's popularity for excellence in retirement living will create unprecedented demand in all health and wellbeing industries and hence, key opportunities in medical services, research, innovation and associated ancillary services.

It's an incredible time to invest in your future on the Fraser Coast.

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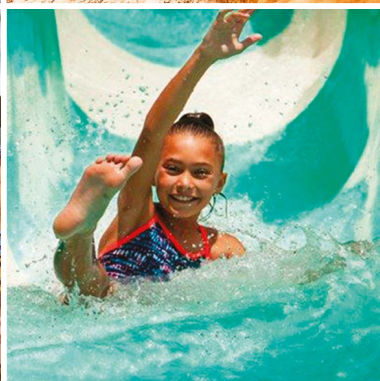
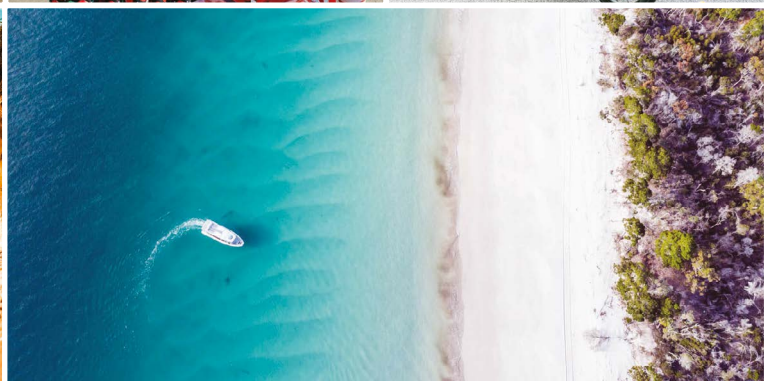
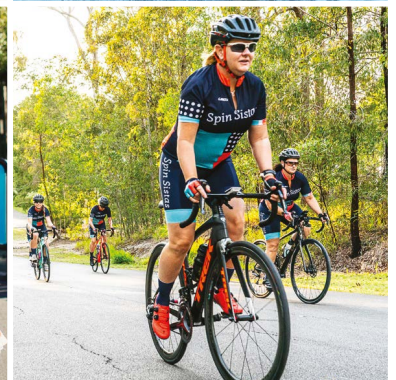
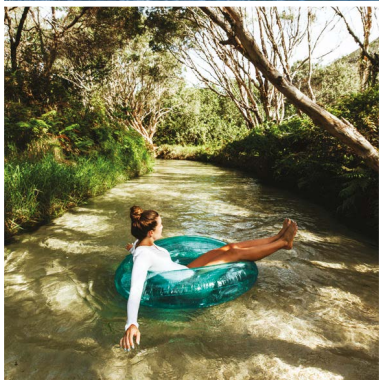
Welcome
New Residents



Opportunities
Health and Aged Care

To discuss your future on
the Fraser Coast please contact
Economic Development:

1300 79 49 29



Connecting future doctors to rural career pathways

The University of Queensland Regional Training Hubs supports the growth of regional and rural medical training opportunities.

Are you interested in building a life and career in regional or rural Queensland? Do you want to know if you can complete your pre-vocational training in these areas? We can help you navigate the complex vocational training pathways for generalist and specialist training in Central Queensland, Wide Bay and Southern Queensland.

Where you train is just as important as what specialty you pursue.



56%

of UQ medical students who have spent 2 years at the Rural Clinical School choose to intern regionally.



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE

"I spent the final two years of medicine in Rockhampton and Hervey Bay with the Rural Clinical School.

During this time, I loved the close interactions with registrars and consultants, working in multidisciplinary teams and the freedom and responsibilities that have come with regional medicine.

My exposure to regional and rural medicine lead me to accept an Intern position with the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service on the Rural Generalist Pathway."

Dr Andre Leiva

UQ Doctor of Medicine Graduate 2024

CRICOS Provider 00025B • TEQSA PRV12080

Where you train is just as important as what specialty you pursue.

Central Queensland – T 07 4931 2913 • E rthcq@uq.edu.au

Wide Bay – T 07 4130 1900 • E rthwb@uq.edu.au

Southern Queensland – T 07 4633 9700 • E rthsq@uq.edu.au



▶▶ Program

▶▶ Friday optional social function: 16 May

9am

5pm – 7pm

Complimentary transfers – see bus timetable for details

AMA Queensland Member Networking Event

▶ **The Beach House – 344 The Esplanade, Scarness**

FREE to attend for all AMA Queensland members. Includes: canapes and two drink vouchers. Great opportunity to network and meet local doctors from Hervey Bay.

This event is optional. AMA Queensland membership for students is free and a small fee if you are a junior doctor. Contact membership@amaq.com.au for more information or sign up on the day.

7pm

Complimentary transfers – see bus timetable for details

▶▶ Conference day 1: Saturday, 17 May

8.15am – 9.20am

9am

10am

10.10am

10.15am

10.25am

10.35am

▶ **UniSC Fraser Coast – 161-179 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay**

Complimentary transfers - see bus timetable for details

Registrations, breakfast with trade exhibitors and barista coffee thanks to UQ

Welcome to Country

▶ **Aunty Karen Hall**

Welcome from CDT

▶ **Dr Emma Hodge** – Chair, Committee of Doctors in Training/

Dr Natasha Abeysekera – Deputy Co-Chair, Committee of Doctors in Training

Welcome to the Fraser Coast

▶ **Cr Lachlan Cosgrove** – Division 6, Fraser Coast Regional Council (Platinum Sponsor)

Mythbusters: Regional Medicine

▶ **A/Prof Penelope Prasad** – Head, University of Queensland Regional Training Hub Wide Bay and Director, Paediatrics, Hervey Bay Hospital (Platinum Sponsor)

Keynote: The Unexpected Journey

▶ **Dr Fiona Baker** – Director, Integrated Care, Fraser Coast, and Chair of Queensland Dementia, Ageing and Frailty Clinical Network

HELP IS ONLY A CALL AWAY

24/7 Confidential Support Line:
(07) 3833 4352 | dhq.org.au

A confidential, free, independent,
colleague-to-colleague advisory service
for Queensland based doctors, medical
students and their families.




**DOCTORS' HEALTH in
QUEENSLAND**



10.50am

Panel Session: Wellbeing

- ▶ **Dr Emma Hodge** – Chair, Committee of Doctors in Training/
Dr Natasha Abeysekera – Deputy Co-Chair, Committee of Doctors in Training
- ▶ **Dr Jennifer Schafer** – Medical Director, Doctors' Health in Queensland
- ▶ **Dr Casey Tass** – Psychiatry Registrar, Wide Bay Mental Health and Specialised Services, South
- ▶ **Dr Ari Soerono** – Resident Medical Officer, Hervey Bay Hospital

11.10am

Your future starts now - financial advice to set you up for life!

- ▶ **Cutcher & Neale** (Gold Sponsor)

11.20am

Debate: Will AI will make real-life doctors redundant?

- ▶ MC: Dr Nick Yim
- ▶ **Team Affirmative: A/Prof Penelope Prasad (Captain), Drs Lauren Alexander and Jayden Barker**
- ▶ **Team Negative: Drs Ajith Thampi (Captain), Tom Alexander and Ari Soerono**

11.50am

Until AI takes over

- ▶ **Dr Chris Zappala** – Director of Medical Services, Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service (Gold Sponsor)
- ▶ **Peter Wood** – General Manager, St Stephen's Hospital (Gold Sponsor)

12.10pm

Elevator pitch for after lunch

- ▶ **Dr Emma Hodge** – Chair, Committee of Doctors in Training/
Dr Natasha Abeysekera – Deputy Co-Chair, Committee of Doctors in Training

12.15pm

Lunch with Trade Exhibitors

1pm

Breakout sessions (two x 30-minute sessions – choose two out of three topics)

Topic 1: CV/Interview Skills

- ▶ **Dr John Inderhaug** – Director of Clinical Training and ED Staff Specialist, Fraser Coast Hospitals

Topic 2: Keep calm and carry on – Performing in the Workplace

- ▶ **Dr Rudesh Prasad** – Head, University of Queensland Regional Clinical Unit Hervey Bay and Emergency Department Staff Specialist, Fraser Coast Hospitals

Research Program 1: poster presentations (six five-minute sessions)

- ▶ **Dr Emma Hodge** – Chair, Committee of Doctors in Training/
Dr Natasha Abeysekera – Deputy Co-Chair, Committee of Doctors in Training

- ▶ **Judges: Dr Kim Gidall, A/Prof Penelope Prasad**

Research Program 2: poster presentations (six five-minute sessions)

- ▶ **Dr Emma Hodge** – Chair, Committee of Doctors in Training/
Dr Natasha Abeysekera – Deputy Co-Chair, Committee of Doctors in Training

- ▶ **Judges: Dr Kim Gidall, A/Prof Penelope Prasad**



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Dr Edward Trang
Member since 2022

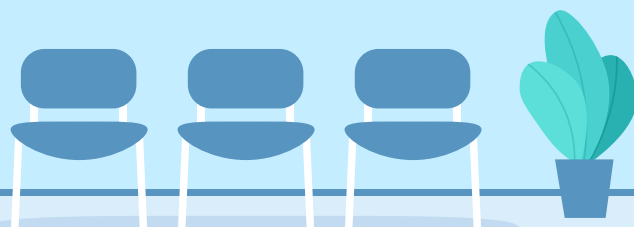
▶▶ Program

- 2pm** **Presentation by AMA Queensland President**
▶ **Dr Nick Yim** – AMA Queensland President
- 2.20pm** **Who's looking after your rights at work?**
▶ **Chris Fardon** – ASMOFQ
- 2.25pm** **Student Awards, Raffle prizes and instructions for Speed dating the specialties session**
▶ **Dr Emma Hodge** – Chair, Committee of Doctors in Training/
Dr Natasha Abeysekera – Deputy Co-Chair, Committee of Doctors in Training
- 2.45pm** **Afternoon tea with trade exhibitors**
- 3.10pm** **Speed dating the specialties**
▶ **Paediatrics** – A/Prof Penelope Prasad Head, University of Queensland Regional Training Hub Wide Bay and Director, Paediatrics, Hervey Bay Hospital
▶ **General Practice** – Dr Nick Yim, AMA Queensland President
▶ **Emergency Medicine** – Drs Tom Alexander and Lauren Alexander, Emergency Registrars
▶ **Medical Administration** – Dr Emma Hodge, Medical Education and Wellbeing Registrar, Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service
▶ **Orthopaedics** – Dr Christine Castle, Director Orthopaedics, Fraser Coast Hospitals and Dr Aidan Cleary, Orthopaedic Surgeon, Fraser Coast Orthopaedics
▶ **Obstetrics and Gynaecology** – Drs Sabaratnam Ganeshananthan, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, St Stephen's Hospital and Clinical Director, Fraser Coast Hospitals
▶ **General Medicine** – Dr Shenal Apuhammy, General Physician, St Stephen's and Hervey Bay Hospital
▶ **General Surgery** – Dr Venkatesh Shanmugan, Surgeon, Hervey Bay Hospital and St Stephen's Hospital
▶ **Academic Medicine** – Dr Rudesh Prasad, Head, University of Queensland Regional Clinical Unit, Hervey Bay
▶ **Psychiatry** – Dr Casey Tass, Psychiatry Registrar, Wide Bay Mental Health and Specialised Services, South
▶ **Rural Generalism** – Dr Cindi Jackson, GP and Medical Educator, RACGP

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Saturday, 24 May | Victoria Park, Brisbane



REGISTER NOW

4.50pm

Day 1 wrap up

- ▶ **Dr Emma Hodge** – Chair, Committee of Doctors in Training/
Dr Natasha Abeysekera – Deputy Co-Chair, Committee of Doctors in Training

5pm/5.30pm/6pm
or 8pm/8.30pm

Complimentary transfers to accommodation or social event venue
– see bus timetable for details

6pm –8pm

Saturday Social Event

- ▶ **Hervey Bay Boat Club - Buccaneer Drive, Urangan**
- ▶ **Sponsored by AVANT**

▶▶ **Conference day 2: Sunday, 18 May**

7.30am – 8am

- ▶ **UniSC Fraser Coast – 161-179 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay**

Complimentary transfers – see bus timetable for details

Remember to check out of your accommodation and bring your bags with you.

8.30am

Registration, breakfast and barista coffee thanks to UQ

9.30am

CDT welcome and housekeeping

- ▶ **Dr Emma Hodge** – Chair, Committee of Doctors in Training/
Dr Natasha Abeysekera – Deputy Co-Chair, Committee of Doctors in Training

9.45am – 11.30am

Skills session: USS Guided Cannulation, Airway skills, Ward call simulation

(three x 30 min sessions)

- ▶ **Dr John Inderhaug** – Director of Clinical Training and Emergency Department
Staff Specialist, Fraser Coast Hospitals
- ▶ **Dr Vanessa Greig** – Director of Clinical Training and Anaesthetist, Bundaberg Hospital
- ▶ **Dr Rudesh Prasad** – Head, University of Queensland Regional Clinical Unit,
Hervey Bay and Emergency Department Staff Specialist

11.30am – 11.45am

Day 2 wrap up

- ▶ **Dr Emma Hodge** – Chair, Committee of Doctors in Training

11.45am/12.15pm

Complimentary transfers to Sunday social event and lunch

12noon – 2pm

Sunday social event with lunch

- ▶ **Bill Fraser Park, Torquay**

2pm

Complimentary transfers – see bus timetable for details



AMA QUEENSLAND AGM &
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PROFESSION

THE STAR CASINO
FRIDAY 30 MAY

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- + Urology
- + Rehabilitation
- + Orthopaedics
- + Gynaecology
- + General Surgery
- + plus many more services

Review our
specialists here:



Acute patient transfer

St Stephen's Hospital also partners with the Public Hospital Emergency Department and local Urgent Care Clinics to ensure smooth patient transfers into our care.

Proudly part of

Discover Your Medical Career

in the picturesque Wide Bay, Queensland

The Wide Bay is a stunning and diverse region in Queensland, and is known for its relaxed, family-friendly lifestyle. The Wide Bay area is arguably one of the most beautiful regions of Queensland and Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service has a career for everyone.

Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service (WBHHS) is the major provider of public health services, health education and research to the Bundaberg, Fraser Coast and North Burnett regions, and parts of the Gladstone region. We serve more than 225,000 people over an area of about 37,000 square kilometres.

Bundaberg, Hervey Bay and Maryborough – each provide a range of acute, sub-acute, community, mental health and dental services. We also operate three hospitals and four multipurpose health services – which provide both acute and residential aged care – across the North Burnett region.

Training and Support

We offer great access to consultants and senior staff with fantastic teaching and training opportunities as well as career guidance and mentoring from the Director of Clinical Training and Medical Education Officer.

Rotations are offered and grouped to suit different career paths including physician training, emergency training, Diploma of Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Graduate Diploma in Medicine (Child and Adolescent Health).

We are very committed to providing a wide range of education opportunities and experiences for all staff, including simulation, conferences, grand rounds, satellite broadcasts, mentoring, succession planning, ward based education calendars and mock scenarios. Research is also encouraged and supported at all levels.

Rural Career Opportunities

Embark on a rewarding career with the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service in the Bundaberg region, poised to become a leading centre for rural generalist training. We are at the forefront of providing exceptional training and development opportunities for Rural Generalists.

You'll have the unique chance to work across a range of rural communities including Childers, Eidsvold, Biggenden, Mundubbera, Gayndah, Monto, and Gin Gin, experiencing the deep fulfillment of making a tangible difference.

The Rural Generalist role integrates professional development in rural healthcare with the tranquil beauty and strong community spirit of the Wide Bay area, ensuring a career that's as enriching personally as it is professionally.

Growth & Development of the Region

Be at the forefront of healthcare evolution with the largest health infrastructure investment our region has ever seen. The proposed construction of a \$1.2B state-of-the-art Bundaberg Hospital, a brand new \$40M mental health inpatient unit, and the establishment of a new residential drug and rehabilitation facility.

The proposed new Bundaberg Hospital has provisions to include a main hospital building with a rooftop helipad, 121 new beds, a larger emergency department, more operating theatres and teaching, training and research spaces.

What We Offer

- Competitive remuneration packages
- Generous superannuation and annual leave loading
- Fantastic salary sacrifice benefits
- Flexible rostering arrangements, variety and work/life balance
- Lower cost of living and affordable housing and rental market

Eligible applicants who move to a rural facility may receive up to \$70,000 incentive payments or up to \$20,000 if relocating to Bundaberg, Hervey Bay or Maryborough.

Lifestyle within the Wide Bay Region

Discover a different pace of life in Queensland's Wide Bay region – an idyllic haven for health professionals seeking a relaxed lifestyle. Enjoy your morning coffee to the calming sounds of nature, surrounded by the family-friendly communities and bustling regional hubs.

Wide Bay offers more than just stunning coastal attractions like K'Gari (Fraser Island) and the Southern Great Barrier Reef. Enjoy the region's friendly townships, national parks, a nationally renowned art gallery, and convenient access – less than an hour's flight to Brisbane and a two-hour drive to the Sunshine Coast.

With subtropical temperatures, wide-open spaces, and a strong community spirit, Wide Bay feels like home.

To find out more visit: www.health.qld.gov.au/widebay or Email: recruitment-wide-bay@health.qld.gov.au

All current vacancies are listed on: <https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au>

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Dr David Makarios
Avant Doctor in
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NORTHERN QUEENSLAND REGIONAL TRAINING HUBS

Connecting you with opportunities in northern Queensland

The Northern Queensland Regional Training Hubs (NQRTH) connects medical students, interns and junior doctors with opportunities and resources to create a supportive and clear path to specialist training in our regions.

*NQRTH is an Australian Government initiative
facilitated by James Cook University*

nqrth.edu.au



● **Dr Alecia Martin**
Resident medical officer
Member since 2018



MDA National | **100 YEARS**
Trusted For Generations

Trusted by Junior Doctors for Generations

For 100 years, MDA National has supported junior doctors in the moments that matter most. Today, we're proud to partner with AMA Queensland to support the next generation of doctors together.

Exclusive benefits for AMA Queensland members:

- 100% premium discount for doctors in postgraduate years 3-5
- 50% premium discount for doctors in specialist training

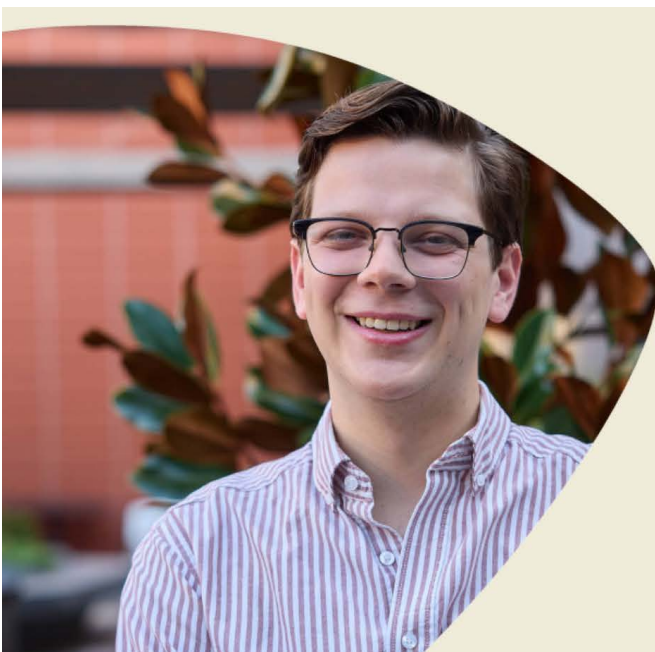


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AMA
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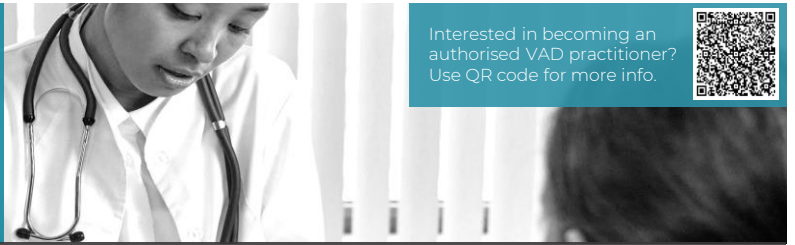
miga

A doctor's role in

Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD).

Legal obligations and possible roles for doctors regardless of whether they choose to be involved in VAD or are a conscientious objector.

Interested in becoming an authorised VAD practitioner? Use QR code for more info.



Raising VAD

Can a doctor raise the topic of VAD with their patients?

YES, however, this **must** be done in conjunction with informing the patient about all end-of-life treatment options (including palliative care).

Referrals

Can patients self-refer for VAD?

YES, referrals can be made by the patient or their doctor by contacting the QVAD Support and Pharmacy Service on **1800 431 371** (Mon to Fri 8.30am – 4pm) or via **QVADsupport@health.qld.gov.au**.

Legal obligations

Can a doctor conscientiously object to a patient request for VAD?

YES, but they **must** provide information about where the patient can get support and further guidance. At a minimum, the doctor should direct the patient to the QVAD Support and Pharmacy Service.

For CPD-approved education or further information about VAD, contact **QVAD Support and Pharmacy Service**.

QVADsupport@health.qld.gov.au | **1800 431 371** (M-F 8.30am to 4pm) | **www.health.qld.gov.au/VAD**

QVAD SPS
Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying
Support and Pharmacy Service



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becomeagp@racgp.org.au

1800 472 247



Learn more



CEO of Ramsay Australia, Carmel Monaghan, and QLD State Executive Manager, Adam Stevenson, stand with the Executive team and nursing staff at Sunshine Coast University Private Hospital in one of three new, state-of-the-art theatres, as part of a multi-million-dollar redevelopment.

What does it mean to be 'people caring for people'?

We approach our work every day through three key values known as The Ramsay Way.



1. We value strong relationships

Healthy working relationships lead to positive outcomes for all. We look out for the people we work with, and we respect and recognise them. Strong, healthy relationships are the foundation of our stakeholder loyalty.



2. We aim to constantly improve

We do things the right way. We enjoy our work and take pride in our achievements. We are not afraid to challenge the status quo to find better ways.



3. We seek to grow sustainably

Maintaining sustainable levels of profitability are only part of our success. We prioritise long term success over short term financial gains because we care about our people, planet and community.

Ramsay is Australia's largest private hospital operator, with over 70 hospitals, clinics and surgical centres across the country. Queensland makes up for 21 of these facilities.

Why Ramsay Health?

We are committed to supporting new specialists in private practice. Maximise your practice's potential within the Ramsay network through our tailored support, wealth of resources, expert mentorship, and growth opportunities. Join Ramsay Health Care to leverage our quality reputation, cutting-edge facilities, and collaborative community for a thriving independent practice.



Ramsay Health Care

To find out more visit <https://www.ramsayhealth.com.au/>



While you are busy
looking after your patients,
who's looking after
your rights at work?

**ASMOFQ is YOUR union...
run by doctors, only for doctors.**

asmofq

AUSTRALIAN SALARIED MEDICAL
OFFICERS' FEDERATION QUEENSLAND,
INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATION OF EMPLOYEES

Your membership allows **ASMOFQ** to:

- ▶ negotiate the best possible employment terms and conditions under the Medical Officers' Certified Agreement (MOCA)
- ▶ negotiate other industrial agreements for doctors employed outside of Queensland Health such as Mater, Royal Flying Doctor Service and Lifeblood
- ▶ advise you on your employment rights and entitlements
- ▶ assist you with interpretation of your industrial agreement, Award, policies/procedures, directives and any other legislation applicable to your employment (which can be complex)
- ▶ deal with issues relating to your employment on an individual or collective level
- ▶ work with you to resolve workplace disputes or grievances, including representing members in the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC)
- ▶ assist you with navigating payroll problems
- ▶ advocate for the consistent application of employment entitlements across various Hospital and Health Services (HHSs) in Queensland
- ▶ support you should you have performance-related issues
- ▶ fight for doctors' health and safety at work, such as appropriate fatigue management and proper fit-testing of N95/P2 respirators

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DID YOU KNOW?

ASMOFQ membership is included as part of AMA Queensland membership. AMA Queensland members are automatically members of ASMOFQ at no additional cost.

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Benefits of joining AMA Queensland



Professional networking

Stay connected with colleagues and peers in the medical field. Networking leads to new opportunities, collaborations, and knowledge-sharing. It's not just who you know, it's who others know. Networking is powerful.

1



Visibility

Stand out from the crowd with the AMA Careers Service. Let us help you create an application that gets you noticed. Free with your AMA Queensland membership.

2



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Advocacy for doctors of all specialties and at all stages of their career, from doctors in training needing support, practice owners, hospital doctors, private specialists and senior active doctors. Let us speak for you when you cannot speak out.

3



Protection

Be protected and secure at work with the support of ASMOFQ to negotiate pay and conditions, and resolve industrial matters including underpayment, award interpretations and unfair reprimands.


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4



Access to resources

Access a range of resources including the *Resident Hospital Health Check*, *Report Cards*, *Doctor Q*, webinars and exclusive member resources through our Member Portal.

5



Learning

Get a competitive edge over non-members with exclusive training opportunities on a variety of hot topics.

6



Social events and activities

Free entry to a range of AMA Queensland events, including the *Medical Careers Expo* and *Member Networking Events*, and discounted entry to other events and conferences, fostering a sense of camaraderie and engagement.

7



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Explore exclusive services, discounts and benefits to members, including free legal and financial advice from our corporate partners, and 50% discount off CPD Home. Visit ama.com.au/qld/member-benefits for full range of benefits.



8

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▶▶ Speed dating

The best thing about this conference is that there is something for everyone. Are you unsure how to go from junior doctor to specialist? Come and hear from the doctors who have taken the pathway to training with the **'Speed Dating the Specialties'** session.

Learn from their experience applying and progressing to their chosen field as they share their journeys and tips in brief 10-minute sessions. When time is up, swap onto the next specialty and **have all your questions answered!**

Speed dating the specialties



▶▶ Emergency Medicine

Dr Lauren Alexander – Emergency Registrar, Hervey Bay Hospital

Dr Lauren Alexander, emergency medicine registrar, Hervey Bay Hospital: Emergency medicine is busy! It's a rewarding, exhilarating and interesting specialty that keeps you on your toes. I love how I never know what I'm going to see in my day. People who crave excitement, like working in a team and can work well under pressure will enjoy a career in emergency medicine.



▶▶ Medical Administration

Dr Emma Hodge – Chair, AMA Queensland Committee of Doctors in Training (CDT)

Medical Administration is the specialty for doctors who want to drive change, influence systems and improve health at a broader level. Every day is different, ranging from managing crises, leading health service strategy, shaping policy, clinical governance, or supporting medical workforce wellbeing. It suits doctors who enjoy big picture thinking, complex problem solving and making a lasting impact across the health system.



▶▶ General Practice

Dr Nick Yim – General Practitioner (GP), Hervey Bay Doctors and President of AMA Queensland

Looking for a specialty that keeps you on your toes, connects you with your community, and actually lets you have a life outside of work? Welcome to general practice—Australia's most versatile and rewarding medical specialty! As a GP, you're the go-to for everything from coughs and kids' checkups to mental health and chronic care. You'll build real relationships, solve real problems, and make a real difference—every single day. Whether you're working in a buzzing city clinic or a remote outback town, GPs are the heart of Aussie healthcare. It's meaningful, flexible, and never boring. Why choose one specialty when you can do it all?

► Biographies



Dr Natasha Abeysekera

Deputy Co-Chair, AMA Queensland Committee of Doctors in Training (CDT)

Dr Natasha Abeysekera is a Dermatology Principal House Officer at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital and a Master of Philosophy candidate at the University of Queensland. She holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery and a Master of Public Health. Natasha has received multiple awards for her research and advocacy, including the AMA's 2023 *Doctor in Training of the Year*. She has held leadership roles in several medical associations, spoken at national and international events and her current research focuses on balancing the risks and benefits of sun exposure.



Dr Lauren Alexander

Emergency Registrar, Hervey Bay Hospital

Dr Lauren Alexander is a Registrar in Emergency Medicine, training at Hervey Bay Hospital where she has worked for seven years (with a few maternity leaves thrown in). She trained in the UK's St George's University of London, where she met fellow ED registrar Tom Alexander. Dr Alexander spent her initial years as a junior doctor in Devon, where she worked in an 800-bed, rural hospital. She is due to return to the UK in August for a 6-month clinical fellowship at St George's Hospital, London. If not found at work, she is found running around Hervey Bay with or without Tom and their two young daughters who keep them on their toes!



Dr Tom Alexander

Emergency Registrar, Hervey Bay Hospital

Dr Tom Alexander graduated from St George's, London in the UK in 2016. With his wife, he worked in the National Health Service in rural England for two years, prior to coming to Australia. They arrived for a 6-month working holiday in 2018. He is now seven years and two children into that 'holiday' and proud to be an Australian citizen. Having previously worked as a Resident Medical Officer and Principal House Officer in Emergency, he joined the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine training program in 2021. Now an Advanced Trainee in Emergency, he is working a 6-month stint as an Intensive Care Unit Principal House Officer. He has an interest in medical education and was lucky enough to spend a year as the Clinical Teaching Lead of the University of Queensland Hervey Bay Rural Clinical Unit between 2023 and 2024.



Sav Angi

Partner, Cutcher & Neale

Sav Angi works closely with his clients to get insight into their unique personal and financial circumstances and help them achieve their goals. He enjoys working in partnership with his clients to explain and implement wealth creation strategies such as effective tax structuring and debt reduction, while not losing sight of the important objective of asset protection. He has more than 30 years of experience in taxation, superannuation and finance.



Dr Shenal Appuhamy

General Physician, St Stephen's and Hervey Bay Hospital

Dr Shenal Appuhamy graduated with Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from Sri Lanka in 2012 and obtained fellowship with The Royal Australasian College of Physicians in 2023. Currently working as a specialist physician in Hervey Bay Hospital, Dr Appuhamy also works at St Stephen's Hospital as a general and perioperative physician. He has a strong interest in perioperative medicine, striving to deliver better outcomes for patients with chronic health issues undergoing surgery.



Dr Fiona Baker

Director, Integrated Care, Fraser Coast, and Chair of Queensland Dementia, Ageing and Frailty Clinical Network

Dr Fiona Baker is the Clinical Director of Integrated Care and an Emergency Staff Specialist in the Fraser Coast. Within the Healthcare Improvement Unit, Dr Baker is the Chair of Queensland Dementia Ageing and Frailty Clinical Network (QDAF) and the Medical Lead for the Geriatric Evaluation and Management/Rehabilitation Hospital in the Home and the Hospital in the Home Alliance. In addition to being a Fellow of the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine, Dr Baker holds fellowships in General Practice, Advanced Rural General Practice and is an Associate Fellow of the College of Medical Administrators. She has held clinical leadership roles in various model of care initiatives within the Fraser Coast, including Geriatric Emergency Department Intervention, Residential Aged Care Facility Support Service, Forensic Sexual Assault Service, Hospital in the Home and the Wide Bay COVID Virtual Ward.



Dr Jayden Barker

Intensive Care Principal House Officer, Hervey Bay Hospital

Dr Jayden Barker graduated from The University of Queensland Medical School in 2021 after completing years three and four at the Hervey Bay RCS. After two Resident Medical Officer years in Brisbane, he moved back to Hervey Bay to complete a critical care Senior House Officer year before starting as an Intensive Care Principal House Officer.



Nicole Brown

Partner, Cutcher & Neale

Nicole is passionate about working with clients to assist in wealth accumulation strategies. Nicole takes the time to understand their goals and motivations to provide them with tailored advice. Working closely with clients to better understand their needs, she draws on years of experience to help clients achieve their goals. Nicole focuses on a holistic approach, which allows her to manage compliance needs for clients as well as personal risk, wealth management, superannuation and finance needs.



Dr Christine Castle

Director Orthopaedics, Fraser Coast Hospitals

Christine is a general orthopaedic surgeon who has worked in private and public practice in Sydney, rural service at Manning Base – Taree and locum work in NSW, Victoria and Queensland.

She was part of the team to develop and produce the ASSET (Basic Surgical Skills Training) course for RACS and take it to Myanmar to assist the development of their national basic surgical skills.

She is currently Member of the Court of Examiners for the RACS Orthopaedic fellowship exams. She has recently moved to the Fraser Coast where she has commenced as the Clinical Director of Orthopaedics, taking on the challenge to assist in improving the delivery of orthopaedic care in the Wide Bay area.



Dr Aidan Cleary

Orthopaedic Surgeon, Fraser Coast Orthopaedics

Dr Aidan Cleary completed his specialist orthopaedic training in Queensland and interstate through the Australian Orthopaedic Association. His unique training covers non-robotic and robotic-assisted total hip replacement, partial knee replacement and total knee replacements as well as many other specialist orthopaedic procedures.

Dr Cleary prides himself on his clinical practice and research contributions and commits to ongoing education and teaching. He teaches junior doctors and medical students as part of his role at the Hervey Bay Public Hospital and contributes to international orthopaedic research. Dr Cleary was raised in regional Queensland and the challenges of rural health care fostered his strong desire to give back.



Cr Lachlan Cosgrove

Councillor, Division 6, Fraser Coast Regional Council (Platinum Sponsor)

Fraser Coast Regional Councillor Lachlan Cosgrove's professional background is in broadcast media, having hosted and produced a breakfast radio program on the Fraser Coast for nearly half a decade. Prior to his election to Council in 2024, Cr Cosgrove was operating his own business in the disability sector.

He is passionate about making the Fraser Coast a viable and attractive region for young professionals and families and is thrilled to welcome all the medical students and speakers to the 2025 AMA Queensland *Junior Doctor Conference*.



Dr Sabaratnam Ganeshanathan

Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, St Stephen's Hospital and Clinical Director, Fraser Coast Hospitals

Dr Sabaratnam Ganeshanathan – known as Dr Ganesh, is a Specialist Gynaecologist and Obstetrician. He has over 30 years' experience and is currently working as a Clinical Director and Senior Staff Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Hervey Bay and Maryborough Hospitals and St Stephen's Private Hospital. He is a training supervisor and examiner of Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and a Senior Lecturer of for Medicine at both University of Queensland and Griffith University.



Dr Kim Gidall

General Practitioner, Millbank Medical Practice, Primary Care Workforce Lead, University of Queensland

Dr Kim Gidall is a General Practitioner in Bundaberg with more than 20 years' experience as a GP, practice owner, sole trader and educator. Kim is The University of Queensland's Primary Care Workforce Lead for the Regional Training Hub Wide Bay and supervises students and Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine - Central Office registrars. She is also Editor for *Health Pathway Wide Bay*.



Dr Vanessa Greig

Director of Clinical Training and Anaesthetist, Bundaberg Hospital

Dr Vanessa Greig is the Director of Clinical Training at Bundaberg Hospital and a Senior Lecturer at the University of Queensland, Rural Clinical School. Dr Greig graduated from the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa before completing specialist training and being awarded a Fellowship in Anaesthesia. In 2009, she moved to Australia and gained a Fellowship from the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists. Dr Greig holds post graduate qualifications in clinical education through Flinders University and is a dedicated and passionate medical educator with a commitment to regional medical workforce mentoring and development.



Aunty Karen Hall

Butchulla Community Member – on Country

Karen Hall has had a long cultural curriculum career in education throughout Queensland. A number of years ago, Karen returned to Country for Healing and has continued in her role supporting community and educators. Karen is also an accomplished artist creating with sensitive consideration for Butchulla imagery and stories and contemporary imagery.



Dr John Inderhaug

Director of Clinical Training and Emergency Department Staff Specialist, Fraser Coast Hospitals

Dr John Inderhaug is the Director of Clinical Training in the Fraser Coast. With a distinctive Norwegian surname and Irish accent, John graduated from Trinity College Dublin before moving to Australia in 2009. He dual trained as a General Practitioner and a Fellow of the Fellowship of the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine, having spent almost all his training and career in regional Queensland. John is passionate about promoting the lifestyle and endless opportunities you gain by thinking differently, losing the commute and going regional.



Dr Emma Hodge

Chair, AMA Queensland Committee of Doctors in Training (CDT)

Dr Emma Hodge is Chair, AMA Queensland Committee of Doctors in Training, Medical Education and Wellbeing Registrar at Bundaberg Hospital and Clinical Lead for the Medical Wellbeing Project in the Office of the Chief Medical Officer. She is a Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators candidate undertaking specialist training in medical administration and an Associate Lecturer at the University of Queensland. An accredited careers practitioner, she also holds a Master of Public Health and a Master of Human Nutrition. Emma is a published researcher with a strong passion for improving the training experience, career development and wellbeing of doctors through system level change.



Dr Cindi Jackson

General Practitioner, Childers Family Medicine Lead Medical Educator, College of Medicine and Dentistry, James Cook University, Townsville

Dr Cindi Jackson is a rural General Practitioner/Rural Generalist, living and working in Childers, Queensland. She is a general practice owner and supervisor, a Senior Clinical Lecturer with James Cook University School of Medicine, and a Senior Regional Medical Educator for the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners in the rural generalist and rural space. Having graduated with honours from The University of Queensland School of Medicine in 2000, she had a varied junior doctor career path, including two years training in Anatomical Pathology and several years in rural Emergency Medicine. She finally saw the light and decided on rural general practice as her career and has attained both Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine Fellowships. She holds a Graduate Certificate in Health Professional Education and a Bachelor of Biomedical Science. Dr Jackson is a passionate advocate for rural medicine and communities and will discuss the professional and personal opportunities of going bush with anyone who will listen.



Associate Professor Penelope Prasad

Head, University of Queensland Regional Training Hub Wide Bay and Director, Paediatrics, Hervey Bay Hospital (Platinum Sponsor)

Associate Professor Penelope Prasad has been the Head of The University of Queensland Regional Training Hub Wide Bay since August 2020. She works closely with the Hervey Bay and Bundaberg Regional Clinical Units, along with the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Services and other external stakeholders to recruit, retain and support junior doctors in the area. Penelope is a Paediatrician, having obtained her Royal Australasian College of Physicians Fellowship in 2012. She currently works as the Clinical Director of Paediatrics at Hervey Bay Hospital.



Dr Rudesh Prasad

Head, University of Queensland Regional Clinical Unit, Hervey Bay and Emergency Department Staff Specialist

Dr Rudi Prasad is an Emergency Physician whose found home on the Fraser Coast in 2017. He proudly practices as a regional Fellowship of the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine with permanent roles within the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Services as a Senior Staff Specialist and with a tenured position as Head of the Hervey Bay Regional Clinical Unit within The University of Queensland's School of Medicine. His career based out of the Fraser Coast has seen him advance on many fronts. He supports his passion for paediatric emergency medicine and education as a course director and instructor within the Advanced Paediatric Life Support group. His advocacy for regional medicine has seen him serve as Board Member with the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine's Queensland branch. He plans to continue serving as a Regional Fellow of Australasian College for Emergency Medicine and is happy to discuss the many benefits it can bring to new doctors.



Dr Jennifer Schafer

Medical Director, Doctors' Health in Queensland

Dr Jennifer Schafer is general practitioner, with experience in medical education, clinical research, medical media and organisational governance. As a self-confessed multitasker, she combines her clinical roles with her work as the Medical Director for Doctors' Health in Queensland; Board Chair, Brisbane North Primary Health Network; Patron for the University of Queensland Medical Society and is a member of multiple committees for not-for-profit organisations.

Dr Schafer holds a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, a Diploma of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, is a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, holds a Graduate Certificate in Executive Leadership, is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, Executive Graduate Certificate Business: Leadership through Coaching and Mentoring and a Australasian Institute of Clinical Governance Graduate.



Dr Amin Shams Akhtari

Senior Medical Officer, Hervey Bay Emergency Department

Dr Amin Shams Akhtari is an Emergency Medicine Specialist currently working as a Senior Medical Officer at Hervey Bay Emergency Department, following significant emergency department experiences in several hospitals in Iran.



Dr Venkatesh Shanmugam

Surgeon, Hervey Bay Hospital and St Stephen's Hospital

Dr Venkatesh Shanmugam graduated from South India and completed postgraduate training in general surgery, before moving to the United Kingdom in 2001 for further surgical training. Dr Shanmugam completed post graduate training and research in the United Kingdom and obtained Fellowship of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons and Doctor of Medicine degree in 2009, the completed a Laparoscopic Colorectal Fellowship at Dundee in 2011. One of the founder members of a Laparoscopic Masters of Clinical Health training program based at Teesside University, Dr Shanmugam served as Senior Lecturer at Teesside University, before being asked to be Consultant Colorectal Surgeon in Darwin, Northern Territory in 2021. Dr Shanmugam moved to Hervey Bay in January 2024 and began working full time as Senior Staff Specialist, as well as treating patients at St Stephen's Private Hospital and Hervey Bay Surgical Hospital. Dr Shanmugam is also a Gastroenterological Society of Australia-approved endoscopist.



Dr Mtari Dewi (Ari) Soerono

Rural Generalist Registrar and Emergency Medicine Senior House Officer, Hervey Bay Hospital

Dr Mtari Dewi Soerono is a Rural Generalist Registrar and Emergency Medicine Senior House Officer. She grew up in the bustling landscapes of Paris, Jakarta, Bali, Montréal and Norwich before she found herself in the culture shock that is remote Far North Queensland - where she completed her medical degree. Amongst her studies, Dr Soerono worked in the Ski Patrol, gaining an interest in sports medicine. She also worked with expedition TV program Doctors Go Wild where she explored normal physiological adaptations of populations in remote corners of Indonesia. As President of the Hervey Bay and Maryborough Junior Doctor's Society, she serves as a bridge between junior doctors and senior staff, advocating for change constructively and ensuring all voices are heard.



Dr Casey Tass

Psychiatry Registrar, Wide Bay Mental Health and Specialised Services, South

Dr Casey Tass is a Psychiatry Registrar at the Hervey Bay Hospital and the current Chief Psychiatry Registrar, a role she was the first to establish within the Wide Bay Mental Health Service. Dr Tass has a strong interest in medical leadership, clinician wellbeing and health service development, with a particular focus on creating sustainable, supportive environments for doctors in training. She is passionate about rural and remote medicine, a value rooted in her upbringing in Weipa, a remote community in Cape York, and her training through James Cook University. Casey is also a committed medical educator, regularly teaching The University of Queensland medical students and junior doctors. Her work is driven by a desire to improve not only patient care, but also the culture of medicine itself.



Dr Ajith Thampi

Chair, Wide Bay Health Service Clinical Council and President, Fraser Coast Local Medical Association

Dr Ajith Thampi is an Emergency Physician at Hervey Bay and Maryborough Hospitals. He is Clinical Lead for the Wide Bay Health District's Australian Medical Council's Workplace Based Assessment Program, Councillor on Australasian College for Emergency Medicine's Council of Advocacy, Practice and Partnerships and Senior Lecturer for the Rural Clinical School at The University of Queensland.



Peter Wood

General Manager, St Stephen's Hospital (Gold Sponsor)

Peter Wood is a highly experienced healthcare leader with 30 years' clinical and leadership experience gained in Australia and internationally. For more than 20 years, Peter has held senior leadership positions in healthcare, including most recently within the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service, where he was Executive Director Fraser Coast.

His previous appointments have included Executive Director BMI Healthcare and General Manager roles with portfolios including medicine, surgery, cardiology, emergency services and critical care. Peter holds a Bachelor of Science with honours in Health Management, a postgraduate Diploma in Healthcare Management and a Master of Healthcare Leadership and Management at the Universities of Lancaster and Auckland. He is also a registered general nurse.

Peter has special interests in matching healthcare with population demand, exploring First Nations healthcare needs and complementing private and public healthcare services. He looks forward to intertwining the development of local healthcare services with his PhD study in developing cardiology services to match population need.



Dr Nick Yim

General Practitioner (GP), Hervey Bay Doctors and President of AMA Queensland

Dr Nick Yim is AMA Queensland's President. He is a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and a Practice Principal in Hervey Bay. Dr Yim has been a member of the AMA Queensland Council since 2016 and the AMA Queensland Board since 2020. He plays an active role in medical education for doctors in training and medical students. Dr Yim is passionate about ensuring long-term sustainability of the health system and medical practitioners. When he's not on the water wetting a line, he is being bossed around by his two border collies.



Dr Chris Zappala

Director of Medical Services, Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service (Gold Sponsor)

Dr Zappala is a Thoracic and Sleep Physician, and the Director of Medical Services for Hervey Bay and Maryborough Hospitals. He achieved his MBBS at the University of Queensland and underwent his advanced training at the Royal Brisbane, obtaining fellowship with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. He is an AMA Queensland Past President and AMA Past Vice President, and has a strong interest in medical leadership and advocacy.

Notes

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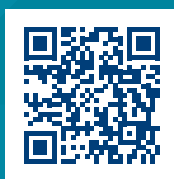
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