Australian Commission on **Safety and Quality** in Health Care

NATIONAL MEDICINES SYMPOSIUM 2026

National Medicines Symposium 2026

11 November 2026

Medicines Stewardship: Safer use starts with all of us

9:00 – 9:02 am	**Welcome to Country**	***Uncle Michael West*** Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council
9:02 – 9:07 am	**Introduction with facilitator**	***Ms Hediyeh Vahdat*** Chief Executive Officer, Linéaire Projects; Senior Clinical Pharmacist, Royal North Shore Hospital; Adjunct Senior Lecturer, UNSW; Senior Academic, University of Sydney
9:07 – 9:10 am	**Opening address**	***The Hon. Mark Butler MP*** Minister for Health and Ageing and Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme
9:10 – 9:15 am	**Welcome on behalf of the Commission**	***Conjoint Professor Anne Duggan*** Chief Executive Officer, Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
9:15 – 9:30 am	**Medicines stewardship as a shared responsibility: The state of medicines use, harm, and opportunities for improvement**	***Dr Jay Ramanathan*** Senior Staff Specialist, Clinical Pharmacology and General Medicine, Liverpool and Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
9:30 – 9:40 am	**Advancing antimicrobial stewardship in every care setting**	***Professor Jason Roberts*** Pharmacist, Metro North Health; NHMRC Leadership Fellow, The University of Queensland and Chair of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care Antimicrobial Stewardship Advisory Committee
9:40 - 9:50 am	**Introduction to the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) Academy**	***Dr Thomas Mylne*** NACCHO AMS Academy Advisory Group Member and Ophthalmology Registrar, The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO) Vocational Training Program

9:50 – 9:55 am	**Lightning talk: Penicillin allergy delabelling**	***Professor Jason Trubiano*** Infectious Diseases Physician, Head of the Department of Infectious Diseases, University of Melbourne and Director of the Department of Infectious Diseases and Immunology, Austin Health
9:55 – 10:40 am	**The role of the multidisciplinary team in promoting medicines stewardship in the acute care setting**	***Dr Hester Wilson*** General Practitioner and Addiction Medicine Specialist, Chair of the specific interest group in addiction, The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) ***Dr Emma Leitinger*** Haematologist and Medical Lead of Anticoagulation Stewardship, Monash Health ***Ms Elizabeth Su*** Pharmacist and Senior Project Officer, Medicines Optimisation Service, Austin Health and Professional Officer, Victorian Therapeutics Advisory Group (VicTAG) ***Mrs Kelly Roberts*** Endorsed Nurse Practitioner, Crowley Care, Ballina ***Dr Janney Wale*** Consumer advocate ***Facilitator – Ms Hediyeh Vahdat*** Chief Executive Officer, Linéaire Projects; Senior Clinical Pharmacist, Royal North Shore Hospital; Adjunct Senior Lecturer, UNSW; Senior Academic, University of Sydney
10:40 – 10:55 am	**Partnering for medicines stewardship: Living with chronic pain and empowering self-management**	***Ms Kimberley Grima*** Peer Mentor Manager and Facilitator, Chronic Pain Australia
Break 10:55 – 11:05 am* *Includes a minute of silence at 11:00 am for Remembrance Day		
11:05 – 11:35 am	**The role of the multidisciplinary team in promoting medicines stewardship in the primary care and aged care settings**	***Professor Katharine Wallis*** General Practitioner and Head of General Practice at The University of Queensland Medical School ***Affiliate Associate Professor Juanita Breen*** Aged Care Onsite Pharmacist, Optimal Medication Management and Academic, University of Tasmania ***Ms Emma Shanahan*** Proud Palawa Registered Nurse and Clinical Coordinator within the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service

		Ms Kimberley Grima Peer Mentor Manager and Facilitator, Chronic Pain Australia ***Facilitator – Ms Hediyeh Vahdat*** Chief Executive Officer, Linéaire Projects; Senior Clinical Pharmacist, Royal North Shore Hospital; Adjunct Senior Lecturer, UNSW; Senior Academic, University of Sydney
11:35 – 11:45 am	**MedicineInsight: COPD case study**	***Dr Lee Fong*** Medical Advisor, Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care and General Practitioner
11:45 am – 12:05 pm	**Using medicines safely and appropriately during medicine shortages**	***Dr Marwa Ahmed*** Co-Director, Medicine Shortages Section, Therapeutic Goods Administration, Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing ***Ms Helen Dowling*** Pharmaceutical Advisor and Project Manager, Medicines Safety and Quality, Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
12:05 – 12:20 pm	**Walking Together: Shared Decision Making and Medicines Stewardship for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People**	***Mr David Follent*** Acting Associate Director, Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing, NSW Health Agency for Clinical Innovation and Chairperson of the National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners
Lunch break **12:20 – 12:50 pm*** ***Includes a 10 min lunch break session – Safe medication management at transitions of care** **Play videos from '*Medication Management at Transitions of Care Stewardship Framework*'**		
12:50 – 1:20 pm	**Exploring digital health tools and technology for medicines stewardship**	***Mr Daniel McCabe*** First Assistant Secretary, Technology Assessment and Access Division, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing ***Professor Clair Sullivan*** Endocrinologist, Research Leader and Director, Queensland Digital Health Centre, The University of Queensland ***Associate Professor Shannon Nott*** Executive General Manager and Chief Medical Officer, Royal Flying Doctor Service South Eastern Section

		Adjunct Professor Naomi Dobroff Chief Nursing, Midwifery and Consumer Information Officer, Monash Health and Fellow Australian College of Nursing ***Mr Richard Taggart*** Chief Executive of eHealth NSW and Chief Information Officer for NSW Health ***Facilitator – Ms Hediyeh Vahdat*** Chief Executive Officer, Linéaire Projects; Senior Clinical Pharmacist, Royal North Shore Hospital; Adjunct Senior Lecturer, UNSW; Senior Academic, University of Sydney
1:20 – 1:50 pm	**Challenges and opportunities in medicines stewardship for priority populations**	***Dr Jay Ramanathan*** Senior Staff Specialist, Clinical Pharmacology and General Medicine, Liverpool and Royal Prince Alfred Hospital ***Adjunct Professor Manya Angley*** Director, Manya Angley Research and Consulting and Advanced Practice Pharmacist ***Associate Professor Dianne Crellin*** Associate Professor and Paediatric Emergency Nurse Practitioner at The University of Melbourne and Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne and Research Fellow, Murdoch Children's Research Institute ***Mr David Follent*** Acting Associate Director, Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing, NSW Health Agency for Clinical Innovation and Chairperson of the National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners ***Facilitator - Dr Phoebe Holdenson Kimura*** Medical Advisor, Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care and General Practitioner
1:50 – 1:55 pm	**Closing address**	***Mr Sankit Lalseta*** Director, Medicines Safety and Infection Prevention and Control, Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
1:55 – 2:00 pm	**Close**	***Ms Hediyeh Vahdat*** Chief Executive Officer, Linéaire Projects; Senior Clinical Pharmacist, Royal North Shore Hospital; Adjunct Senior Lecturer, UNSW; Senior Academic, University of Sydney