

# Expecting the unexpected:

STAYING AHEAD IN  
OBSTETRIC ANAESTHESIA

**Saturday 14 June 2025**  
HILTON HOTEL SYDNEY

## Welcome

Two thirds of us work, at least partly, in the private sector and a good proportion of those hospitals mandate our participation in an on-call obstetrics roster. Sometimes it feels like the boundaries are being pushed. Those of us working in the public system see some of the most complicated obstetric cases requiring anaesthetic intervention. It's hard to keep up.

In May 2024 the findings and recommendations from the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Birth Trauma were handed down. 4000 women, parents and stakeholders, made submissions to the NSW Inquiry with 1 in 3 women reporting their birthing experience to be traumatic. The inquiry has led to a push for a national response to address birth trauma and systemic failures in maternity care, to ensure all soon to be parents have access to evidence-based antenatal education and for informed consent in maternity care to be enshrined in law.

We are lucky to have Dr Morgan Edwards join us as our international speaker. Morgan is the president of the New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists, the society's representative on New Zealand's National Obstetric Anaesthetists network and obstetric anaesthetic lead at Te Whatu Ora Waitematā in Auckland. Morgan has a podcast for obstetric patients where she seeks to educate patients in the antenatal period.

Our program presents the new guidelines on the management of post partum haemorrhage and an update on assessing platelet function in pregnancy (did we say it's hard to keep up?). The program has been designed with annual CPD requirements in mind. The opening plenary session will fulfil all delegates 2025 cultural safety requirements, workshops are focused on emergency response activities and the closing session will look at obstetric anaesthesia under the measuring outcomes microscope and allow delegates to undertake a critical reflection. I hope you are free to join us on 14 June and participate in what we envisage to be a very enlightening meeting.

**Dr Kim Gray and Dr John Neal**

Meeting Co-convenors

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## Program

Session 1: Talks		Session Chair: Dr Kim Gray and Dr John Neal
8.55-9am	Conference Welcome	Dr Kim Gray, Anaesthetist, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Dr John Neal Anaesthetist and Intensive Care Medicine Specialist, Coffs Clinical Network
9-9.45am	Trauma Informed Care in Anaesthesia	Dr Morgan Edwards, Consultant Anaesthetist, Obstetric Lead, Te Whatu Ora Waitematā New Zealand
9.45-10.30am	Birthing on Country - What's it all about?	Dr Marilyn Clarke Clinical Director Obstetrics and Gynaecology Coffs Clinical Network, Coffs Harbour Health Campus
10.30-10.45am	Question and Answer Panel	Dr Morgan Edwards Consultant Anaesthetist, Obstetric Lead, Te Whatu Ora Waitematā New Zealand Dr Marilyn Clarke Clinical Director Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Coffs Clinical Network
10.45-11.15am	Morning Tea	
Session 2: Talks		Session Chair: Dr Natalie Purcell
11.15-11.45am	Post Partum Haemorrhage - Updated Guidelines	Dr Morgan Edwards Consultant Anaesthetist, Obstetric Lead, Te Whatu Ora Waitematā New Zealand
11.45am-12.15pm	Thrombocytopenia in Pregnancy	Dr Liane Khoo, Haematologist Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
12.15-12.45pm	Managing the Hypertensive Patient for Caesarean Section	Dr Izreen Mohamed Iqbal Senior Staff Specialist Anaesthesia, St George Hospital
12.45-1pm	Question and Answer Panel	Dr Morgan Edwards Consultant Anaesthetist, Obstetric Lead, Te Whatu Ora Waitematā New Zealand Dr Liane Khoo Haematologist, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Dr Izreen Mohamed Iqbal Senior Staff Specialist Anaesthesia, St George Hospital
Session 2: Breakouts		
11.15-11.45am 11.50am-12.20pm 12.30-1pm	Newborn Resuscitation	Dr Sally Wharton Senior Staff Specialist, Children's Hospital at Westmead Dr Kristen Schwager Visiting Medical Officer, Children's Hospital at Westmead
11.15am-1pm	Advanced Life Support (Cardiac Arrest)	Dr Anthony Padley VMO Anaesthetist, Blacktown Hospital
11.15am-1pm	Can't Intubate Can't Oxygenate	Dr Laurence Boss Senior Staff Specialist, St George Public Hospital
11.15am-1pm	Acute Severe Behavioural Disturbance	Dr Suyin Tan Anaesthetist and Pain Medicine Physician, South East Regional Hospital Bega
11.15am-1pm	Malignant Hyperthermia	Dr Matthew Griffiths VMO Anaesthetist, Norwest Private Hospital
11.15am-1.15pm	Opioid Induced Ventilatory Impairment	Dr Bronwen Evans Consultant in Anaesthesia & Pain, Department of Anaesthesia, Perioperative & Pain Medicine, Western Health

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1-2pm	Lunch	
Session 3: Talks		Session Chair: Dr Sharon Tivey
2-2.30pm	Neuropraxia of the Needle	Dr Morgan Edwards Consultant Anaesthetist, Obstetric Lead, Te Whatu Ora Waitematā New Zealand
2.30-3pm	Walking Epidurals - are we there yet?	Dr Catherine Traill VMO Anaesthetist, Royal North Shore Hospital
3-3.30pm	Pain on a Friday Afternoon	Dr Jason Chow Clinical Lead Pain Service for Women, Royal Hospital for Women Randwick
3.30-3.45pm	Question and Answer Panel	Dr Morgan Edwards Consultant Anaesthetist, Obstetric Lead, Te Whatu Ora Waitematā New Zealand Dr Catherine Traill Anaesthetist, Royal North Shore Hospital Dr Jason Chow Clinical lead Pain Service for Women, Royal Hospital for Women Randwick
Session 3: Breakouts		
2-2.45pm	The Dr Andrew Couch Memorial Award Session – Trainee Presentations	Dr Simon Martel VMO Anaesthetist, Liverpool Hospital
2-3.45pm	Advanced Life Support (Cardiac Arrest)	Dr Anthony Padley VMO Anaesthetist, Blacktown Hospital
2-3.45pm	Can't Intubate Can't Oxygenate	Dr Laurence Boss Senior Staff Specialist, St George Public Hospital
2-3.45pm	Acute Severe Behavioural Disturbance	Dr Suyin Tan Anaesthetist and Pain Medicine Physician, South East Regional Hospital Bega
2-3.45pm	Malignant Hyperthermia	Dr Matthew Griffiths VMO Anaesthetist, Norwest Private Hospital
2-4pm	Opioid Induced Ventilatory Impairment	Dr Bronwen Evans Consultant in Anaesthesia & Pain, Department of Anaesthesia, Perioperative & Pain Medicine, Western Health
3.45-4.15pm	Afternoon tea	
Session 4: Talks		Session Chair: Dr Kim Gray and Dr John Neal
4.15-4.20pm	Dr Andrew Couch Memorial Award Presentation	Dr Simon Martel VMO Anaesthetist, Liverpool Hospital
4:20-5pm	Obstetrics Morbidity and Mortality Session + Critical Reflection	Dr David Zalcberg Staff Specialist Anaesthetist, Director of Obstetric Anaesthesia, ANZAAG Allergy Clinic, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Dr Morgan Edwards Consultant Anaesthetist, Obstetric Lead, Te Whatu Ora Waitematā New Zealand Dr Izreen Mohamed Iqbal Senior Staff Specialist Anaesthesia, St George Hospital Dr Jason Chow Clinical Lead Pain Service for Women, Royal Hospital for Women Randwick
5-5:05pm	Closing Remarks	Dr Kim Gray Anaesthetist, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Dr John Neal Anaesthetist and Intensive Care Medicine Specialist, Coffs Clinical Network

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You are welcome to attend all talks throughout the meeting, you may only register for one workshop/emergency response workshop during the meeting.

## Registration

For more information and to register online please go to [www.anzca.edu.au/events-courses](http://www.anzca.edu.au/events-courses)

## Obstetrics, morbidity and mortality session + critical reflection

Forming part of the 2025 NSW ACE Winter Meeting, delegates that attend the obstetrics morbidity and mortality session can choose to complete a critical reflection of the session. The information and documentation to complete the critical reflection will be sent to meeting delegates at the conclusion of the meeting. Delegates who complete a critical reflection of the session will need to upload it to their ANZCA CPD dashboard.

## Continuing professional development (CPD)

Participants in the ANZCA CPD Program will have the activities in which they participated automatically allocated to their CPD portfolio following the conclusion of this conference.

### Practice evaluation

- Practice evaluation – Morbidity & Mortality session
- Practice evaluation – Cultural Safety session

### Knowledge and skills activities

- Knowledge and skills – learning sessions
- Knowledge and skills – short format learning

### Emergency responses activities

- Can't Intubate Can't Oxygenate
- Advanced Life Support
- Acute Severe Behavioral Disturbance
- Opioid Induced Ventilatory Impairment
- Malignant Hyperthermia

## Venue

Hilton Sydney  
488 George Street, Sydney, 2000  
Phone: +61 2 9266 2000

## Registration and health care industry displays:

Level 3 from 8am  
Plenary session and talks: Level 3  
Workshops: Level 4

## Accommodation

Please contact Hilton Sydney  
Reservations on +61 2 9266 2000  
(and provide the Group code GANZC)

Or alternately [book online](#).

## For more information please contact the conference organiser:

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[nswevents@anzca.edu.au](mailto:nswevents@anzca.edu.au)