

National Pain Education Summit:

From standards to practice

1 October 2026 | Rydges Melbourne

Date: Thursday 1 October 2026

Location: Rydges Melbourne, 186 Exhibition St, Melbourne

Time: 9am–3.15pm

Final Program

8.30–9am	Registration, tea and coffee on arrival	Speakers
9am–10.30am	Session 1: The case for change This opening session establishes why improving pain education is a national priority. It connects contemporary evidence, practitioner capability and the experiences of people living with pain. An overview of the standards will also be provided.	
	Weclome	<i>Professor Michael Veltman (Faculty of Pain Medicine Dean)</i>
	Welcome to Country	<i>Mr Tony Garvey, Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation</i>
	Why pain education matters: The role of contemporary evidence-based education in improving outcomes for people living with pain and the impetus for change.	<i>Dr Noam Winter (Faculty of Pain Medicine)</i> <i>Professor Helen Slater (Curtin University)</i>
	Pain Lives Here: The lived impact of gaps in health practitioner knowledge and skills Includes 2026 National Pain Report findings and data.	<i>Ms Fiona Hodson (Chronic Pain Australia)</i>
	Lived experience panel discussion A facilitated discussion exploring how practitioner knowledge, communication and coordination of care affect people living with pain.	<i>Ms Kate May</i> <i>Dylan McBurney</i> <i>Ms Mikayla O'Neill</i> <i>Ms Sylvia Reynolds</i>
	Australian Standards for Health Practitioner Pain Management Education - Why they were developed. - The intended audiences and uses. - How the standards support consistency.	<i>Dr Noam Winter</i>
	Audience questions and reflections	<i>Professor Michael Veltman</i> <i>Ms Fiona Hodson</i> <i>Ms Kate May</i> <i>Prof Helen Slater</i> <i>Dr Noam Winter</i>
10.30–11am	Morning tea	
11am–12.45pm	Session 2: From standards to implementation This session shows participants how to translate the standards into practical action across curricula, training programs, clinical supervision and workforce education.	
	Introduction	<i>Dr Irina Hollington (FPM Vice-Dean)</i>



Final Program

11am–12.45pm	Introducing the audit tool for organisations and individual health educators Current and future implementation and application examples Short, practical presentations from different settings showing how the standards could be applied and/or the audit tool used.	<i>Professor Emily Haesler (Curtin University)</i> <i>Ms Ellen Webber (Australian Physiotherapy Association)</i> <i>Dr Phoebe Holdenson Kimura (Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care)</i> <i>Professor Helen Slater (OPEN – Online Pain Education Network)</i>
	Panel discussion: Further exploring implementation opportunities for the standards Closing reflections	<i>Dr Tim Austin (University of Sydney)</i> <i>Professor Emily Haesler</i> <i>Dr Phoebe Holdenson Kimura</i> <i>Dr Laura Prendergast (Northern Health)</i> <i>Professor Helen Slater</i> <i>Ms Ellen Webber</i> <i>Professor Cylie Williams (Monash University)</i> <i>Dr Irina Hollington</i>
12.45–1.45pm	Lunch	
1.45–3.15pm	Session 3: Cultural safety and equity in pain education This dedicated session positions cultural safety and equity as core requirements of contemporary pain education, rather than additional or optional topics.	
	Introduction Why the focus on cultural safety and equity within the standards? An overview of why cultural safety, equity and responsiveness to priority populations are embedded throughout the standards.	<i>Dr Noam Winter</i> <i>Professor Emily Haesler</i>
	The needs of multicultural people experiencing pain and the importance of health practitioners having relevant knowledge and skills Considerations for ensuring pain education prepares health practitioners to work effectively with culturally and linguistically diverse communities.	<i>Ms Priyanka Rai (Australian Multicultural Health Collaborative)</i>
	What cultural safety means for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples The importance of culturally safe care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the implications for pain management curriculum content and teaching.	<i>Associate Professor Michael Reynolds (Australian Catholic University)</i>
	Encompassing cultural safety and the needs of multicultural people in health practitioner pain education and training Panel discussion: Putting cultural safety and equity into practice	<i>Professor Emily Haesler</i> <i>Dr Noam Winter</i> <i>Dr Brooke Conley (RMIT)</i> <i>Professor Emily Haesler</i> <i>Ms Priyanka Rai</i> <i>Associate Professor Michael Reynolds</i> <i>Ms Sylvia Reynolds (Royal Flying Doctors Service)</i>
	Closing session: The next steps to support implementation of the standards The closing session will summarise the day's discussion and propose some practical next steps.	<i>Professor Michael Veltman</i>
3.15pm	Summit close	