

Public Oral Health Conference: breakout sessions

Following our keynote presentations, we have four concurrent breakout sessions designed to provide a deeper dive into key areas of oral health. Whether your interest lies in **research and innovation**, new **clinical techniques**, **population-level action**, or **value-based healthcare**, there is a session tailored for you.

We encourage you to explore the session summaries and choose the one that will be most beneficial to you.

Breakout 1: Research and emerging trends

Chair: Clare Lin, Director of Policy, Oral Health Victoria

Presenters: a fantastic lineup of speakers will deliver rapid fire presentations sharing their research on current topics in clinical and population oral health.

Summary: this session showcases a diverse range of studies addressing critical gaps in oral health across Australia and beyond. Topics include:

- geographic disparities in dental workforce distribution
- innovative co-design approaches for managing temporomandibular disorder pain via mobile apps
- integration of AI in public oral healthcare
- impact of vaping on the oral microbiome
- the psychological effects of orthodontic treatment
- the implications of the 2024 LGA Oral Health Profiles.

Learn more about these studies for inclusive, tech-enabled, and policy-informed approaches to improve oral health outcomes.

Breakout 2: Advances in clinical practice

Chair: Werner Bischof, Chief Oral Health Officer, Oral Health Victoria

Title: **Beyond traditional: Digital workflows as a catalyst for public health efficiency**

Presenter: Liam Bradford; Prosthetist | IPC Health

Public health dental services face mounting pressure to deliver quality care while managing tight budgets and servicing large populations. Traditional denture fabrication methods with their multiple appointments and labour-intensive process, strain both resources and patient satisfaction. This presentation explores how digital denture workflow represent a transformative solution, offering substantial cost savings, improved efficiency, and enhanced patient outcomes within a public setting.

Liam Bradford is currently head of the digital denture program at IPC Health. A graduate of the University of Queensland (Bachelor of Oral Health, 2016) and RMIT University (Advanced Diploma of Dental Prosthetics, 2023), Liam has worked extensively across Queensland and Victoria's healthcare landscape. Liam spearheaded the development of IPC Health's first digital denture laboratory, driving advancements for prosthetic dentistry through innovative technology and patient-centred solutions in the public health sector.

Title: **Resin composites for deep caries and broken-down teeth**

Presenter: Dr Michael Wylie | Melbourne Dental School

Deep caries and heavily broken-down teeth present challenges to the clinician. A wide array of materials choices is available, including indirect and metallic restorations. But is there a place for resin composite materials in these scenarios, to create aesthetic, strong and durable outcomes for our patients? If so, what is the evidence base for choosing to employ them, and how can we ensure their success?

Michael is a general dentist with over 20 years of experience spanning clinical practice, academia, and research. Graduating from Queen's University Belfast in 2001, Michael currently

holds the role of Senior Lecturer in General Dentistry at the Melbourne Dental School, and convenes the DDS2 complex conservative dentistry preclinical programme, and lectures in dental materials science.

Michael has completed his MFGDP(UK) from the Royal College of Surgeons (England) and is a Fellow of the RACDS and the College of General Dentistry

Breakout 3: Population health – local action, meaningful change

Chair: Amy Patterson, Director of Population Health, Oral Health Victoria

Title: Oral Health Champions in the Early Parenting Centre

Presenter: Melanie Tyler; Child Life Therapist | Murrumbek Casey Early Parenting Centre, Monash Health

This presentation focuses on the integration of Oral Health Champions (OHCs) within the Early Parenting Centre (EPC) setting. It will highlight how OHCs are helping embed oral health into families' everyday routines and outline next steps for the EPC.

Title: Integrating oral cancer screening into general practice: A pilot project experience

Presenter: Dr Stephanie Muller; General Practitioner | Wingrove Medical Clinic, Fairfield

Summary: This session shares insights from a pilot project integrating oral cancer screening into general practice. Dr Stephanie Muller will discuss how training and clinical tools supported earlier detection and referral, and reflect on the broader value of prevention and cross-sector collaboration in improving population health outcomes

Title: Loddon dry toothbrushing initiative to improve rural preschoolers' oral health

Presenter: Annette Toohey; Manager of Community Partnerships | The Department of Fairness, Families and Housing

Summary: The Department of Fairness, Families and Housing (DFFH) is leading a dry toothbrushing pilot in select early childhood services within the Loddon region. The program supports children in rural areas, some without fluoridation, to develop oral health behaviours, with an aim to improve oral health outcomes with an emphasis on children in out of home care.

Breakout 4: Value-Based Healthcare – delivering on the promise

Chair: Sonia Coleman, Director of Value Based Healthcare, Oral Health Victoria

Value-Based Healthcare (VBHC) is about creating value for both patients and clinicians. It means enabling clinicians to deliver the kind of care they're proud of, while supporting patients and communities to play an active role in shaping their own health outcomes. This interactive breakout session will explore how the health sector is embedding VBHC principles in ways that reflect what matters most to individuals and communities – building a system that supports person-centred care, stronger partnerships, and sustainable impact.

Title: Deep listening, shared design: From consultation to consumer-led engagement

Presenter: Jo Szczepanska; Manager | Innovation and Service Development
Health Consumers Centre, Institute for Health Transformation

Summary: This session will explore how we can embed consumer voices into statewide system design and service delivery. Led by a co-design expert and a consumer representative, the discussion will focus on practical actions – like diversifying the consumer register and strengthening cross-sector partnerships – to create a more inclusive, collaborative approach to shaping public oral health services.

Bio: Jo is the Manager of Innovation and Service Development at the Health Consumers Centre within the Institute for Health Transformation at Deakin. She has a long history of working with and alongside OHV and is a passionate consumer advocate within the Public Oral Health Sector.

Title: Care that connects: Understanding what matters most

Presenter: Associate Professor Geri McDonald; Director of Patient Experience and Wellbeing | Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

Summary: Hear from leaders who have implemented peer-to-peer models that draw on lived experience to provide care grounded in deep understanding and mutual trust. This session will explore how peer-led approaches that tackle complex social challenges are transforming care, easing pressure on stretched systems and rebuilding community connections.

Bio: Associate Professor Geri McDonald is Director of Patient Experience & Wellbeing at Peter Mac Cancer Centre and Chair of the COSA Integrative Oncology & Wellbeing Group. With a career spanning government, health services, corporate, not-for-profit, and medical research, she is a leading advocate for better patient experiences in cancer care. In 2017 she received a Churchill Fellowship to study patient navigation models in the USA and UK; her findings have been presented nationally and internationally and are shaping cancer care in Australia, including a peer-navigation model now being implemented at Peter Mac for head and neck cancer patients.

Geri has championed integrative oncology and wellbeing services, was nominated for AFR's 100 Women of Influence in 2019, and received Pro Bono Australia's Impact 25 Award in 2020. She is a member of NACCHO's expert cancer working group, contributes to the COSA Council, and played a central role in developing the Inaugural White Paper on Integrative Oncology and Wellness Centres in Cancer Care. She continues to advise national and international organisations on cancer wellbeing centres.

Title: Working together: Aligning systems for impact

Presenters:

Anna Nadolny; Dental Clinic Coordinator | VAHS

Dr Min Jae Kim; Senior Dentist | VAHS

Summary: Delivering integrated, person-centred care requires multi-disciplinary collaboration and shared accountability. This session will showcase how Community Dental Agencies are delivering integrated models of care and how we can scale and sustain these approaches across the system. We'll unpack the challenges – like fragmented funding, workforce shortages and siloed service delivery – and look at what's needed to overcome them, together.

Anna Nadolny is an experienced healthcare administrator and oral health educator with nearly 10 years of expertise in public and community health services. She has held key roles across diverse organisations, including the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service, Star Health, and Southwest Healthcare, contributed to compliance and quality improvement processes, and delivered patient-focused oral health education. Anna represents Oral Health Educators on the Oral Health Clinical Council at Oral Health Victoria. With a background in nutrition, dental assisting, and oral health education, she combines clinical knowledge with strong administrative and organisational skills to support equitable, high-quality healthcare delivery.

Dr. Min Jae Kim is Clinical Lead at the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service with nearly a decade of experience in community dental clinics across Victoria. She has worked with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, including VAHS and the Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-operative, gaining valuable insight into the oral health needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. She is an agency representative on the Oral Health Victoria Safety and Quality Committee, contributing to the evaluation of safety, quality, and clinical governance activities across services. She is passionate about advancing oral health outcomes for the Victorian Aboriginal community

Join us as we share emerging practice, challenge old assumptions, and build a more connected, compassionate, and outcomes-driven oral health system.