



brain injury AUSTRALIA  
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# 8th National Brain Injury Conference

The Abercrombie Building, The University of Sydney Business School, NSW

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM



### Tuesday 28th June 2022

9:30 – 4:30

#### PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

**POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT FOLLOWING BRAIN INJURY** – Dr. Tim Feeney, Chief Knowledge Officer at Belvedere Health Services, United States, Professor Jennie Ponsford AO and Dr. Kate Gould, Monash University



Dr. Tim Feeney



Prof. Jennie Ponsford AO



Dr. Kate Gould

**DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE AND BRAIN INJURY** – Rachel Ramirez, Director The Center on Partner-Inflicted Brain Injury, United States



Rachel Ramirez

**CONCUSSION/ "MILD" TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY** – Professor Gary Browne and Dr. David Jefferies, the Children's Hospital Institute of Sports Medicine in Westmead, Sydney and Associate Professor Rhonda Orr, The University of Sydney



Professor Gary Browne



Dr. David Jefferies



Associate Professor  
Rhonda Orr

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# Wednesday 29th June 2022

9:15	<p><b>INTRODUCTION, HOUSEKEEPING, WELCOME TO COUNTRY</b> – Nick Rushworth, Conference Chair</p>  <p>Nick Rushworth</p>
9:30	<p><b>CONSUMER OPENING ADDRESS; "The Professional as Patient"</b> – moderated by Nick Rushworth, Conference Chair Three people with lived experience of severe Traumatic Brain Injury – an anaesthetist, a physiotherapist and an occupational therapist – share what they've learnt from being both sides of "the bed".</p>  <p>Dr. Bruce Powell</p>  <p>Ché Phillips</p>  <p>William Devine</p>
10:30	<p><b>MORNING TEA</b></p>
11:00	<p><b>INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE ADDRESS; Dr. Harris Eyre</b> – "Boosting Global Brain Health"</p>  <p>Dr. Harris Eyre</p>
Noon	<p><b>CONCURRENT SESSIONS</b></p> <div> <div> <p><b>CONCURRENT 1: INFLECTED TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY IN CHILDREN</b> <i>Inflicted Traumatic Brain Injury, inclusive of "Shaken Baby Syndrome", is the leading cause of death and disability in children who have been abused. Infants are at the greatest risk.</i></p> <p>1. "Abusive Head Trauma and Strangulation: a 'Hidden Acquired Brain Injury'" – Dr. Dimitra Tzioumi</p>  <p>Dr. Dimitra Tzioumi</p> <p>2. "Preventing Infant Abusive Head Trauma: experience from Rural and Remote Australia" – Dr William Liley</p>  <p>Dr William Liley</p> </div> <div> <p><b>CONCURRENT 2 – THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EXPERIENCE</b> <i>Rates of brain injury among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can be as much as three times that of the rest of the population. Despite a raft of policy reforms, the experience of brain injury among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remains further complicated by lack of culturally appropriate services and supports.</i></p> <p>1. "The Guddi Way Screen: Developing a culturally sensitive cognitive screen for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples" – Dr. Michelle McIntyre and Jennifer Cullen</p>  <p>Dr. Michelle McIntyre</p>  <p>Jennifer Cullen</p> <p>2. "Responding to Acquired Brain Injury in Remote Indigenous Communities: Getting the Foundations Right" – Dr. Anthea Krieg</p>  <p>Dr. Anthea Krieg</p> </div> <div> <p><b>CONCURRENT 3 – CONCUSSION</b> <i>Concussion – or "mild" Traumatic Brain Injury – is the most common kind of brain injury, accounting for as many as 90 per cent of hospitalisations for Traumatic Brain Injury. The provision of best practice assessment and management of concussion remains a public health challenge.</i></p> <p>"Taking the Guesswork out of Concussion: Applying Brain Injury Biomarkers to Australian Footballers" – Associate Professor Sandy Shultz, Dr. Stuart McDonald, Professor Meng Law, Dr. Meagan Clough and Dr. Brendan Major</p>  <p>Associate Professor Sandy Shultz</p>  <p>Dr. Stuart McDonald</p>  <p>Professor Meng Law</p>  <p>Dr. Meagan Clough</p> </div> </div>

3. "The Carers' Way Ahead; a New Online Resource to Assist Families of People with Traumatic Brain Injury and 'Challenging Behaviours'" - Professor Skye McDonald



Professor Skye McDonald

3. "A Culturally-Responsive Supported Housing Model for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples with Brain Injury" – Adam Schickerling and Janine Taylor



Adam Schickerling



Janine Taylor



Dr. Brendan Major

1:00

## LUNCH

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS** – Dr. Charlie TEO AM; "Minimising Damage, Maximising Potential – **Hope for Recovery from Brain Injury**"



Professor Charlie TEO AM

2:00

3:00

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### CONCURRENT 4 – POST-CONCUSSION SYNDROME

*While most people recover from concussion - a "mild" Traumatic Brain Injury - as many as 2 in every 3 will experience disabling symptoms lasting longer than 3 months. Post-Concussion Syndrome is a major public health concern in urgent need of health and disability-funded service responses and evidence-based interventions.*

1. "Living with Post-Concussion Syndrome; a Rollercoaster 5-Year Ride. And Counting" – Steve Garden



Stephen Garden

2. "The Ripple Effects of a Traumatic Brain Injury" – Charlotte Stocker



Charlotte Stocker

### CONCURRENT 5 – "IT TAKES A VILLAGE..."; PARTNERS, PARENTS, PEERS AND CARERS

1. "Day in the Life of the Wife of a Husband with a Brain Injury" – Melissa Bruce



Melissa Bruce

2. "Support for Carers of People Living with Brain Injury: The Importance of Personal and Social Support" – Dr. Lukas Hofstaetter and Melissa Docker



Dr. Lukas Hofstaetter



Melissa Docker

### CONCURRENT 6 – "USING THE NeuroBITE DATABASE TO FIND EVIDENCE-BASED TREATMENTS FOR BRAIN INJURY" – Dr. Paul Gertler

*This Session will show attendees how to find treatments for a range of symptoms and conditions associated with brain injury from a database that catalogues over 6,000 studies*



Dr. Paul Gertler



3. "The Journey of Recovery: Living with Post-Concussion Syndrome" – Maria Moran



Maria Moran

4. "Life in the Post-Concussion Lane" – Talie Van Piper



Talie Van Piper

3. "An Ordinary Life" – Cheryl McDonnell



Cheryl McDonnell

4. "The Power of Peer Connection: How 'Heads Together for ABI' Supports and Connects Young People with Acquired Brain Injuries and their Families" – Kate Heine



Kate Heine

4:00

AFTERNOON TEA

4:30

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**CONCURRENT 7 – "RESEARCH AND INNOVATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY'S BRAIN AND MIND CENTRE AND ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY COMMUNICATION LAB"** – Professor Leanne Togher, Dr. Melissa Brunner, Dr. Rachael Rietdijk, Petra Avramovic, Melissa Miao and Sophie Brassel



Professor Leanne Togher



Dr. Melissa Brunner



Dr. Rachael Rietdijk



Petra Avramovic



Sophie Brassel



Melissa Miao

**CONCURRENT 8 – "IMPROVING BRAIN HEALTH: INTRODUCING MENDING MILITARY MINDS, AN ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY PILOT PROGRAM SUPPORTING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES"** – Fiona Smith Clinical Case Manager at Open Arms, Veterans and Families Counselling, Department of Veterans' Affairs



Fiona Smith

**CONCURRENT 9 – THE LONG TERM**

1. "A Qualitative Exploration of the Long-Term Journey after Traumatic Brain Injury" – Professor Jennie Ponsford AO



Prof. Jennie Ponsford AO

2. "Factors Facilitating Recovery Following Severe Traumatic Brain Injury: A Qualitative Study" – Amelia Hicks



Amelia Hicks

3. "The Women's Healthy Aging Project: a Sign of Early Cognitive Aging Decades after Community Brain Injury?" – Stefanie Bird



Stefanie Bird

4. "Does Cognitive Decline Occur Decades after Traumatic Brain Injury? A Prospective Controlled Study" – Amelia Hicks



Amelia Hicks

5:30

CLOSE

#### FILM SCREENING:

"Mystify Michael Hutchence" is a journey into the heart and soul of the internationally-renowned lead singer of rock band INXS, pictured left; a complex and shy man who spent the bulk of his life in the public eye, rarely revealing his true self to anyone except his very close friends. This award-winning documentary portrays Hutchence's life journey from his beginnings in a fractured family, to the peaks of rock stardom, followed by the life-altering challenges he faced after sustaining a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) from a violent assault in 1992. The documentary will be introduced by its writer, director, producer and editor, Richard Lowenstein, pictured below. Richard will also answer questions from the audience following the screening.



Michael Hutchence



Richard Lowenstein

## Thursday 30th June 2022

9:15

INTRODUCTION, HOUSEKEEPING – Nick Rushworth, Conference Chair



Nick Rushworth

9:30

INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE ADDRESS – Dr. Tim Feeney; "We All Belong to Each Other"



Dr. Tim Feeney

10:30

MORNING TEA

**CONCURRENT 10 – THE LIVED EXPERIENCE; WHAT “WORKS”**

1. “From the Accident to ‘By Accident’” – Eva Sifis



Eva Sifis

2. “Wally’s Traumatic Brain Injury Journey” – Daniel Wallekers



Daniel Wallekers

3. “You Don’t Know What You’ve Got ‘Til It’s Gone” – Claire Cooper



Claire Cooper

4. “The Role of Athletics Training in Brain Injury Rehabilitation and Neuroplasticity” – Alexandria Eves and Mark Reed



Alexandria Eves



Mark Reed

**CONCURRENT 11: POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT**

*Each year, around 1,000 Australians sustain a severe Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). And for as many as half of them, they will also manifest “challenging behaviours”: impulsivity; irritability; verbal, and sometimes physical, aggression.*

1. “The Missing Link between Behavioural Improvements and Training-induced Structural Neuroplastic Changes in Patients with Brain Injury” – Professor Karen Caeyenberghs



Prof. Karen Caeyenberghs

2. “‘I’ve Never Been Positive ... I Am Now’. Positive Behaviour Support Intervention; Goal Attainment and Participant Perspectives” – Dr. Kate Gould and Amelia Hicks



Dr. Kate Gould



Amelia Hicks

3. “Use of Sensory Modulation Intervention in a Community Adult Acquired Brain Injury Population to Reduce Behaviours of Concern” – Katie Hall



Katie Hall

4. “Meet Me In the Middle: Facilitating Positive Behaviour Support Success Between Practitioners and Workers” – Damien Pegrem



Damien Pegrem

**CONCURRENT 12 – DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE AND BRAIN INJURY**

*In research commissioned by the Victorian Government, Brain Injury Australia found 2 in every 5 of the 16,000 victim-survivors of Domestic and Family Violence attending Victorian hospitals over a decade had sustained a brain injury.*

1. “Repetitive Brain Injuries are Serious and Hidden Dangers for Women Too: Understanding the Invisible Dangers of Intimate Partner Violence” – Associate Professor Eve Valera

Associate Professor  
Eve Valera

2. “Key Insights from a Traumatic Brain Injury and Domestic and Family Violence Roundtable” – Roxana Castro and Robina Jones



Roxana Castro



Robina Jones

3. “The Role of Brain Injury in Family Violence for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples” – Professor Marcia Langton AO and Dr. Kristen Smith



Prof. Marcia Langton AO



Dr. Kristen Smith

4. “Neuropsychology and Domestic and Family Violence; the RE-FOCUS Study” – Dr. Caroline Fisher and Dr. Toni Withiel



Dr. Caroline Fisher



Dr. Toni Withiel

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS; MAKING THE INVISIBLE DISABILITY VISIBLE** – Professor Stuart Grieve, with Paddy McCartin  
*The potential long-term effects of concussion - a "mild" Traumatic Brain Injury - remain the white-hot conversation in sport. World-leading neuroradiologist Professor Stuart Grieve's Keynote Address - in collaboration with Paddy McCartin, the number one pick in the 2014's Australian Football League (AFL) draft, whose eight concussions playing for St. Kilda forced his early retirement - will share what cutting-edge Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) reveals about the often subtle, sometimes disabling, effects of "mild" brain injury.*

1:30



Professor Stuart Grieve



Paddy McCartin

2:30

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### CONCURRENT 13 – PANDEMIC, AND OTHER, PIVOTS TO ONLINE DELIVERY

*Some surveys have found people with a disability are happy with the move to remote delivery of services and supports as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Others have found that face-to-face delivery remains preferred. Regardless, funders are finding remote delivery cheaper. So, the push is on.*

1. "Blending Technology and Creativity to Adapt Cognitive Rehabilitation Strategies for Individuals with Acquired Brain Injury" – Natalie Jones



Natalie Jones

2. "Implementation of Online Psychosocial Interventions for People with Neurological Conditions and their Caregivers: A Systematic Review of the Evidence" – Melissa Miao



Melissa Miao

### CONCURRENT 14: THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

*As many as 80 per cent of adult prisoners report histories of brain injury. And while an association between brain injury and, sometimes violent, offending is now not only undeniable but uncontroversial, offenders with a brain injury are regularly ineligible for programs of diversion or rehabilitation due to restrictive legislation or access criteria.*

1. "Identifying and Responding to Cognitive and other Disabilities in Indigenous Prisoners" – Dr. Michelle McIntyre



Dr. Michelle McIntyre

2. "Acquired Brain Injury and the Queensland Mental Health Act" – Raymond Horn



Raymond Horn

3. "Prisoners with Brain Injuries: What do we Know and What Should we Do?" – Associate Professor Molly Townes O'Brien



Associate Professor Molly Townes O'Brien

### CONCURRENT 15: RE-EDUCATION

1. "The Hairy Bokie and other Metacognitive Strategies" – Dr. Jeffrey Baron-Levi



Dr. Jeffrey Baron-Levi

2. "Birth Complications and their Impact on Learning in the Classroom" – Jane Andrew



Jane Andrew

3. "Stimulating the Brain, Through Study" – Tish Peiris



Tish Peiris



3:30pm

## AFTERNOON TEA

4:00

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### CONCURRENT 16: "IT TAKES A VILLAGE..." – PEERS AND FRIENDS

*Surveys following people living with severe brain injury have found half report having lost friends, becoming more socially isolated since their injury. This Session shares success stories of finding peer supports, keeping friends.*

1. "Making and Keeping Friends after Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI): The TBI Friendship Project" – Dr. Melanie Moses and Samantha Grant



Dr. Melanie Moses



Samantha Grant

2. "Peer Support Groups; Validating the Lived Experience" – Brent Alford



Brent Alford

3. "A Problem Shared is a Problem Halved: Group-based Therapy and Integrated Management in Repeat Concussion and Traumatic Encephalopathy Syndrome" – Dr. Rowena Mobbs



Dr. Rowena Mobbs

### CONCURRENT 18 – CONCUSSION

*Concussion – or "mild" Traumatic Brain Injury – is the most common kind of brain injury, accounting for as many as 90 per cent of hospitalisations for Traumatic Brain Injury. The provision of best practice assessment and management of concussion remains a public health challenge.*

1. "Women versus Brain Injury" – Katherine Snedaker



Katherine Snedaker

2. "The Association of Soft-shell Headgear with Concussion and Injury Risk in Junior Australian Football: A Prospective Cohort Study" – Jennifer Makovec Knight



Jennifer Makovec Knight

### CONCURRENT 17: EMPLOYMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH BRAIN INJURY

*Long-term surveys have found only 40 per cent of people with severe brain injury are employed 5 years post-injury. This Session shares success stories of finding, and keeping, employment.*

1. "Jobseeking after Brain Injury – Tips and Tricks for Injury Disclosure and Sources of Support" – Alexandra Locke



Alexandra Locke

2. "Achieving Better Employment Outcomes for People with Brain Injury: The 'Who What Where When Why' Project" – Deborah Byrne



Deborah Byrne

3. "The Vocational Intervention Program: a Profile of Participants and Preliminary Employment and Wellbeing Outcomes" – Philippa McRae



Philippa McRae

### CONCURRENT 19 – THE LIVED EXPERIENCE; THE DIVERSITY

*Brain injuries occur not only as the result of trauma. Given both the range of external causes, and ages at injury, brain injury is the most disparate and diverse of all disability types*

1. "The Hidden Nature of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder" – Jessica Birch




Jessica Birch

2. "My Recovery after a Yachting Accident in 1995 left me with Hypoxic Brain Injury and a life in Rehabilitation Units, Nursing Homes and Hostels" – Mark Thompson



Mark Thompson



	<p>3. "Injury Reduction Exercise Programs which Include Neck Exercises can Decrease the Incidence of Head and Neck Injuries including Sport-related Concussion in Contact Sport Athletes: A Systematic Review" – Dr. Kerry Peek</p>  <p>Dr Kerry Peek</p> <p>4. "Look to the Eyes; Eye Movement (Dys)function in Mild Traumatic Brain Injury" – Dr. Carlo Rinaudo</p>  <p>Carlo Rinaudo</p>	<p>3. "Life Lessons from Eating an Acquired Mussel" – Dominic McDonald</p>  <p>Dominic McDonald</p> <p>4. "Brain Aneurysm: the Lived Experience, the Prevalence and Lack of Awareness" – Cynthia Burke</p>  <p>Cynthia Burke</p>
5:00	Closing remarks	
5:15	CONFERENCE CLOSE	

## PRICING

### Pre-Conference Workshops – Tuesday 28th June 2022









One Day Workshop	Standard
POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT FOLLOWING BRAIN INJURY	\$295
CONCUSSION/ "MILD" TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	\$295
DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE AND BRAIN INJURY	\$295

### Conference – Wednesday 29th - Thursday 30th June 2022

Two Day Conference	Standard
TWO DAY REGISTRATION	\$695
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