



The 16th OSWANZ Conference

Diversity, Innovation and Future Directions of Oncology Social Work

 Melbourne, Australia

 October 17th and 18th 2024





The 16th Oncology Social Work Australia & New Zealand (OSWANZ) Conference

17th + 18th October 2024, Melbourne Australia

Program

Woodward Conference Centre, University of Melbourne, Law

Building, 106/185 Pelham St, Carlton, VIC, Australia

DAY ONE – Thursday 17/10/24

TIME	EVENT/PRESENTATIONS	PRESENTER
8.30-9.00	Registrations	
9.00-9.15	Acknowledgement of Country - Aunty Marlene Burchill Elder in Residence, Royal Melbourne Hospital	
9.15-9.30	Conference Welcome	
9.30-10.30	KEYNOTE <i>Cancer is not a "Journey": In Search of a Better Metaphor</i>	Professor Irwin Epstein MSW, Phd Emeritus Professor (Retired) City University of New York, United States of America
10.30-11.00	MORNING TEA	
	SESSION A – AYA/PAEDIATRICS	
11.00-11.45	KEYNOTE <i>Partnering with Young People in Adolescent & Young Adult Oncology: A Practice Research Collaboration</i>	A/Prof Kate Thompson Program Director Victorian Adolescent & Young Adult Cancer Service, Melbourne Australia

11.45-12.45 <i>20 mins each with questions.</i>	Oral Presentations An innovative role within Paediatric Oncology Social Work to advocate for families and provide specialised assistance in accessing practical supports: the role of the Allied Health Assistant	Kristie Scott Allied Health Assistant – Royal Children’s Hospital, Melbourne Australia
	Implementing a new and innovative Oncology Social Work model of care at The Royal Children’s Hospital, Melbourne	Grace Haslinghouse and Gemma Hall Social Workers – The Royal Children’s Hospital, Melbourne Australia
	Bridging the Gap: Enhancing Support for Young and Middle-Aged Adults with Blood Cancer	Linda Saunders Education & Support Group Program Lead Jenni Bourke Occupational Therapist Leukaemia Foundation, Australia
2.45—1.45	LUNCH	
	SESSION B – FIRST NATIONS/CULTURAL DIVERSITY	
1.45-2.30	KEYNOTE <i>The Victorian Aboriginal Cancer Journey Strategy</i>	Clare O’Reilly Director, Health & Healing Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO), Melbourne Australia
2.30–3.30	Oral Presentations Enhancing Cancer Care Support Systems for Vulnerable Communities: A Focus on Māori, Pasifika, and People with Disabilities Affected by Cancer in New Zealand	Dr Ali Rasheed Senior Lecturer – Unitec Institute of Technology, Waitakere New Zealand
	The lived experience of Muslim migrant women with gynaecological cancer	Sara Taha PhD student – University of Melbourne, Australia

	The Cancer Psychological and Social Support Services (CPSSS) – A national approach to psycho-social oncology in Aotearoa New Zealand	Lauren Bradley Regional Lead Cancer Support Advanced Clinician – Social Work, Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora – Te Toka Tumai, Auckland New Zealand
3.30 – 3.45	AFTERNOON TEA	
	SESSION C	
3.45–4.30	Speak Up! Planning for the Future of Oncology Social Work	Kim Hobbs Senior Social Worker Westmead Hospital, Sydney Australia
4.30–5.30	WELCOME DRINKS - Complimentary Woodward Centre	Pre-registered event
6:00pm	OSWANZ Conference Dinner Naughtons 43 Royal Parade, Parkville VIC 3052	Pre-registered event

DAY TWO – Friday 18/10/24

TIME	EVENT/PRESENTATIONS	PRESENTER
	Registrations	
8.30–8.45	Welcome / Housekeeping	
8.45–9.45	KEYNOTE <i>Working together to change the landscape: Collaborative advocacy for the win.</i>	Megan Varlow Director, Cancer Control Policy Cancer Council Australia, Sydney Australia
	SESSION D – END OF LIFE	
9.45–10.30	KEYNOTE <i>The Birth of Voluntary Assisted Dying</i>	Nick Hobbs VAD Navigator Voluntary Assisted Dying Navigation Service: Tasmanian Health, Australia
10.30 – 10.50	MORNING TEA	

10.50–12.10 <i>20 mins each with questions.</i>	Oral presentations Exploring Psychedelic Assisted Therapy in Palliative Care: Bridging Spiritual Dimensions at End of Life	Catherine Hanson Friend Social Worker Southern Blood and Cancer Service, Cancer Psychosocial Service, Invercargill, New Zealand
	Mapping the new Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service VAD-related Social Work Service	Dr Vera Steiner and Natalie Howard Social Workers - Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Services, Queensland Australia
	Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD): Implications for social work practice in palliative care: A scoping review	Savannah Roland Social Worker /PhD student University of Melbourne, Australia
	Exploring Grief and Bereavement in Palliative Care: the experience of Social Workers in an acute hospital working as Counsellors in a Palliative Care Team	Maureen McInerney and Alice Brown, Grief Counsellors Alfred Health, Melbourne Australia
12.10-1.10	LUNCH	
	SESSION E – FUTURE DIRECTIONS	
1.10–2.00	KEYNOTE <i>A Practice Research Collaboration in Psychosocial Oncology: responding to practice research questions through the 12 Steps Framework</i> Assoc Prof Kate Thompson, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, University of Melbourne Ms Catherine Ludbrook, Royal Melbourne Hospital Ms Jemma Shanahan, Ms Elena Schiena, Ms Hamlata Bhana, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre	Prof Lynette Joubert University of Melbourne, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne Australia
2.00–3.00	Oral presentations The development of a routine assessment for patients prior to Bone Marrow Transplant– A pre-habilitation initiative.	Lauren Bradley Regional Lead Cancer Support Advanced Clinician – Social Work, Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora – Te Toka Tumai, Auckland New Zealand

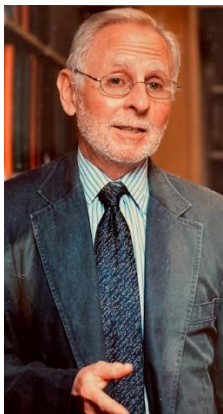
	Financial Toxicity - Issues of Equity and Opportunity	Kim Hobbs Senior Social Worker Westmead Hospital, Sydney Australia
	A retrospective review of access to psychosocial and supportive care for people who relapse after Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplant (A-SCT)	Kevin Bloom Senior Social Worker Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney Australia
3.00-3.30	AFTERNOON TEA	
	SESSION F	
3.30-4.30	PAST PRESIDENTS PANEL DISCUSSION – Future Directions of Oncology Social Work and OSWANZ’s role within this Panel: Ivan Hochberg, Angela Cotroneo, Ray Araullo, Alison Hocking and Nick Hobbs	Moderator – Alahna Murcott Social Worker SA/NT Youth Cancer Service, Royal Adelaide Hospital, Adelaide Australia
4.30-5.00	Prizes, Acknowledgements and Wrap-Up Conference will close at 5:00pm	

Keynote Presenters

Professor Irwin Epstein

Emeritus Professor (Retired)

City University of New York, United States of America



Irwin Epstein, MSW, PhD is Professor Emeritus at the Silberman School of Social Work (Hunter College) where he occupied the Helen Rehr Chair of Applied Social Work Research until he retired in 2015. As Adjunct Professor in the Department of Community Medicine at Mt. Sinai, he conducted Practice-based Research Seminars for local allied health and visiting international health and mental health leaders for 20 years.

Before Hunter, Irwin was Professor at the University of Michigan. During his tenure there, he was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Wales and Visiting Professor at the University of Warwick. He’s

conducted practice-research workshops and mentored individual social work PhD students from Australia, Hong Kong, Israel, Singapore, UK and the USA.

At the University of Melbourne, he was the first American social researcher to be asked to deliver the Miegunyah (Ancestral Home) public lecture. Author and co-author of many research and nearly 100 peer-reviewed articles, his most recent research text was *Clinical Data-Mining: Integrating Practice and Research*, (Oxford University Press, 2010). During his career, his passion was teaching social work, allied health practitioners and doctoral students how to conduct meaningful research with routinely available qualitative and/or quantitative data. Retired in 2015, his passion became “partner-carer” to his wife Fran—a social worker at Mt Sinai for 25 years—but then facing her fourth and final cancer. Fran inspired his memoir about the value of male friendship, entitled *Men as Friends: From Cicero to Svevo to Cataldo*. It was published by Koehler & Co. in April. Fran passed in June. She was loved by everyone who met her as cancer patient, social worker and colleague at Mt Sinai.

Associate Professor Kate Thompson

Program Director

Victorian Adolescent & Young Adult Cancer Service, Melbourne, Australia



Kate Thompson is the Program Director of the Victorian Adolescent & Young Adult Cancer Service and an Associate Professor at the University of Melbourne. A social worker by training, Kate is renowned for her clinical, research, and advocacy work in support of young people with cancer and the development of more responsive health services for them.

Clare O'Reilly

Director, Health & Healing, Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO), Melbourne, Australia



Clare manages the Aboriginal Cancer Journey Strategy, Screening and Early Detection and Healthy Communities Programs. Clare has qualifications in Social Research, Program Management and Evaluation and has many years' experience in health. Clare has worked in the primary care sector and specialised in managing the development and delivery of

professional education, systems and tools to build capacity in primary care. Clare has managed many projects with the Victorian Aboriginal Community and in the last 11 years this work has been in cancer care.

Kim Hobbs

Senior Social Worker, Westmead Hospital, Sydney, Australia



Kim is an experienced oncology social worker who has worked for many years in the area of gynaecological cancer at Westmead Hospital. She has been involved in several collaborative research projects with academic partners, resulting in publications in peer-reviewed journals.

Kim has been involved with expert working groups through Cancer Australia, Cancer Council and Ovarian Cancer Australia. She has served on the OSWANZ committee, COSA Council and PoCoG Scientific Advisory Committee.

Megan Varlow

Director, Cancer Control Policy Cancer Council Australia, Sydney, Australia



Megan Varlow is Cancer Council Australia's Director of Cancer Control Policy, responsible for the development of national policy and advocacy for its implementation.

After training as a psychologist, Megan was endorsed in clinical and health psychology and spent ten years in clinical environments working mostly with people living with chronic diseases and serious mental illness. Frustrated by the systemic factors that confounded an individual's experience of chronic illness, Megan then worked in an academic clinical research unit and subsequently moved to NSW Health where she spent almost eight years at the Cancer Institute NSW, the NSW government's cancer control agency.

Megan is passionate about lessening the impact of cancer on all Australians; and is especially interested in reducing the inequalities in cancer outcomes experienced by people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, regional and remote, lower socio-economic and migrant communities. Megan is available for interview to discuss Cancer Council Australia's advocacy and policy priorities, informed financial consent, out-of-pocket costs, and the physical, emotional and financial impact of cancer.

Nick Hobbs

VAD Navigator, Voluntary Assisted Dying Navigation Service: Tasmanian Health, Hobart, Australia



Nick's current professional role is with the Tasmanian Health Service, Voluntary Assisted Dying Navigation Service. Prior to this Nick held roles as a social worker with the Grief and Loss Counselling Service at the Royal Hobart Hospital and the Tasmanian Coroner's Office.

Nick has also held social work roles in the Renal, Oncology and Palliative Care Units at the Royal Hobart Hospital and COVID-19 Hotel Quarantine. Nick is a past President of Oncology Social Work Australia New Zealand.

Professor Lynette Joubert

Department of Social Work, Melbourne School of Health Sciences, University of Melbourne, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne, Australia



Prof Lynette Joubert is a professor in the Department of Social Work, School of Health Sciences, University of Melbourne. She is an honorary senior researcher at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Docent at the University of Eastern Finland, and Chair of the STEMM2 Ethics Committee University of Melbourne. She has a strong interest in Practice Research, in particular, the contribution of social networks to effective outcomes, academic practitioner collaboration models and evidence implementation in health and social care services in the

community. This has resulted in her editorship of the first *International Practice Research Handbook* (2020)

Ray Araullo



For 25 years Ray had the good fortune to work with Haematology and Bone Marrow Transplant patients and families receiving treatment at RNSH. For much of this period Ray was also fortunate enough to hold executive management roles with OSWANZ. Ray retired as Deputy Head of Social Work RNSH in August 2024.

Alison Hocking

Allied Health Service Development Officer, Royal Melbourne Hospital, Melbourne, Australia



Alison Hocking is Allied Health Service Development Officer at the Royal Melbourne Hospital (RMH), having previously been Manager of Social Work & Diversity at RMH, and Manager of Social Work at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre before that. She has a Master of Advanced Social Work by Research, and her thesis focussed on the psychosocial impact of cervical cancer. Alison has published widely on hospital, social work and oncology topics with over 20 journal articles and book chapters. She is a current PhD Candidate at the University of Melbourne under Prof Lynette Joubert, with her thesis nested within a larger project that will undertake a national audit of hospital social work activity, focussing on how social work contributes to Health Equity. Alison was President of OSWA from 2013-2016.

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