

Maternal and Child Health Conference

Stronger Together

Agenda



Proudly supported by the Victorian Government

Friday 24 October 2025

Time	Item	
9:00am – 9:10am	Welcome to Country	Wurundjeri Elder - Aunty Georgina Nicholson
9:10am – 9:15am	Welcome	Co-chairs Belinda Joyce - MCH Coordinator City of Ballarat Tarny Irwin - MCH Services Coordinator Yarra Ranges Council
9:15am – 9:25am	Conference opening	Hon Lizzie Blandthorn MP , Minister for Children Kelly Grigsby, CEO , Municipal Association of Victoria
9:25am – 10:10am	Stronger Together in Closing the Gap	Aunty Lisa Briggs - Executive Director, Ngaweeyan Maar-oo Jessica Mitchell - Executive Manager, Workforce development and Aboriginal Health Practitioner, VACCHO Bethany Uhe - Senior Manager, Child Protection Reform, VACCA Tessa Bolto - Senior Project Officer, Child Protection Reform, VACCA Emma Stevenson - Senior Project Officer, Child Protection Reform, VACCA
10:10am – 10:55am	Safeguarding children through collaboration and relationships: the enabling role of MCH nurses	Meena Singh - Acting Principal Commissioner and Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People
10:55am – 11:15am	MORNING TEA BREAK	
11:15am – 12:00pm	Children's Vision Development & Eye Health	Dr Sandra Staffieri AO - Research Fellow/Clinical Orthoptist, Centre for Eye Research Australia
12pm – 12:30pm	Children in Out of Home Care – Collaboration for improved outcomes	Bianca Venning - MCH Clinical Nurse Educator, Brimbank City Council Emma Lukaz - Outreach Maternal and Child Health Nurse, Brimbank City Council

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12:30pm – 1:00pm

Strength in partnership – Auslan Bilingual Story Time

Linda Harman - Family Strengthening Team Leader, Maribyrnong City Council
Laura Sampson - Community Engagement Coordinator, Deaf Children Australia
Lauren Gallagher - Auslan Story Teller, Deaf Children Australia
Sarah Sudweeks, Echo Interpreting

1:00pm – 1:45pm

Developing Dysplasia Care

Assoc. Professor Leo Donnan - Orthopaedic Surgeon, Research Fellow Murdoch Children's Research Institute

1:45pm – 2:30pm

LUNCH

2:30pm – 3:15pm

A Family-Centred Approach to Neonatal Skin Assessment

Dr Andy Malikiwi - Neonatal Paediatrician Melbourne Neonatal Network

3:15pm – 4:00pm

**What's new in neonatology?
Vitamin D recommendations and
the Newborn Screening Test**

Dr Anna Tottman - Consultant Neonatologist The Royal Women's Hospital

4:00pm – 4:15pm

Closing & Celebration of MCH Years of Service and Retirements

Belinda Joyce & Tarny Irwin

4:15pm

END