



Australian College
of Mental Health Nurses

Digital Mental Health Nursing Symposium 2026
Friday 11 September 2026 | University of Canberra, Bruce ACT 2617

DRAFT — Program subject to change

8:30am	Registration and arrival tea and coffee
9:00am–9:45am	Opening Plenary
9:00am	Welcome, housekeeping, and official opening MC
9:05am	Official opening remarks, Professor The Hon Bill Shorten , Vice-Chancellor, University of Canberra
9:15am	Opening Plenary: Digital Mental Health Nursing Assoc Prof Oliver Higgins , Chair, Digital Mental Health Nursing Special Interest Group University of Canberra
9:45am–11:45am	Keynotes
9:45am	Keynote 1 Heidi Sturk , Director, eMHPac (e-Mental Health in Practice) Queensland University of Technology
10:30am	Morning tea and exhibition
11:00am	Combined Keynote: Smarter Models of Care Colin Robinson and Joshua Clancy , Gold Coast Health Mental Health Informatics
11:45am–1:05pm	Abstract Session 1
11:45am	Digital Literacy at Scale: Lessons from the NSW Health Statewide Clinical Trials Management System (CTMS) Rollout Amy Kelty , NSW Health
12:05pm	Preparing the Mental Health Nursing Workforce for Digital and Emerging Technologies Raphael Ohms , Queensland University of Technology
12:25pm	AI-generated learning content in preregistration mental health nursing curricula delivered via online learning management systems Mark Hopwood , University of Newcastle
12:45pm	Transcultural Aspects of Ageing: Facilitating Developmental Conversations with Postgraduate Mental Health Nurses on a Digital Learning Platform Dr Melsina Makaza , University of Newcastle
1:05pm	Lunch and exhibition
1:50pm–3:10pm	Abstract Session 2
1:50pm	The InsideOut eClinic: Australia's first national digital treatment platform transforming access to eating disorder care Rachel Denzel , University of Sydney
2:10pm	Implementing a Web-Based Shared Care Planning Tool to Improve Physical Health Outcomes in Severe Mental Illness: Findings from the SHAReD Study Andy Simpson , Sydney Local Health District
2:30pm	Embodied artificial intelligence in mental health nursing: Recovery-oriented principles for relational safety and safe experimentation Assoc Prof Oliver Higgins , Chair, Digital Mental Health Nursing Special Interest Group University of Canberra
2:50pm	Today's distress: Today's objects: Using Psychodrama to contain empathic distress in Telehealth Fiona Dawes , Australian Catholic University
3:10pm	Afternoon tea and exhibition
3:35pm–3:59pm	Lightning Abstracts



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3:35pm	AI-Enabled Wearable Technologies for Early Detection of Clinical Deterioration in Mental Health Settings: A Mental Health Nurse-led Research Prototype Priseena Radha , RMIT University
3:43pm	Ready for the ward: Using Generative AI simulation to develop Therapeutic Communication Readiness in Undergraduate Nursing Students for Mental Health clinical placement Raymond Tini , La Trobe University
3:51pm	Attachment, Alliance, and Ambivalence in Human-AI Mental Health Interactions Assoc Prof Oliver Higgins , Chair, Digital Mental Health Nursing Special Interest Group University of Canberra
3:59pm–4:44pm	Panel Discussion
3:59pm	Panel Discussion Keynote speakers and Professor Rhonda Wilson , President, Australian College of Mental Health Nurses
4:44pm–5:00pm	Closing
4:44pm	Closing summary, acknowledgements, and close Assoc Prof Oliver Higgins , Chair, Digital Mental Health Nursing Special Interest Group University of Canberra
5:30pm	Networking Evening — QT Canberra, 5:30pm to 7:30pm (free for all attendees)

The Symposium is supported by:

Exhibitors

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