



AUSTRALIAN
ETHICAL HEALTH
ALLIANCE

AEHA

AEHA 2026 SYMPOSIUM

A Hypothetical exploring
critical ethical dilemmas in
healthcare

WEDNESDAY 20TH MAY
1.00PM - 4.00PM

IN-PERSON
BY INVITATION ONLY

RACP CONFERENCE
FACILITIES

LEVEL 27
1 O'CONNELL STREET
SYDNEY

AND ONLINE VIA ZOOM

REGISTER VIA:
[HTTPS://WWW.ETHICALHEALTH.
ORG.AU/AEHA-FORUM](https://www.ethicalhealth.org.au/aeha-forum)

PROGRAM

WELCOME TO THE AEHA 2026 SYMPOSIUM

FROM THE CHAIR OF
THE AUSTRALIAN ETHICAL HEALTH ALLIANCE

On behalf of the Australian Ethical Health Alliance Steering Committee, I am pleased to welcome you to the 2026 AEHA Symposium.

This year's theme, *The Ethics of Profit in Medicine... Are We There Yet?* poses a question that is both simple and confronting. It challenges us to look beyond intention and ask whether, in practice, we have truly aligned financial sustainability with the ethical foundations of healthcare.

At AEHA, we believe that trust in our health system depends on more than outcomes alone. It requires transparency, accountability and a shared commitment to placing patients at the centre of every decision. While progress has been made, tensions remain and it is through open and constructive dialogue that these can be meaningfully addressed.

Today's program has been designed to test some of these issues in real time. Through a structured hypothetical, you will hear from patients, academics and senior health leaders as they respond to evolving

scenarios that reflect the complexity of modern healthcare. These are not theoretical discussions, but situations that mirror the challenges faced across our system every day.

This Symposium invites us to engage with these questions honestly, to challenge our assumptions, and to consider whether we are where we aspire to be or whether there is still work to do.

I would like to sincerely thank our speakers for their generosity in contributing their time, and for their willingness to share honest reflections and insights. The strength of today's discussion relies on the openness, experience and leadership each of you brings to the conversation.

I also extend my thanks to our AEHA members. Your ongoing commitment to ethical collaboration underpins this work. Together, we are striving towards a more equitable, sustainable and ethical health system, one that advances the health, wellbeing and interests of patients, communities and the healthcare sector, and strengthens healthcare delivery across the Australian community through a shared commitment to ethical practice.

Thank you for being part of this important conversation.



Adrian Cosenza
Chair, Australian Ethical Healthcare Alliance





ABOUT AEHA

The AEHA was formed in April 2019 as the leading body to guide the implementation of the 'The Australian Consensus Framework for Ethical Collaboration in the Healthcare Sector (ACF)'

ACF is a consensus of shared values and ethical principles that form the basis of collaboration and interaction among organisations in the Australian healthcare sector. It is a sector-lead initiative and participation is voluntary. The Framework is inclusive and embracing – all healthcare organisations are welcome to listen and participate in ACF activities. Currently 78 member organisations are signatories to the Framework representing the following sectors: biopharmaceutical, educators, government, healthcare professionals, hospitals, medical device industry, patient communities and third parties/distributors.

The Australian Ethical Health Alliance aims to improve healthcare in Australia through articulation and affirmation of ethical principles that promote the interests of patients and consumers, enhance access to safe and effective healthcare, encourage ethical collaboration in the healthcare sector and build public trust.

More information can be found on our website
<https://www.ethicalhealth.org.au/>

PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY 20TH MAY
1.00PM - 4.00PM

TIME	DETAIL
12.30pm	Arrival. Tea, coffee and refreshments
1.00pm	Symposium commences. Acknowledgment of Country Welcome address - Adrian Cosenza, Chair AEHA

SESSION 1 HYPOTHETICAL

TIME	DETAIL	WHO
1.15pm	Introduction: The ethics of profit in medicine...are we there yet?	Co-moderated by Susanne Tegen, Chief Executive National Rural Health Alliance and Steve Robson, CMO Avant
	Panellists: Professor Richard De Abreu Lourenco, Mr Warren Ballinger, Dr Katherine Basset, Sister Mary Lynne Cochrane, Ms Elizabeth de Somer, Ms Louise Hardy, Professor Paul Komesaroff, Professor Emily Lancsar, Professor Justin Oakley, and Mr Andrew Wilson.	
	Scene 1: Trust in the age of TikTok	
	Scene 2: The promise of quick solutions	
	Scene 3: The price of perfection	

SHORT BREAK

2.10pm	Refreshments, tea and coffee
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SESSION 2 HYPOTHETICAL CONTINUES

2.25pm	Scene 4: When medicine becomes a marketplace	
	Scene 5: When harm follows hope	
	Scene 6: Staring into the void	
	Final round: Structural reform Closing comments	
3.20pm	Audience Q&A	Moderated by Ian Kerridge
3.55pm	Closing address	Adrian Cosenza, Chair AEHA
4.00pm	Event ends	

FACULTY

SYMPOSIUM MODERATORS



Adrian Cosenza
Chair, AEHA and CEO Australian
Orthopaedic Association

Adrian Cosenza is Chief Executive Officer and Company Secretary of the Australian Orthopaedic Association (AOA), a position he has held since 2010. He has led significant organisational transformation, strengthening AOA's role in surgical education, training, research and global engagement. With a background spanning healthcare, technology and financial services, he brings extensive experience in governance, strategy and stakeholder engagement. He has also contributed to broader sector leadership, including serving as Chair of the Australian Ethical Health Alliance, with a strong focus on ethical practice, system sustainability and improving patient outcomes.



Professor Steve Robson
Chief Medical Officer, Avant

Steve Robson is Chief Medical Officer at Avant Mutual, Australia's largest medical indemnity insurer, and a practising obstetrician and gynaecologist. He is a former President of the Australian Medical Association (AMA), where he played a key role in national advocacy on healthcare policy, workforce sustainability and patient care. Dr Robson has extensive experience across clinical practice, medical leadership and medico-legal risk, and is widely recognised for his contributions to professional standards and patient safety. His work focuses on supporting clinicians, improving system performance and navigating the complex interface between clinical care, regulation and risk.



Susanne Tegen
Deputy Chair, AEHA and Chief Executive,
National Rural Health Alliance

Susi Tegen is a visionary leader and passionate advocate with a multidisciplinary career spanning healthcare, education, economic development, agribusiness, and rural sustainability. A Telstra Business Award and Business Innovation Award winner, Susi's ability to work across industries has positioned her as a powerful force for change. She has played a pivotal role in driving policy reforms, expanding telehealth access, and improving workforce sustainability in rural and Indigenous communities.

Her expertise is fueled by a deep commitment to bridging the urban-rural divide and ensuring access to healthcare, training, and essential services in rural, remote and regional communities. Susi's ethos centres around a thriving economy giving back to society, advocating for equity, and challenging decision-makers to rethink outdated systems. Her contributions extend beyond her professional roles, with a strong focus on mentoring, cultural safety, and lifting minority voices.

FACULTY

SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS



Professor Richard De Abreu Lourenco

Professor, Centre for Health Economics
Research and Evaluation (CHERE),
University of Technology Sydney

Professor Richard De Abreu Lourenco is Professor of Health Economics and Deputy Director at the Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation (CHERE) at the University of Technology Sydney. He is an experienced health economist whose career spans academia, government and the pharmaceutical sector. His expertise includes health technology assessment, cost-effectiveness analysis and reimbursement decision-making. Professor Lourenco's work focuses on informing policy and funding decisions to optimise resource allocation and improve patient outcomes, bringing a valuable system-level perspective on how economic incentives shape healthcare delivery.



Warren Ballinger

President of Zimmer Biomet Australia and
New Zealand

Warren Ballinger is President of Zimmer Biomet Australia and New Zealand and a Board Member of the Medical Technology Association of Australia with more than 25 years of experience of orthopaedic industry experience. He holds a Bachelor of Economics from Macquarie University and brings deep expertise across commercial leadership, healthcare policy, clinician engagement, and industry advocacy. Warren is particularly focused on ensuring patient interests remain central to healthcare decision-making and sees connected health as an increasingly important area for industry leadership. He is known for his balanced approach to problem-solving, strong business acumen, and bias for action in advancing positive outcomes for patients and the broader health sector.



Dr Katherine Bassett

Director Health Policy, Catholic Health
Australia

Dr Katharine Bassett is a visionary and values-driven leader with a track record of executive impact across health and social sectors. She brings deep expertise in policy, strategy, reform, and advocacy, developed through senior roles spanning government, national peak bodies, and consulting. Her leadership is grounded in evidence, equity, and inclusion, with a consistent focus on improving outcomes for vulnerable populations. Currently Director of Health Policy at Catholic Health Australia, Katharine leads national health advocacy and reform initiatives, with a focus on equity, financial sustainability, and access to care. Previously, she directed research and reform strategy at the Australian Medical Association and delivered high-impact policy and organisational transformation projects as a consultant with KPMG. Katharine holds a PhD in clinical immunology and genomics from the Australian National University (ANU), where she is also a visiting lecturer, and serves as an Executive Director across several boards.

FACULTY

SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS



Sister Mary-Lynne Cochran
Chair, Painaustralia Consumer Advisory Group; and Consumer Representative, NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation

Sister Mary-Lynne Cochran is Chair of the Painaustralia Consumer Advisory Group and a Consumer Representative on the NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation Pain Network Executive. She brings a strong consumer voice grounded in lived experience, advocating for patient-centred care and equitable access to services. Her work focuses on ensuring that health system priorities, funding decisions and models of care reflect the needs, experiences and outcomes of patients and their families.



Elizabeth de Somer
CEO, Medicines Australia

Elizabeth de Somer is Chief Executive Officer of Medicines Australia, representing the research-based pharmaceutical industry. She has extensive leadership experience across pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and medical technology, and has played a key role in advancing innovation and access to medicines in Australia. Her work focuses on translating scientific discovery into real-world patient benefit, while shaping policy and regulatory environments that support sustainable investment in research and development. She brings deep expertise in commercialisation, market access and the economic drivers underpinning modern healthcare innovation.



Louise Hardy
CEO Arthritis Australia

Louise Hardy is the CEO of Arthritis Australia, and Deputy Chair of the Consumers Health Forum of Australia. Louise has over 15 years of health sector experience, spanning roles in regulation, operations, and policy and advocacy across government, membership organisations and charities, including as General Manager of Policy and Advocacy at the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.



Professor Paul Komesaroff

Professor of Medicine, Monash University; Executive Director, Global Reconciliation; and Director, Centre for Ethics in Medicine and Society

Professor Paul Komesaroff is Professor of Medicine at Monash University, Executive Director of Global Reconciliation, and Director of the Centre for Ethics in Medicine and Society. He is an internationally recognised leader in clinical ethics, particularly known for his work on "microethics" and the ethical dimensions of everyday clinical practice. His research explores how social, cultural and economic forces influence clinical decision-making and the patient-clinician relationship. Professor Komesaroff has made significant contributions to ethical discourse in medicine, examining how trust, power and values shape healthcare delivery.



Professor Ian Kerridge

Professor of Bioethics and Medicine, Sydney Health Ethics, University of Sydney; Haematologist/Bone Marrow Transplant Physician, Royal North Shore Hospital; and Founding Director, PRAXIS Australia

Professor Ian Kerridge is Professor of Bioethics and Medicine at Sydney Health Ethics, University of Sydney, and a practising haematologist and bone marrow transplant physician at Royal North Shore Hospital. He is also Founding Director of PRAXIS Australia. His work integrates clinical medicine, philosophy and public health, with a focus on research ethics, conflicts of interest and the ethical challenges posed by commercial influences in healthcare. Widely published and recognised, Professor Kerridge is a leading voice in Australian bioethics, contributing to policy, education and public debate.



Professor Emily Lancsar

Chief Health Economist at Department of Health, Disability & Ageing

Professor Emily Lancsar commenced as the Chief Health Economist in the Department of Health and Aged Care in April 2024.

Prior to this, Emily spent 25 years in academia, most recently as Head of the Department of Health Economics Wellbeing and Society at the ANU, and from 2020-2022 served as Associate Dean (Policy and Practice) in the College of Health and Medicine, where she remains a Professor. Emily has also held academic appointments at Monash University (where she remains an Adjunct Professor), the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne in the UK, the University of Sydney and University of Technology, Sydney.

Emily's appointment represents a return to the Australian Public Service and the Department of Health where she began her career as a cadet Health Economist. Emily holds a PhD, Masters and Bachelors degrees in Economics, a Postgrad Dip in Health Economics and Evaluation and a Bachelor of Arts (Asian Studies).



Professor Justin Oakley

Deputy Director, Monash Bioethics Centre,
Monash University

Professor Justin Oakley is Deputy Director of the Monash Bioethics Centre at Monash University. He is a widely published scholar in bioethics, moral philosophy and professional ethics, with particular expertise in virtue ethics, informed consent and clinician accountability. He co-edits the Monash Bioethics Review and teaches in the Master of Bioethics, contributing to ethics education across Monash's medical program.



Dr Andrew Wilson

Chief Medical Officer, Medibank

Dr. Andrew Wilson is the Group Chief Medical Officer at Medibank. With over 30 years of experience in the health system, he brings a wealth of expertise in clinical leadership and healthcare strategy. Prior to this position, Andrew served for over 10 years as CEO of Amplar Health, Medibank's health services division and as Group Executive Healthcare and Strategy leading Medibank's provider partnerships team and Group Strategy

As Group Chief Medical Officer, Andrew is responsible for the clinical oversight of Medibank's operations and provides strategic leadership on key health priorities. His focus is on advancing Medibank's commitment to the triple aim of healthcare: improving outcomes, affordability, and patient experience.

A practising clinician and lecturer, Andrew is dedicated to improving healthcare delivery both within Medibank and across the broader community.

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