

PRESENTED BY



Neurological Council of WA



Community
Neurological Sector
Conference • 2023



Friday 21 July 2023
8:45am - 4:15pm

University Club of WA
The University of
Western Australia

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Government of
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Department of Health



WE KNOW NEURO



EST. 1982 for neurological and
translational science



EXHIBITORS



WELCOME



The Neurological Council of WA is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to improving health and well-being by reducing the incidence and impact of brain and nervous system disorders.

Providing leadership, as a health peak for the Western Australian neurological community for over 30 years, the Neurological Council works in collaboration with health, disability, aged and research professionals and organisations to champion brain health and increase community awareness, understanding and management of neurological conditions.

The Neurological Council also delivers Neurocare, a state-wide community neurological nursing and health and disability system navigation service supporting individuals, families and carers impacted by neurological conditions.

The Neurological Council is pleased to host this conference alongside our not-for-profit member organisations, sponsors and supporters across the community. By bringing leaders and community members with a neurological interest together under one roof, we seek to build relationships, promote understanding and cross sector collaboration, and strengthen and enhance neurological health, wellbeing and related health and disability care across our region and beyond.

Let's build today what we'll need for ourselves tomorrow.

Etta & Charles



**Etta
Palumbo**
CEO Neurological
Council of WA



**Prof Charles
Watson AM**
Chairman, Neurological
Council of WA

ARE YOU LIVING WITH A NEUROLOGICAL SYMPTOMS?

Neurocare Community Neurological Nursing provides statewide neurological nursing and health navigation services for people of all ages, across all conditions.

We are here to help:

- Understand symptoms, diagnosis & options.
- Regain or maintain functional capacity.
- Improve wellbeing through assessments, clinical liaison and holistic care planning.
- Live confidently & safely in your home.
- Feel in control of your treatment journey.



No direct cost to you

Funded by the WA Dept of Health or The NDIS, for eligible clients. You do not need a medical referral to access this service.

Neurocare is available state-wide via Telehealth with offices in **Perth, Bunbury, Geraldton & Albany**. Residential and home care visits available in these locations.
1800 645 771 | www.ncwa.com.au

FEELING RIGHT AT HOME: Clinical and Community Neurological Collaboration

People living with neurological conditions or symptoms live in our community, whether at home, living with loved ones or in residential care. Most spend less than 1% of their lives engaging with clinicians in hospital settings. The bulk of their care, rehabilitation, symptom management, wellness, happiness, life and death happen outside of hospital – unless things go wrong.

Investing in clinical and community collaboration to enhance community-based care, and to enable and empower patients, families and carers to access the right information and supports to feel safe and live well at home, will significantly improve the patient experience and journey, liberate hospital resources and reduce the cost of health care through minimising unplanned emergency presentations and avoiding hospital admissions/re-admissions.

2022-2031 Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and other Neurological Disorders



Neurological conditions are now the leading cause of disability and second leading cause of death worldwide, placing significant burden on health, disability and aged care systems.

With a growing and ageing population living with chronic illness, and alarming increase in over 600 recognised neurological conditions, the World Health Organisation has declared neurological disorders a global epidemic and has committed to implementing their 2022-2031 Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and other Neurological Disorders, which includes global targets, strategies, and measures of success. There is an emphasis on preventing neurological disorders and promoting brain health and development through multidisciplinary and multisectoral approaches.

The strategic objectives include:

1. To raise the prioritization and strengthen governance for neurological disorders.

- Advocacy
- Policy, Plans & Legislation
- Financing
- Integrated response within health and social care systems

2. To provide effective, timely & responsive diagnosis, treatment and care for neurological disorders.

- Care Pathways
- Medicines
- Diagnostics
- Other Health Products
- Health Workers Capacity Building, Training & Support
- Carer Support

3. To implement strategies to promote brain health & development and prevent neurological disorders.

- Promotion of optimal brain development in children and adolescents
- Promoting healthy behaviour across the life course
- Infections disease control
- Preventing head/spinal trauma and other injuries
- Reducing environmental risks

4. To foster research and innovation and strengthen information systems for neurological disorders.

- Invest in research
- Research capacity building
- Data & Information Systems

We now have a detailed blueprint that makes clear that none of us can reduce the incidence and impact of neurological conditions alone – we must work together, sharing our ideas, innovations, research, data and resources, to create transformational and sustainable collective impact.

Program

8.15am	Registration
8:45am	WELCOME AND CONFERENCE OVERVIEW Ms Etta Palumbo, CEO, Neurological Council of WA
9:00am	OPENING ADDRESS - 'Sustainable Health Review - The role of community-based care' Ms Hannah Beazley MLA, Member for Victoria Park Patron of MND Association of WA
9.10am	WHO Game-Changer for Neurology and Brain Health - Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders 2022–2031 (IGAP) (Video) Ms Donna Walsh, CEO, International Bureau for Epilepsy [IBE] Chair, World OneNeurology Partnership
9:45am	IGAP STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1 Raising policy prioritization and strengthening governance Dr Simon Towler, Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health WA
10:15am	IGAP STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2 Providing effective, timely & responsive diagnosis, treatment & care Professor Charles Watson AM, Neurobiologist & Public Health Physician (with guest video presentation from Dr Darshan Ghia, Stroke Neurologist, Fiona Stanley Hospital, Department of Health)
10.45am	Invitation to Morning Tea
11:15am	You Are Not Alone Ms Rachael Schwarz, Encephalitis WA Advocate and Ms Karen Tighe, ABC Sports Broadcaster and Encephalitis Ambassador
11:40am	The Value of Community Based Epilepsy Education and Support Ms Paulette Kemp, Epilepsy Smart Manager, Epilepsy WA
12:00pm	FLASH TALK – Perron Institute for Neurological and Translational Science Dr Rebekah Puls, Research Director, Perron Institute
12.05pm	IGAP STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3 Implement strategies for promotion and prevention (Video) Professor Tissa Wijeratne OAM, Neurologist, World Brain Day (WBD) Founder Chair, Global Policy & Advocacy Committee, World Federation of Neurology



12:25	Invitation to Lunch
1:15pm	PANEL DISCUSSION Neurological Conditions - More Than Just a Health Problem Ms Elsie Blay, Exec Manager of Services, Ruah Community Services, Ms Margaret Irvine, DARDY Project, Legal Aid WA Mr Richard Newman, CEO, Carers WA Ms Janet Wagland, GM Community, Brightwater Care Group
1:50pm	COGNITIVE & ABI PANEL Community Neurological Challenges & Opportunities Mr Bruce MacAdam, State Lead, Synapse Brain Injury Assoc Ms Antonella Segre, CEO, ADHD WA Ms Narelle Little, Community Engagement Coordinator, Stroke Foundation Dr Lauren Taylor; Senior Clinical Psychologist, Autism WA
2:25pm	NEUROMUSCULAR/MOVEMENT DISORDERS PANEL Community Neurological Challenges & Opportunities Ms Hayley Lethlean, CEO, Neuromuscular WA Adjunct Prof. Yasmin Naglazas, CEO, Parkinsons WA Ms Lenni Duffield, CEO, Huntingtons Australia Ms Sophie Nunn, OT, MND Association WA Mr Geoff Hutchinson, Manager Client Engagement, MSWA.
3:00pm	Invitation to Afternoon Tea
3.15m	FLASH TALK – Meningitis Centre Australia Ms Karen Quick, CEO, Meningitis Centre Australia
3:20pm	D-Dads – Dad leaders raising the profile of disability and promoting inclusion for all Mr Alan Langford, former Bankwest Chief Economist Mr Kane Blackman, CEO, Good Sammys Mr Mal Cronstedt, WA Advocacy Manager, FPA Australia Mike Duncan, Global Account Manager, Brunel.
4:00pm	CLOSING ADDRESS – Brain Health and Disability Leave no one behind – Advancing health equity Marion Hailes-MacDonald, Director, WA Office of Disability
4.10pm	Acknowledgements and Invitation to World Brain Day Eve Networking Sundowner Professor Charles Watson, Chair and Ms Etta Palumbo, CEO, Neurological Council of WA
4:15pm	World Brain Day Eve Networking Sundowner – UWA Club Cafe

Our Speakers



Ms Donna Walsh - Keynote

CEO, International Bureau for Epilepsy

Donna is the CEO of the International Bureau for Epilepsy and Chair of the OneNeurology Partnership. She advocates for neurology as a global public health priority and works towards implementing a comprehensive response to neurological issues. Donna served as the Executive Director of the European Federation of Neurological Associations for a decade. She actively represents the neurology patient community, serving on boards & committees such as the European Brain Council and WHO's NeuroCovid Global Forum. Donna has extensive experience moderating and presenting at conferences, including those organized by the World Health Organization and the European Parliament.



Professor Tissa Wijeratne OAM - Keynote

MD PhD FRACP FRSM FAAN FAHA FRCP (Edin) FRCP (London) FEAN

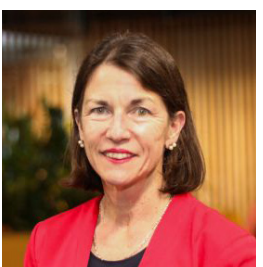
Tissa is a Professor in Neurology and clinical Associate Professor in Medicine at Western Health Clinical School and University of Melbourne. He holds Adjunct Professorial roles at several universities. Tissa is the Co-Chair of World Brain Day, leading the program on behalf of the World Federation of Neurology. He has published papers, given international lectures, and supervised neurologist training. Tissa is dedicated to bridging healthcare gaps between rural and urban areas and the developing and developed world. He was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for contributions to medicine.



Ms Hannah Beazley MLA

Member for Victoria Park | Patron of MND Association of WA

Ms Beazley has been a Labor member of the Western Australian Legislative Assembly since the 2021 state election, representing Victoria Park. In December 2022, she became a parliamentary secretary to Stephen Dawson, the minister for emergency services, innovation and the digital economy, medical research, and volunteering.



Marion Hailes-McDonald

Director, WA Office of Disability

Ms Hailes-MacDonald has extensive experience within the disability sector, and has led significant funding and policy direction & reform across both State and national agendas. In May 2022, she became the first director of WA's Office of Disability. She was involved in the initial design of the NDIS and she oversaw changes across the disability landscape and WA's transition to the NDIS,



Dr Simon Towler

FCICM, FANZCA, FACHSM, FAMA Chief Medical Officer - WA Department of Health

Dr. Towler is the Chief Medical Officer at WA Department of Health. He previously served as the Clinical Lead for End-of-Life Care and a Voluntary Assisted Dying provider with the WA Cancer & Palliative Care Network. He is the State Medical Director at DonateLifeWA, the organ donation agency in WA. A retired intensive care specialist of 32 years, working at Fiona Stanley and Royal Perth Hospitals, he holds fellowships in the College of Intensive Care Medicine, the Aust and NZ College of Anaesthetists, the Australasian College of Health Service Managers, and the AMA.

Dr. Towler has held key roles in WA Health, including President of AMA in WA and WA Chief Medical Officer (2006-2012). He contributed to initiatives like the Ministerial Expert Panel on Voluntary Assisted Dying and the Clinical Reference Group for the Sustainable Health Review Report in 2019.



Professor Charles Watson AM

Chairman, Neurological Council of WA

Prof. Charles Watson is an esteemed neurobiologist and public health physician with expertise in brain and spinal cord mapping. He has a long-standing career teaching anatomy to medical and science students. His notable achievements include launching the Quit campaign and implementing breast cancer screening in WA during his tenure at the Health Department. Charles holds professorial positions at multiple universities and is renowned for his atlas of the rat brain, cited over 85,000 times. His current research focuses on gene expression in the developing brain. In 2004, he was made a member of the Order of Australia for his contributions to brain research & public health.



Dr Darshan Ghia

Stroke Neurologist, Fiona Stanley Hospital, Department of Health

Dr. Ghia is a consultant neurologist specializing in stroke and cerebrovascular disease. He trained in neurology Melbourne and underwent fellowship and subspecialty training in stroke and interventional neuroradiology in Sydney. He currently leads the stroke unit at Fiona Stanley Hospital, conducts research trials, and serves on stroke-related committees. Dr. Ghia offers private consultations in Karrinyup and provides inpatient services at SJOG Subiaco and Mount Hospitals. He is fluent in Gujarati and Hindi.



Ms Karen Tighe

ABC Sports Broadcaster and Encephalitis Ambassador

Karen is a prominent sports broadcaster who has worked for ABC TV and radio. With a degree in Communications & Psychology, she anchored major sporting broadcasts for 8 years and transitioning to ABC Radio in 1997. She has covered events like the Olympics and Paralympics, co-hosted radio programs, and presented sports news in Perth. Karen received Media Awards in 2000 and 2001 and a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020. In 2020, she was hospitalized with HS-1 Encephalitis, leading her to advocate for encephalitis awareness, sharing her experiences with the media on World Encephalitis Day. Karen's passion for sports and advocacy have made her a respected industry figure.



Ms Rachael Schwarz

Encephalitis WA Advocate

Rachael holds a degree in Spanish and Politics. She has worked for the NSW and WA Governments in the Protocol area, handling Royal visits, State Governor ceremonies, and special events. In 2019, she was diagnosed with Herpes Simplex Encephalitis, leading to a 6 month absence from work. Despite lingering health issues, Rachael has returned to work and credits her recovery to the support of her family, friends, and colleagues, and early diagnosis. She is now involved with neurological organizations to promote early diagnosis, better treatment, and support for individuals post-discharge. Her goal is to help people rebuild their lives after neurological conditions.



Ms Paulette Kemp

Epilepsy Smart Manager, Epilepsy WA

Paulette is a seasoned pharmaceutical industry professional with expertise in sales, marketing, management, and liaison roles across various therapeutic areas, including rheumatology, neuroscience, oncology, and haematology. In 2022, she joined Epilepsy WA as the Epilepsy Smart Manager for Western Australia. Her role involves increasing knowledge and awareness about epilepsy, providing training on seizure first aid, understanding epilepsy, administering emergency medication, and promoting seizure alert devices offered by Epilepsy WA. Her goal is to shed light on epilepsy and educate individuals with a duty of care in Western Australia.

Our Panels

Neurological Conditions - More Than Just a Health Problem



Ms Elsie Blay
Exec Manager of
Services, Ruah
Community Services



Ms Margaret Irvine
DARDY Project,
Legal Aid WA



**Mr Richard
Newman**
CEO, Carers WA



Ms Janet Wagland
GM Community,
Brightwater
Care Group

Community Neurological Challenges & Opportunities - Cognitive & ABl Panel



Mr Bruce MacAdam
State Lead,
Synapse Brain
Injury Assoc



**Ms Antonella
Segre**
CEO,
ADHD WA



Ms Narelle Little,
Community Engagement
Coordinator,
Stroke Foundation



Dr Lauren Taylor
Senior Clinical
Psychologist,
Autism WA

Community Neurological Challenges & Opportunities

- Neuromuscular and Movement Disorders Panel



Ms Hayley Lethlean
CEO,
Neuromuscular WA



Ms Lenni Duffield
CEO, Huntingtons
Australia



**Adjunct Prof.
Yasmin Naglazas**
CEO, Parkinsons WA



**Mr Geoff
Hutchinson**
Manager Client
Engagement, MSWA



Ms Sophie Nunn
OT, MND
Association WA

D-Dads - Dad leaders raising the profile of disability & promoting inclusion



Mr Alan Langford
former Bankwest
Chief Economist



Mr Kane Blackman
CEO,
Good Sammys



Mr Mal Cronstedt
WA Advocacy
Manager, FPA Aus



Mr Mike Duncan
Global Account
Manager, Brunel

Flash Talks



Dr Rebekah Puls

Research Director,
Perron Institute

Dr Puls completed her Bachelor of Science (Honours) and PhD at UWA. She has had

significant research achievements in the areas of HIV infection and treatment, immunology and infectious diseases.



Ms Karen Quick

CEO,
Meningitis Centre
Australia,

Karen has a strong background in executive level leadership,

specialising in not-for-profits, with experience in governance, working with community, communications and fundraising.

Improving the quality of life of people with epilepsy

Proudly supporting the WA Community for 60 years, working to raise vital epilepsy awareness, reduce stigma and to help people to better manage their epilepsy and to reduce their risk of epilepsy related harm.

- Seizure First Aid & Risk Reduction
- Emergency Medication Training
- Seizure Alert Device Display
- Epilepsy Support Groups
- Epilepsy Information & Resources
- Free Care Plans & More



Contact Us

1300 660 880 | 08 6556 6455
epilepsy@epilepsywa.asn.au



MSWA, more than just a service provider

For Susan Finlay, MSWA is more than just her service provider – it is her second home. Diagnosed with Cerebellar Ataxia, a hereditary condition affecting her balance, speech and vision, Mrs Finlay interacts with MSWA almost every day of the week to manage her symptoms and maintain her independence. “At MSWA there are half dozen of us or more with the condition, and there are still more people coming in with it. They still don’t know enough about it, so we are still learning,” Mrs Finlay said. Her team of allied health professionals and care support workers make sure Mrs Finlay is supported holistically – with services to look after her physical, mental and social wellbeing. “MSWA can have as little or as much impact on your

life as you choose it to be,” she said. “Every one of my MSWA workers are just wonderful; they care very much for me. I love their personalities, their friendliness.

“My life would be so different without MSWA in it – I don’t even want to think about it.”

Social Outreach has become a place close to Mrs Finlay’s heart, where she has bonded with new friends over shared experiences.

“I get involved in everything, make friends and have a go,” she said.

“You just need to make that first move and get involved with MSWA, and you will be amazed.”

It is also through social outreach and community support that Mrs Finlay forged a special connection with care support worker, Hawa Jalloh.

“MSWA is just like a big family,” Ms

Jalloh said. “You feel involved, you aren’t just a number – you are a person who is noticed.”

“All of my clients are amazing, I learn so much from them. Personally, I don’t consider them as Clients – they are my friends, and it is wonderful to come to work for them.”

MSWA provides support and services to people living with neurological conditions in Western Australia, as well as funding vital local, national and international research to find better treatments and provide hope for a cure.



To find out more, visit mswa.org.au or call 1300 097 989



Government of
Western Australia
Department of Health

We thank the Minister for Health for supporting the Community Neurological Sector Conference to the value of \$2000 for sponsorship of online conference registrations for students, consumers, and carers of people living with a neurological condition.

Mini Expo

You are invited to engage with a range of local and national neurological health and disability organisations at our mini-expo. Exhibitors include key member organisations of the Neurological Council of WA.



www.adhdwa.org

ADHD WA was founded to change the insufficient levels of support and information available for people with ADHD. We work alongside families, partners, co-workers, teachers, or anyone connected to someone living with ADHD. We support people across the lifespan, children, teenagers, and adults.

6457 7544 | hello@adhdwa.org



www.epilepsywa.asn.au

Epilepsy WA are a charitable organisation that relies heavily on the generosity of the WA community to keep our services available for West Australians currently living with epilepsy, their loved ones and the 1,500 new cases diagnosed each year. We work to raise epilepsy awareness, reduce stigma and to help people better manage their epilepsy.

1300 660 880 | epilepsy@epilepsywa.asn.au



www.huntingtonswa.org.au

Huntington's WA provides a range of services to enable the best possible quality of life for Western Australian's impacted by Huntington's Disease. Their mission is to enable the best possible quality of life for people with Huntington's Disease, their families and carers, through advocacy, support and education.

(08) 6457 7599 | admin@huntingtonswa.org.au



www.meningitis.com.au

MCA is a not-for-profit based in Perth, WA. Our aim is to raise awareness, educate, advocate, and provide support for Meningitis, Meningococcal, Pneumococcal, and related diseases.

Our mission is to defeat Meningitis, Meningococcal and related diseases through awareness, education, and community support.

1800 250 223 | info@meningitis.org.au



www.mndawa.asn.au

MNDWA supports West Australians impacted by Motor Neurone disease. We rely heavily on community generosity and efforts to assist in raising funds and awareness for specialised care and support services for families living with MND. We strive to enhance the quality of life and care for people living with MND.

(08) 6186 4133 | admin@mndawa.asn.au



WE KNOW NEURO

www.mswa.org.au

MSWA provides vital support and services to people living with neurological conditions in Western Australia. MSWA has a team of 1000 staff who all work to provide the best possible care to people right across the metro area and regional centres of Western Australia.
(08) 9365 4888 | customerservice@mswa.org.au



Neurological Council WA

www.ncwa.com.au

NCWA works in collaboration with organisations to champion brain health. We are providers of Neurocare, a state-wide neurological nursing service that complements clinical care by supporting people through community nursing, health system navigation, information, education, advocacy, informing health policy and service development.
1800 645 771 (free call) or 6457 7533. | hello@ncwa.com.au



www.neuromuscularwa.org.au

Neuromuscular WA aim to improve the quality of life for people living with neuromuscular conditions in WA by providing practical help that extends beyond medicine. Our mission is to ensure that anyone living with or supporting someone with a neuromuscular condition knows about us and is aware of the support that we provide.
(08) 9380 3400 | info@neuromuscularwa.org.au



www.ncwa.com.au

The Neurofibromatosis Association of WA provides support to sufferers and carers of Neurofibromatosis by bringing individuals and their families together. They work to promote awareness of the condition in various health professions and provide support to the community through information and monthly support groups.
(08) 6457 7533 | admin@ncwa.com.au



www.parkinsonswa.org.au

Parkinson's Western Australia has a range of resources & services for our community. We are a not for profit organisation supporting those living with and who are affected by Parkinson's. Our mission is to encourage, and where appropriate develop and implement programs for the cure, treatment and care of people with Parkinson's.
(08) 6457 7373 | info@parkinsonswa.org.au



www.strokefoundation.org.au

The Stroke Foundation is a national charity the partners with the community to prevent, treat and beat stroke. We stand alongside stroke survivors and their families, healthcare professionals and researchers. We support survivors on their journey to live the best possible life after stroke. We are the voice of stroke in Australia.
(08) 6558 2502 | strokeline@strokefoundation.org.au



www.synapse.org.au

Synapse provides a range of support services and resources for people whose lives have been impacted by brain injury, including specialist information and advice to help manage the impacts of brain injury, connecting those affected with a wide range of services, and assisting to navigate the systems of available care and support.
1800 673 074 | info@synapse.org.au

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Breaking Ground. Changing Lives.



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Through our research and clinical trials, we're working to unlock the secrets of neurological disorders like Parkinson's, Multiple Sclerosis, Motor Neurone Disease, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and Stroke.

And we're developing new treatments to create a brighter future, but we need your help too.

Please give generously at perroninstitute.org so we can keep breaking ground and changing lives.



Discover more about us at
perroninstitute.org

perron
institute
EST. 1982 for neurological and translational science

The Community Neurological Sector Conference 2023 takes place on Whadjuk country.

We acknowledge the Whadjuk Nyoongar people as the Traditional Owners of the Perth region and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respect to Whadjuk elders past and present and their cultures. We are committed to a positive future for the Aboriginal community.

Neurological Council WA | 6457 7533 or 1800 645 771 (free call) | ncwa.com.au | hello@ncwa.com.au

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