

Walawaani 2027 Conference

Abstract Information

A Queensland Health Initiative

CPCRE

Centre for Palliative Care
Research and Education



**Queensland
Government**

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About the Conference

The Walawaani Conference brings together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, health workers, palliative care practitioners, Elders, researchers, policymakers, service providers, partner organisations, and other health professionals to strengthen culturally safe, culturally responsive, and person-centred palliative and end-of-life care across Australia through knowledge sharing, collaboration, and Indigenous leadership.

The conference title, Walawaani, means “we hope you have a safe journey home” in the Dhurga language.

Conference Details

Dates	Monday 15 th to Tuesday 16 th February 2027
Location	Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, South Brisbane

Conference Objectives

- Showcase leading practice and innovation in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander palliative care
- Promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership, lived experience, and cultural knowledge
- Strengthen partnerships between Hospital and Health Services, ACCHOs, communities, and sector partners
- Build capability of the workforce to deliver culturally safe palliative and end-of-life care
- Facilitate networking and collaboration to support ongoing improvements in care outcomes

Target Audience

Walawaani welcomes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers, Elders, palliative care professionals, researchers, policymakers, service providers, partner organisations, and other health professionals committed to strengthening culturally safe, culturally responsive, and person-centred palliative and end-of-life care.

Call for Abstracts

We invite abstracts from clinicians, researchers, educators, community organisations, and people with lived experience. Presentations may include research, innovative programs, quality improvement initiatives, cultural perspectives, case studies, and community-led approaches.

Submissions Open	Monday 10 August 2026
Submissions Close	Sunday 25 October 2026

Submit an [Abstract](#) and be part of the Walawaani conference program.

Presentation Topics

Abstracts must relate to palliative care, end-of-life care, grief and bereavement, or areas that support improved outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients, families, carers, communities, and the healthcare workforce. Submissions are invited across a range of topics, including:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander palliative care
- Cultural responsiveness and culturally safe care
- Clinical practice and service delivery
- Community engagement and partnerships

- Research and evaluation
- Workforce development and education
- Service innovation and quality improvement
- Rural and remote healthcare
- Lived experience, consumer and carer perspectives
- Compassionate communities
- Advance care planning
- Paediatric palliative care
- Grief, loss and bereavement support

Presentation Formats

7 minute lightning talk	7-minute presentation followed by 3 minutes for audience questions Suitable for sharing a key idea, project, innovation, lesson learned, or emerging initiative
20 minute presentation	20-minute presentation Short question time is included within the session if there is time Suitable for detailed presentations on research, programs, or projects
45 minute Yarning Circle	Facilitated yarning session held in a small room with participants seated in a circle Encourages sharing of experiences, knowledge, reflections, and perspectives in a culturally safe and respectful environment Suitable for discussions on lived experience, community perspectives, cultural knowledge, and collaborative learning
90 minute Workshop	Interactive education session designed to engage participants through discussion, activities, and shared learning Suitable for skills development, collaborative problem-solving, and in-depth exploration of a topic

The Conference Program Committee reserves the right to allocate accepted abstracts to an alternative presentation format where appropriate and in consultation with the presenter.

Abstract Requirements

Question Type	Question
Abstract Title	Title
Author Information	Presenter Name
	Organisation
	Position Title

	Contact Details
Abstract Body	Maximum 250-300 words
	Background
	Aim
	Methods/Approach
	Outcomes
	Key Learnings
	3 Takeaway messages

Selection Criteria

Abstracts will be reviewed by the Conference Program Committee and assessed against criteria including originality and innovation, relevance and impact, alignment with the Walawaani Conference **meaning**, and overall quality of content. Reviewers will consider the significance of the contribution to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander palliative care, health and wellbeing; the potential to influence practice, policy, service delivery, research, or community outcomes; the strength and clarity of the content presented; and the value of the learnings for conference participants. Consistent with the purpose of Walawaani, particular consideration may be given to presentations that are led or co-presented by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and those that centre Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, knowledges, cultural strengths, lived experiences, community-led approaches, and meaningful partnerships.

Originality and Innovation Criteria

Originality and Innovation: Demonstrates a novel, innovative or community-led contribution to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, palliative care, policy, practice, research, or service delivery, with clear advancement beyond existing knowledge or approaches.

Quality and Rigour of Content: Clearly articulates the project, program, initiative or research question, with a well-described and appropriate methodology or approach. Key findings, outcomes and conclusions are clearly presented and aligned with the stated aims.

Relevance and impact

Relevance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Wellbeing: Demonstrates clear relevance to palliative care, health service delivery, education, systems improvement, policy, research, or community outcomes, with a focus on strengthening care and wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Impact and Real-World Application: Shows potential to inform or influence practice, policy, service delivery, workforce development, community engagement, or research, with clear benefits for end users and evidence of practical implementation, and insights or transferable learnings that can support improvement and innovation across diverse contexts and populations.

Alignment to conference meaning: 'We hope you have a safe journey home'

Alignment with the Walawaani Conference Meaning: Demonstrates a clear connection to the conference meaning and contributes to conversations about strengthening culturally safe, compassionate, and person-centred palliative care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, families and communities.

Collaboration, Equity and Community-Centred Care: Showcases approaches that strengthen partnerships, co-design, interdisciplinary practice, community involvement, and collective learning, recognising that quality palliative care is a shared responsibility built on respect, equity, relationships, and cultural responsiveness.

Meaningful Impact and System Improvement: Addresses current challenges or opportunities in palliative care and offers insights, innovations, or solutions that support dignity, lived experience, ethical practice, and improved systems of care, helping to bridge gaps and strengthen outcomes across communities and services.

Quality of content

Clarity and Quality of Submission: The abstract is clearly written, well-structured, and provides a complete and accurate description of the presentation, with a strong alignment between the title, content, aims, and outcomes.

Completeness and Transparency: Includes all required components, presents actual results or outcomes where applicable, and appropriately acknowledges funding sources, partnerships, and any conflicts of interest.

Authenticity and Value to Walawaani: Demonstrates original content that contributes meaningful knowledge, experiences, or insights relevant to the Walawaani Conference audience, rather than duplicating material previously presented elsewhere.

Important Dates

Abstract Submissions Open	Monday 10 August 2026
Abstract Submissions Close	Sunday 25 October 2026
Notification of Outcomes	Friday 20 November 2026
Presenter confirmation due:	Friday 18 December 2026

Presenter Information

All presenters must register for the conference. Presenter registration is offered at a discounted rate compared with delegate registration, with flexible options to attend either one day or both conference days.

One Day	\$299
Both Days	\$549

Presentation Slides

Presentation slides must be submitted to CPCRE's Dropbox account

Due date	Sunday 7 February 2027
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Kiteworks account details

Account details will be provided closer to the conference date.

Travel and Accommodation

Presenters are responsible for arranging and funding their own travel and accommodation. A limited number of scholarships may be available to assist eligible presenters with attendance costs. Information about scholarship eligibility and the application process **are on the Walawaani Conference page**.

How to Submit

Submit your abstract online via the conference registration Microsoft Form at: [Walawaani Conference 15-16 February 2027 – Fill in form](#)

Contact Details

For enquiries regarding abstract submissions, please contact:

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