






HEAL 2025 Conference

“Weaving Diverse Knowledges into Climate Action for Better Health Outcomes”



HEAL

Healthy Environments And Lives (HEAL) 2025 – Conference Organising Committee

Name	Bio
 <p data-bbox="204 748 539 835">Dr Ang Li University of Melbourne</p>	<p data-bbox="643 416 1393 831">Ang is a Senior Research Fellow at the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health. Her research concerns the intersections of housing, social wellbeing and climate change, with a focus on applied econometrics and causal inference using panel data. Her research has examined the impact of housing security, affordability, and condition on health and social outcomes. Her current work focuses on the relationship between housing and wellbeing over the life course, and the role of housing as a source of vulnerability and adaptive capacity in response to the impacts of climate change.</p>
 <p data-bbox="204 1158 523 1279">Dr Aster Gebremedhin University of Western Australia</p>	<p data-bbox="643 904 1393 1391">Aster is an early career researcher at the School of Human Sciences, University of Western Australia. She is currently undertaking a post-doctoral fellowship in the Healthy Environments and Lives (HEAL) Network as a research policy and practice fellow under the At-risk Populations & Life Course Solutions theme. She is working on the Extreme Heat and Pregnancy Complications (EHPC) project, a transdisciplinary effort involving investigators across Australia, focused on understanding the biological vulnerability to extreme heat exposure during pregnancy. Her areas of experience in research include maternal and child health, health disparities, chronic diseases, and mental health.</p>
 <p data-bbox="204 1720 579 1872">Associate Professor Caitlyn Wyrwoll University of Western Australia</p>	<p data-bbox="643 1424 1393 1805">Dr. Caitlin Wyrwoll is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Human Sciences at the University of Western Australia. After completing her PhD at UWA, she undertook postdoctoral research at the Queen's Medical Research Institute in Edinburgh. She now leads her own research group at UWA. Her work uses preclinical and human data to explore how early life environments, including climate change, affect reproductive health—focusing on maternal health, pregnancy, and long-term outcomes for children and adults.</p>



Associate Professor Carmel Williams

South Australian Health & Medical Research Institute

Associate Professor Carmel Williams is Director of the Centre for HiAP Research Translation at the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute and Co-Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Advancing Health in All Policies. She led the development of South Australia's Health in All Policies approach and numerous collaborative projects addressing social and environmental health determinants. Her work bridges research, policy, and practice to inform public policy. She holds honorary academic appointments at the University of South Australia and the University of Adelaide.



Ms Caroline Deen

Univerity of Sydney

Caroline is an Aboriginal Accredited Practicing Dietitian with a Masters of Public Health. She currently works as a Researcher – First Nations Knowledge at the Sydney School of Health Sciences University Department of Rural Health- Northern Rivers.



Dr Charlotte Waudby

Curtin University

Charlotte is a research associate at the Curtin School of Population Health. She is engaged with the data and decision support systems theme of the HEAL National Research Network.



Professor Cordia Chu

Griffith University

Professor Cordia Chu is Director of the Centre for Environment and Population Health at Griffith University. Her research spans global health, reproductive health, policy development, and disaster risk reduction, with a focus on linking environment, health, and sustainable development. She has led international initiatives in healthy cities, hospitals, and workplaces. Recognised with a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2013, she has published over 230 works, supervised 54 PhDs, and received national recognition for research supervision excellence in 2018.



Professor Craig Williams
University of South Australia |
Adelaide University

Craig leads HEAL National Research Network's South Australian Community of Practice and UniSA Dean of Programs (Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences): Clinical and Health Sciences. Throughout his academic career of more than 20 years Craig has combined skills in education and communication with research studying the interface between environmental and public health. This academic work has been recognised through South Australian Young Scientist of the Year (2007), IgNobel Prize in Biology (2005, for science that makes you laugh, then think), and Commonwealth Office of Learning and Teaching (OLT) Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning (2013) awards. Craig teaches undergraduate courses and conducts research on citizen science and public health.



Dr Dharani Sabba
University of Canberra

Dr Dharani Sabba is the HEAL Senior Centre Coordinator at the HEAL Global Research Centre, University of Canberra. She brings a PhD and diverse experience in clean energy, research management, and strategic leadership. At HEAL, she leads centre operations, supports research translation, and coordinates national initiatives including the Health Impact Forum, Future Leaders School, and Community of Practice. At ANU, she held different positions including impact and engagement officer and program manager of the ANU Zero-Carbon Energy for the Asia-Pacific initiative. She was a senior scientist at Nanyang Technological University and at ARENA she worked as a knowledge sharing officer for R&D projects and other large scale renewable energy projects deployed across Australia. Her work bridges science, research translation, and stakeholder engagement for sustainable, equitable futures.



Dr Eloise Skinner
University of Queensland

Dr. Eloise Skinner is a biologist with over a decade of experience researching the ecology and transmission of vector-borne diseases (VBDs). She holds a BSc in Ecology and Zoology, an MSc in Wild Animal Biology and a PhD in Epidemiology. Following her PhD, she undertook a Postdoc at Stanford University (USA), where she investigated environmental drivers and predictive models for VBDs. Her work spans multiple VBD systems, and integrates ecological principles with epidemiological forecasting to improve our understanding of disease risk under changing environmental conditions. Now a Research Fellow with the ODeSI team at UQ, Dr. Skinner collaborates

with local city councils and public health agencies to apply research findings to disease management and vector control strategies.



Professor Erica Donner
University of South Australia

Professor Erica Donner is an environmental scientist specializing in chemical and microbiological risk assessment, particularly in wastewater, recycled water, irrigation, food systems, and wildlife habitats. Her research explores how pollution drives antimicrobial resistance (AMR) by linking chemical selective pressure to microbial ecology. She is Director of Industry Partnerships, co-leads the One Health Science stream for the OUTBREAK consortium, and is a Chief Investigator in the international JPI AMR WAWES network.



Professor Geoff Morgan
University of Sydney

Professor Geoff Morgan is an environmental epidemiologist with over 25 years of experience in research, policy, and education. He holds a joint appointment at the Sydney School of Public Health and the University Centre for Rural Health. His work focuses on the health impacts of air pollution, climate extremes, and the built environment, using advanced biostatistical and GIS techniques. His research has informed environmental health and health services policy, particularly in relation to bushfire smoke, wood heaters, and heatwaves. He is a Chief Investigator at the Centre for Safe Air and continues to lead studies on environmental and social determinants of health.



Dr Gopika Indu
University of Canberra

Gopika Indu is a Research Fellow at the HEAL Global Research Centre, University of Canberra, specialising in climate change, air quality, and public health. Her previous work focused on indoor air quality in rural Indian households using biomass fuels, physico-chemical characterisation of pollutants and the development of air pollution control technologies. She has advanced research on solar energy adoption to improve health, energy security, and air quality in rural communities. Currently, she leads projects on climate adaptation to wildfire smoke in Southeast Asia and Australia, with interests spanning air pollution, clean energy systems, and sustainable public health solutions in a changing climate.



Associate Professor Ivan
Hannigan
Curtin University

A/Prof. Hannigan is a Senior Lecturer in Health Impacts of Climate Change at Curtin University and leads the WHO Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health Impact Assessment. He completed an NHMRC fellowship with the Centre for Air Pollution, Energy and Health Research. His multidisciplinary research explores the health impacts of air pollution, socio-economic disadvantage, and extreme weather. He integrates complex ecological, health, and socio-economic data to understand environmental health risks.



Dr Jingyi Shao
University of Canberra

Jingyi is a research fellow in Environmental Health and Climate Risk Assessment in Faculty of Health, University of Canberra. She is a member of the Healthy Environments and Lives (HEAL) National Research Network. Her PhD research focused on the long-term effects of early life exposure to fire smoke emissions on children's health. She is currently participating in a project evaluating the impacts of active travel infrastructures on travel habits, public health and the environment. Her research interests are bushfires, extreme weather, air pollution and public health under the context of climate change.



Dr Kinley Wangdi
University of Canberra

Dr Kinley Wangdi is a medically trained spatial epidemiologist and NHMRC Emerging Leadership Fellow at the HEAL Global Research Centre, University of Canberra. With over 15 years of experience in clinical practice and public health research, his work focuses on climate-sensitive infectious and chronic diseases, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. He applies Bayesian and spatial methodologies to study disease transmission and environmental health impacts. Dr Wangdi has collaborated with WHO, DFAT, and APMEN, and led projects across Bhutan, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific. He has authored over 125 publications and actively translates research into policy through regional health ministries.



Mr Lawrence Guodaar
Menzies School of Health
Research

Lawrence Guodaar is a trained environmental geographer specialising in human-environment interaction and sustainability. Most of his research uses mixed methods to understand social and environmental systems' resilience through developing adaptation interventions to mitigate climate change risks and improve food security. His research has included supporting vulnerable Indigenous communities in developing culturally acceptable adaptation interventions to address environmental changes and associated risks, including mental health. He has experience engaging and supporting Traditional Owners and Native Title Holders in Aboriginal communities in central Australia to make effective decisions regarding natural resource management on country. Lawrence's PhD focused on the intersection between climate change, Indigenous knowledge and food security in dryland rural communities.



Associate Professor Linda
Ford
Charles Darwin University

Professor Linda Payi Ford is a Senior Research Fellow at Charles Darwin University's Northern Institute. A Rak Mak Mak Marranunggu Traditional Owner from Kurrindju, her research is grounded in her Mirrwana and Wurrkama methodology, which informs Indigenous research across disciplines. Her work spans academia, teaching, cultural preservation, and advocacy for threatened Aboriginal languages and Country in the Finnis and Reynold River regions of the Northern Territory.



Ms Lindsay Morgan
Univeristy of Canberra

Lindsay is the Knowledge Exchange Coordinator at the HEAL Global Research Centre, University of Canberra, where she aims to translate the outcomes and impacts of the HEAL Network's research to governments, organisations and the general public. For the last 15 years she has worked for the Australian Federal Government in their Research Division and holds a Bachelor's degree in Biology, with Honours, from the Australian National University.



Dr Luise Kazda

University of Canberra |
Sydney School of Public
Health

Luise is an early career Research Fellow in the Health Systems Resilience and Sustainability Theme of the HEAL National Research Network and at the Sydney School of Public Health. She is a member of Wiser Healthcare and of Asthma Australia's National Implementation Committee for Quality and Sustainable Asthma-care Roadmap. Her research explores ways to make health systems more sustainable whilst improving quality of care and reducing harms. Luise investigates approaches to decarbonise healthcare through "green care" (low carbon alternatives) and "lean care" (reducing low value care), specifically in areas of clinical carbon hotspots.



Dr Mara West

The Kids Research Institute

Dr. Mara West is a proud Yamatji Elder and respected changemaker with over 50 years of leadership in Aboriginal education, health, and policy. She is a cultural governance advisor at the Kids Research Institute and chairs several national and state-level advisory groups, including HEAL WA's Aboriginal Steering Group and the North Metro TAFE Governing Council. Dr. West has pioneered on-Country education delivery and developed award-winning training models for Aboriginal job seekers. Her work centres Aboriginal voices in research and policy, fostering inclusive, culturally grounded solutions. In 2023, she was awarded an honorary doctorate by Murdoch University.



Ms Nathasha Munasinghe
University of Canberra

Nathasha Munasinghe is the Administration Coordinator at the HEAL Global Research Centre, University of Canberra. With over a decade of experience in executive and administrative support roles, she plays a key role in coordinating research activities, managing communications, and supporting strategic operations across the HEAL Network. She brings a detail-oriented and collaborative approach to supporting interdisciplinary environmental health research and stakeholder engagement.



Associate Professor Nicholas
Osbourne

A/Prof Nicholas Osborne is an epidemiologist and toxicologist whose research uses environmental epidemiology to explore disease pathways. He is currently investigating eDNA as a novel exposure measure for pollen and biodiversity, and its links to atopic disease. He has led grants in the UK and US and collaborates on projects involving DNA barcoding of grass pollen, pollen and traffic pollution effects, and solar irradiance and bone health.

University of Queensland



Dr Nigel Goodman
University of Canberra

Dr. Nigel Goodman is a Senior Research Fellow in Air Quality and Health at the HEAL Global Research Centre, University of Canberra. An expert in reducing exposure to indoor and outdoor air pollution, he is a member of the HEAL National Research Network and Centre for Safe Air. His research addresses the health impacts of air pollution linked to environmental change and is supported by NESP, NHMRC, state governments, and philanthropic agencies.



Dr Paire Somboonsin
University of Canberra

Dr Paire Somboonsin is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the HEAL Global Research Centre, University of Canberra. Her research focuses on the health impacts of environmental risk factors, particularly pollution-related mortality and morbidity in the Asia-Pacific region. With a background in sociology, anthropology, and demography, she specialises in quantitative analysis and demographic modelling. Paire holds a PhD in Demography from the Australian National University, where she also contributed to research on air pollution and public health. Her work aims to inform policy and improve population health through data-driven insights into climate change, environmental health, and social equity.



Dr Paul Barnes
Griffith University

Dr Paul Barnes is a HEAL Senior Research, Policy and Practice Fellow at the Centre for Environment & Population Health, School of Medicine and Dentistry. With over 28 years of experience in emergency and risk management across academia and government, his expertise spans disaster risk reduction, institutional resilience to climate impacts, asymmetric threat assessment (One Health and biosecurity), and national all-hazards risk strategies. He holds a degree in Environmental Health Sciences and a PhD focused on risk and occupational health & safety in the Queensland Fire & Rescue Service. His work bridges policy, practice, and research for resilient systems.



Ms Prarthana Borah
Momentum India Private Ltd

Prarthana Borah is a sustainability expert with over two decades of experience in environment and sustainability and is acknowledged as an authority in climate and air quality management, biodiversity conservation and education for sustainable development.

Prarthana has played lead roles by working in and heading organizations in sustainability ranging from topics such as air pollution, climate change, nature conservation, corporate disclosures, and environment education with over twenty years of experience in strategic planning, program leadership, institutional fundraising, local stakeholder engagement, and implementing national and international sustainability programs.



Associate Professor Ro
McFarlane
University of Canberra

Ro coordinates the HRI's flagship Master of Public Health program. She has significant experience and expertise at the interface between health, biodiversity, environmental sustainability, and food production, often referred to as One Health, Planetary Health and, or Ecological Public Health. Her research focuses on evidence synthesis for policy, education and addressing barriers to implementation of place-based solutions. Current activities include coordinating Health within the Nexus Assessment for the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and addressing healthy and sustainable food system transition as co-lead of the Future of Food in the Capital Region network.



Ms Sharna Motlap
Charles Darwin University

Sharna is a proud Indigenous woman from the Mbabaram tribe of Queensland, and from Hammond Island of the Torres Strait. She is a nutritionist and Research Fellow at Northern Institute. Sharna has gained numerous awards including the New Colombo Plan scholarship. Sharna is currently completing a double degree studying a Master of Public Health and Master of Health Research with Menzies School of Health Research, where she was awarded the prestigious 'Menzies Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Postgraduate Coursework Scholarship'. Her research interest includes nutrition, climate change, public health, and Indigenous health.



Dr Sharon Campbell
University of Tasmania

Dr. Sharon Campbell is a postdoctoral researcher in Environmental Health at the Menzies Institute for Medical Research, University of Tasmania. A member of the HEAL National Research Network, her work focuses on the health impacts of climate-related extreme events such as heatwaves, bushfires, and air pollution. With a background in public health policy, her research is designed to be practical and easily translated into real-world applications.



Dr Shilpi Tewari
RMIT

Shilpi has completed her PhD from Deakin University in Architecture/Planning. She has contributed towards several research projects at Alfred Deakin Research Institute as well as School of Architecture & Built Environment at Deakin University. Her research interests are studying demographic changes, urban planning in residential environments, neighbourhood character, multiculturalism in planning policies and regulations, air quality for urban liveability and air quality at neighbourhood scale. Her extensive teaching experience at Deakin University spans across courses in construction management, urban planning, urban design and architecture.



Prof Sotiris Vardoulakis
University of Canberra

Professor Sotiris Vardoulakis is Director of the HEAL Global Research Centre, HEAL National Research Network and Professor of Environmental Public Health at the University of Canberra. He has held senior roles at Public Health England, ANU, and the Institute of Occupational Medicine. He is also Honorary Professor at the University of Exeter and Adjunct Professor at IIT Madras. For over 25 years, he has advised governments and global organisations on climate change, air pollution, and public health, with research spanning environmental monitoring, modelling, epidemiology, and policy across multiple continents.



Associate Supriya Mathew

Supriya Mathew is an environmental health researcher leading the climate change research program at Menzies. She currently co-leads the Rural and Remote health theme and the Northern Territory Community of Practice of the HEAL National Research Network. Her research team focuses on improving climate resilience in remote Australia through citizen scientist-led research data collection, collation of lived experiences of residents of remote Australia and co-designing of adaptation and mitigation solutions with remote residents and stakeholders.

Menzies School of Health
Research



Professor Thava Palanisami
University of Newcastle

A/Prof. Thava Palanisami is an Associate Professor at the University of Newcastle's School of Engineering. His research challenged the assumption that contaminants occur singly, showing that chemical mixtures—like PAHs and metals—are more toxic and bioavailable. He led Australia's first field-level implementation of a Risk-Based Land Management approach for contaminated sites, influencing national risk assessment and remediation practices.



Dr Timothy Chaston
University of Canberra

Dr Timothy Chaston is a Senior Research Fellow in Environmental Health Impact Assessment at the HEAL Global Research Centre, University of Canberra. His work focuses on modelling the public health impacts of environmental change, including current and future climate scenarios. He develops tools for tracking human health and vulnerability and contributes to policy development at the intersection of public health, social equity, and environmental health economics. Dr Chaston is a member of the International Network on Public Health and Environment Tracking (INPHET) and the Centre for Safe Air. His expertise includes scenario modelling, emissions analysis, and health impact assessments.



Associate Professor Veronica
Matthews
University of Sydney

Associate Professor Veronica Matthews is a health systems researcher from the Quandamooka community (Minjerribah/North Stradbroke Island), based at the University Centre for Rural Health, University of Sydney. She co-leads the CRE-STRIDE network, focusing on strengthening Indigenous health care systems through community-based participatory research, systems thinking, and quality improvement. With over 15 years of experience across policy, program delivery, and research, her work integrates environmental health, social and emotional wellbeing, and connection to Country. She holds a PhD in environmental toxicology and is a Wingara Mura Leadership Fellow. Her research champions Indigenous methodologies and self-governance for healthy Country and communities.



Dr Zubair Ratan
Menzies School of Health
Research

Dr. Zubair Ahmed Ratan is a globally recognized public health researcher specializing in digital health, telemedicine and mental health. He completed his PhD in Public Health at the University of Wollongong. Before pursuing his PhD, he earned his MBBS in Bangladesh and MSc in South Korea. Dr. Ratan has secured ten competitive research grants including Australian Academy of Science. Dr. Ratan's research continues to drive transformative solutions in digital health and public health, particularly in underserved communities.

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