



North Coast **Allied Health Association**

June 2026

We show respect for the traditional owners across all the nations of the North Coast New South Wales and their custodianship and connection to country. NCAHA acknowledges the important role Aboriginal people have played in the health and well-being of these communities.



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[Reconciliation Week](#)

We have just had another Reconciliation Week, May 29 - June 4. As I reflect on the issues, a story comes to mind. I used to work for a lady up in Darwin, Aunty Pat Anderson. She was my boss at the Aboriginal Health Services Alliance up there, and recently she was one of the leaders in developing the statement From the Heart. She has always maintained that truth telling is a key step for our country to move forward. She told us a story of when she was a young girl at the Aboriginal school in Darwin. Her teacher was giving a history lesson and talking of Captain Cook, how he discovered Australia in 1770. Pat put up her hand and, in all innocence, said, "Oh no, I don't think so Miss, my family have been living out here in the desert forever". The response, "No my girl, it was Captain Cook who discovered Australia". A grim denial of an obvious truth – the first Australians being dismissed in the colonial rush.

Many other nations have sought to make peace with a difficult history, and truth telling seems to be the key. Most notably, South Africa had its Truth and Justice Commission at the end of the apartheid era where people came clean on racial injustices they had committed. And much earlier on, the Kiwis signed up to their Treaty of Waitangi. I'm sure we in Australia will eventually come to terms with some difficult truths and seek to make it right. In the meantime, we will continue to battle with poorer health and educational outcomes for Indigenous Australians, including here on the North Coast. And our collective future will not be as bright as it could be until we get it sorted.

Thank you,
Rob Curry – Executive Officer, NCAHA



[NCAHA CPD Events](#)

The Pain Game: Tackling Chronic Challenges with Clinical Confidence – A forum for AHPs

When: Saturday 15th August

Where: UCRH, Lismore

More details to follow

For further details on any of the above, call Rob on P: 0429 999005 or email:

NCAHAExecutive@hotmail.com.



From the Field

Kerrie Keyte: HealthPathways Lead for Northern NSW Local Health District.

Kerrie brings over 30 years' experience across public and private health, with a strong background in senior admin and project management. Since 2014, Kerrie has been involved in HealthPathways, now leading communications and engagement for the resource, and working collaboratively with key stakeholders: Northern NSW and Mid North Coast LHDs and HNC. She supports clinicians to deliver consistent, evidence-based care and finds this work highly rewarding in improving patient outcomes.



HealthPathways are clinically endorsed, locally agreed online pathways designed to support primary care clinicians, particularly GPs and AHPs, in the assessment, management, and referral of common health conditions. They provide clear, practical guidance that reflects local services, referral criteria, and patient information, helping clinicians navigate the health system more effectively. Mid and North Coast HealthPathways have localised 655 clinical and referral pathways, ensuring content is tailored to community needs and supports consistent, high-quality care across the region. **New features available on HealthPathways Individual Accounts:** HealthPathways offer users the option to register for a personalised HealthPathways account, designed to enhance the user experience and strengthen privacy. To date, over 1,300 users have registered, gaining access to CPD reporting and AI Smart Search.

To create an account, go to the [Welcome](#) page and click 'Sign in or register'. If you are currently using a shared login, sign in as usual, then click the 'Click here' link in the yellow banner, enter your email address, and follow the prompts to register.

CPD Reporting: HealthPathways has introduced new CPD tools designed to make documenting your learning simple, efficient, and meaningful. If you are still using a generic login, you may be missing out on these features. By registering for an individual account, you can automatically capture your learning as you work—turning everyday use of HealthPathways into recognised CPD. With the CPD Reporting feature, registered users can:

- Track CPD activity in one place, linked directly to the pathways you use
- Capture reflections as pathways are accessed
- Save personalised learning notes
- Generate and export a CPD report

You can also claim CPD hours for:

- Providing feedback on pathways
- Contributing to pathway development or review
- Participating in HealthPathways workgroups

Log in to HealthPathways and visit the [CPD Hours for HealthPathways Use](#) page and watch the [CPD Reporting Vimeo](#).

Access to other HealthPathways sites

Once registered, you can request access to other regions' HealthPathways using your Mid and North Coast login details. Steps are:

1. Select the region you would like to access from [this list](#)
2. Click the link to the relevant site
3. Enter your Mid and North Coast HealthPathways login details
4. Complete the prompt outlining your reason for access
5. Access is usually granted within five minutes during business hour

In closing, Kerrie offers the following encouragement to AHPs to take up HealthPathways: *"For allied health professionals, HealthPathways is a practical tool to align clients care with GPs and the wider health system, supporting clearer referrals, shared expectations, and more coordinated patient outcomes."*



[Sarah Miles, Occupational Therapist - Connecting Rural Allied Health: the 2026 SARRAH Conference](#)

Sarah Miles is an OT with a diverse background spanning clinical practice in Australia, the UK, and developing nations. Since 2016 she has been based at the University Centre for Rural Health (UCRH) in Lismore where she is Team Leader – Clinical Education (Allied Health). In this role she develops rural placement experiences for students to prepare the future allied health workforce in the region. She is a PhD candidate investigating how work readiness is integrated into practice education placements within the OT profession. Sarah is also a long-serving board member of NCAHA, a role held since 2018, and is Company Secretary.



Sarah has long been a member of SARRAH – Services for Australian Rural & Remote Allied Health. SARRAH is the national peak body for allied health professionals working in rural and remote Australia. It represents rural allied health at a national level. Sarah acknowledges the important work of SARRAH to provide rural AHPs with professional support. She notes the specific SARRAH programs – Allied Health Leadership, Working with Allied Health Assistants, Transition to Rural Practice, and the Rural Generalist Program

Sarah is excited about the SARRAH Conference coming up in our own region:

- **When: 9-11 November**

- **Where: Pacific Bay Resort, Coffs Harbour**

She is a member of the Scientific Committee undertaking planning for the Conference, which will focus on how local context, culture, and community knowledge shape allied health practice in rural and remote settings. She believes the Conference theme is just right: **Sense of Place: Embracing Local Knowledge:** *"The idea of Sense of Place really resonates with rural practice. The work we do is shaped by the communities we're part of, and local knowledge plays a big role in how care is delivered. I'm hoping the Conference creates space for sharing real experiences and practical ideas that people can take back to their own settings, as well as strengthening connections across the sector."*

If you're an allied health professional working on the North Coast, Sarah urges you take every opportunity to register for this important national event.

"Come and connect with colleagues from across Australia, share your ideas, research, and practical approaches, and learn from others working in rural and remote contexts."

Register now: [SARRAH2026](#)



Chronic Disease and Missed Opportunity

SARRAH CEO, Cath Maloney, has this week cited two papers addressing the challenges of chronic disease in Australia - [Veronica Le Nevez in an article for Croakey](#) and former Chair of the Productivity Commission, Michael Brennan, in his [2022 John Deeble address on the future health workforce](#). She notes both commentators make the case that here in Australia we are underinvesting in prevention, early intervention, and long-term management of chronic conditions, and that this is having a major drag effect on productivity in the community, be it personal or paid.

Cath makes the obvious and oft-made point that poorly addressed prevention and management of chronic disease is the natural space for the allied health professions to fill. *"This is where allied health professions have a critical - and underutilised - role to play."* The allied health professions are focused on:-

- **Prevention and early intervention**
- **Behaviour change and self-management** of chronic conditions
- **Functional restoration and maintenance**
- **Person-centred, co-produced care**
- **Team-based, multidisciplinary care**

Cath argues that these activities *"are the core capabilities required to 'plug the productivity leaks' created by chronic illness."* Given these potential contributions that AHPs can make to the health and productivity of Australians, we must all continue to make an evidence-based case for the allied health sector to be appropriately utilised to play a more meaningful role in the national healthcare system, with all practitioners working to their full scope of practice.



News from IAHA

Pathways to Practice

Applications for the Pathways to Practice scholarship are now open. The scholarship is designed for the specific purpose of supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tertiary students to attend professional health conferences. This scholarship offers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health students a unique opportunity to:

- **Build professional networks** with health sector leaders, researchers, and practitioners who can provide mentorship and career guidance.
- **Access cutting-edge knowledge** in evidence-based practices, innovations, and emerging trends directly relevant to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander health.
- **Gain competitive advantage** through exposure to latest developments in Aboriginal health, chronic disease management, and primary care that will enhance their career prospects.
- **Connect with potential employers** and learn about career pathways from professionals already working in the sector.
- **Develop as a sector leader** by bringing valuable knowledge back to Community and contributing to the broader sector's capacity.
- **Receive financial support** covering conference registration, travel, accommodation, and meals—removing barriers that often prevent students from accessing these career-defining opportunities.

Eligible students must be currently enrolled in health or health-related programs.

To assist with completing your application, please ensure you have:

- Your Current Academic Transcript
- Current Enrolment Verification
- Confirmation of Aboriginality
- Conference Details (PDF of Program or Brochure)

[Enrol Here](#)



CPD Alert & Upcoming Events

SARRAH National Rural & Remote Allied Health Conference

SARRAH National Rural & Remote Allied Health Conference (Coffs Harbour)

Theme: *A sense of place: Embracing Local Knowledge*

Subthemes:

- Cultural Responsiveness and Sustainability
- Local Wisdom in Action
- Improving Access to Care

When: 9 – 11 November, 2026
Where: Pacific Bay Resort, Coffs Harbour
Convenor: SARRAH (Services for Rural & Remote Allied Health)

The SARRAH 2026 Conference Scientific Committee is thrilled to invite submissions of Abstracts for the SARRAH 2026 Conference scheduled for October 2026 in Coffs Harbour.
Abstracts should address the below conference theme and subthemes.

A sense of place: Embracing Local Knowledge marks the 16th National Conference for Rural and Remote Allied Health. The Conference will bring together health leaders with a shared vision of growing a fit-for-purpose rural and remote health workforce committed to caring for rural and remote Australians, so that they have access to the healthcare they need to stay whole, healthy, and fully participating in society.

We encourage you to join in the conversation - be a part of the movement to nurture sustainable and resilient rural and remote communities!

AHA National Conference: Boorloo (Perth): 30 Nov – 2 December - [Register Here](#)



IAHA National Conference scholarships

These scholarships aim to increase participation from IAHA members to attend the 2026 IAHA National Conference. They will also support and encourage national networking with allied health and other related sectors specifically focusing on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

[VIEW SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES](#) [VIEW T&C'S](#)

For all scholarship and abstract enquiries, please contact Amanda Johnstone, Event Coordinator, at amanda@iaha.com.au or Ph +61 2 6285 1010.

Health Workforce Scholarship Program

Attention all AHPs working in private practice, the NGO sector or in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services. These important scholarships can assist your post-grad training and/or your attendance at relevant conferences and workshops. The upcoming SARRAH and IAHA conferences spring to mind, as well as the Health North Conference at Kingscliff in late May.

The Program is an initiative of the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, administered in New South Wales by Rural Doctors Network (RDN).

A new round for scholarship applications is open from 1/4/2026 – 13/5/2026

Workforce Scholarship Program (HWSP) provides scholarships and bursaries to help health professionals in rural and remote Australia retain and enhance their skills, capacity and scope of practice.

The HWSP is available to medical, nursing, midwifery, allied health, dental and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals providing primary health care in the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services sector, non-government organisations and private practice.

[View the Health Workforce Scholarship Program Fact Sheet 2024 here.](#)

More Scholarship details can be found here: <https://www.ruraldocctors.org/site/hwsp>

Regional Aged Care Connect - Grafton

You are invited to a free afternoon information session designed for staff of residential aged care homes. Join representatives from Northern NSW Health, Healthy North Coast and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to learn about available services and supports that can enhance care delivery for older

Australians in residential care.

Enjoy a light lunch while connecting with key organisations and gaining practical insights to support your work.

When: Wednesday 24 June 2026, 1:00pm - 3:30pm

Where: Grafton District Services Club, 105-107 Mary Street, Grafton

Convenor: HNC and others

Program outline

- Healthy North Coast
- Local Network Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
- Aged Care Outreach Service
- NSW Health – Aged Care Assessments – Far North Coast
- Dementia Outreach
- Discharge Patient Flow Concierge

[Register Here](#)



[Mid and North Coast Health Pathways](#)

HealthPathways is an online portal which aims to guide best-practice assessment, management of common medical conditions and local referral pathways. [Mid and North Coast HealthPathways](#) Username: manchealth - Password: conn3ct3d

[Reviewed and Updated HealthPathways Clinical](#)

Acute Asthma in Children
Acute Rheumatic Fever
Combined Hormonal Contraceptives (CHCs)
Contraceptive Injection
Diabetes in Pregnancy
Down Syndrome
Epilepsy in Women and Pregnancy
GP to GP Referrals
Immunisation - Adult
Motor Vehicle Accident Injuries
Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS)
Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD)
Urinary Incontinence in Women

[Referral](#)

Acute Paediatric Assessment
Falls Prevention Programs
Homelessness Assistance
Long-Term Contraception Referrals
Non-acute Paediatric Assessment
Patient Transport

If you want to know more about NCAHA, please contact us at rob.curry1@outlook.com
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