

Building Caring Communities 2025

Bringing evidence, research and practice together
to create a community where every child can thrive.

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre
Meanjin (Brisbane)
June 10-12, 2025

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

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Full Program
Online



Building Caring Communities 2025 is co-hosted by:

**LIFE
WITHOUT
BARRIERS**



ALLAMBI CARE

 **UnitingCare**

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

TUESDAY 10 JUNE 2025

Welcome and Reception

5:00pm - 7:00pm

(Sky Room and Sky Lobby)

Traditional Welcome to Country

Nunukul Yuggera Community

Welcome to the Conference



Poster Session

(Sky Room and Sky Lobby)

#1 Creating Sexual safety through collaboration

Melinda Clarke, *Life Without Barriers (AUS)*

#2 Continuous Practice Development - An innovative tool to measure impact

Kylie Williams & Cassandra O'Regan, *OzChild (AUS)*

#3 Wellbeing strategies in active lessons: Morning Move for Mind - what mechanisms make it work

Tracey Higgins, *Inspiro (AUS)*

#4 The CARE Model in Spain: implementation process and early results

Professor Jorge de Valle, *University of Oviedo (Spain)*

#5 Crisis Prevention: The Ecology of Caring and Responsive Classrooms

Fiona Waites, *TACT Training & Consulting (AUS)*

#6 Perceptions of Safety: Understanding Variability Across Staff Characteristics in Residential Child Care Settings

Dr Debbie Sellers & Dr Lisa McCabe *RCCP (US)*

#7 Quality of Child-Carer Relationships Correlates with Young People's Outcomes in Care

Dr Elliott Smith, *RCCP (US)*

#8 Empirical results of a multi-site evaluation of CARE in the United States

Dr Charlie Izzo, *RCCP (US)*

#9 Threshold Concepts in the Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) System: Developing TCI7

Dr Debbie Sellers, *RCCP (US)*

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CONFERENCE PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE 2025



8:15am - 9:00am	Registration					
9:00am - 9:45am	Opening Traditional Welcome to Country: Nunukul Yuggera Community					Plaza Terrace
9:45am - 10:30am	Plenary Keynote Walking Together <i>Brenda Matthews, Co-Founder/Indigenous Director, Learning Circle Australia (AUS)</i>					Plaza Terrace
10:30am - 11:00am	Break					
11:00am - 12:30pm	Cross Agency Youth Advisory Panel Real Lives, Real Voices — Through Our Eyes, Not Our File <i>Youth Participation Advocates: Olivia Mylesen, Tim McQuillan, Hannah Ziebarth, Tara Payne & Lara Vincent (AUS)</i>					Plaza Terrace
12:30pm - 1:30pm	Lunch					
1:30pm - 2:30pm	Workshop/Panel/Oral Presentation Session A					
P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	M1	Plaza Terrace
(Panel) Families Will Do Well if They Can. If They Can't, We Need to Figure Out Why, So We Can Help: Strengthening Family Relationships by Redesigning Family Time When Children Are in Out-of-Home Care <i>Holly Schnaars (Parent With Lived Experience) Rachael Dean (Life Without Barriers Peer Worker and Lived Experience Advocate), Julie Wood, Jessica Cocks and Tracey Ashton, Life Without Barriers (AUS)</i>	(Workshop) Building Capacity: Supporting Trainers for Fidelity and Excellence <i>Panel moderator: Fiona Waites (AUS)</i> <i>Panelists: Stephanie Dye (US), Ngawai Love, Cassandra Holt, Peter Le Breton (AUS) & Craig Bailey (US)</i>	(Workshop) Building a Culture of Learning: Using Data to Inform Child and Family Practice and Systems <i>Mary Ruberti, Dr Lisa McCabe, Dr Elliott G. Smith, RCCP (US)</i>	(Panel) CARE - Cross National Implementation <i>Panel moderator: Martha Holden, RCCP (US)</i> <i>Panelists: Eli Yishun Lee, Holy Words Child and Youth Foundation, Yu Hsu, Taiwan Residential Child Care Alliance, Stacey Charchuk, RCCP (Canada), Prof Jorge del Valle, University of Oviedo, Emily Thomson & Ashley Barker, Waterford Country School (US), Courtney Patterson, LWB (AUS), Brett Wilcock, UnitingCare & Angela Stanton-Greenwood, The Listening Post</i>	(Oral) A CENTRALISED MODEL: The National After-Hours Service, Life Without Barriers <i>Zoe Gilrain & Lesley Cocks, Life Without Barriers (AUS)</i> (Oral) Did you hear me? Children and Young People's Experiences of Participation in Community Services <i>Melinda Clarke, Life Without Barriers (AUS)</i>	(Workshop) Courage in Action: Creating Caring Education Communities for Youth-at-Risk to Thrive <i>Geoff Collings & Matt Brennan-Jones, School of Alternative Learning Settings (AUS)</i>	(Panel) Connecting Lived Experience, Practice, and Policy Through a Child and Youth Empowerment Model <i>(LWB) Youth Participation Advocates, Child and Youth Participation Champions, Life Without Barriers (AUS)</i>



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2:45pm - 3:30pm	Plenary Keynote Supporting Neurodivergent Children and Young People in Out of Home Care <i>Dr Emma Goodall, Director Strategic Translational Research, Department of Premier and Cabinet, South Australia (AUS)</i>	Plaza Terrace
3:30pm - 4:00pm	Break	
4:00pm	Panel of the Peaks: Championing Change for Children and Families: Strategies for Research-Informed Advocacy and Sector Support <i>Panel moderator: Jamie Crosby, Chief Executive Officer, Families Australia (AUS)</i> <i>Tom Allsop, Chief Executive Officer, PeakCare Queensland (AUS)</i> <i>Deb Tsorbaris, Chief Executive Officer, Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare (AUS)</i> <i>Melissa Gibson, Chief Executive Officer, Child and Family Focus SA (AUS)</i> <i>Simone Czech, Chief Executive Officer, ACWA (AUS)</i>	Plaza Terrace
5:00pm	The Home Stretch Reform <i>Paul McDonald, Chair Home Stretch & Chief Executive Officer, Anglicare Victoria (AUS)</i>	



SPONSORS

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

THURSDAY 12 JUNE 2025

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8:30am - 9:30am **Plenary Keynote How Do We Know We Are Enough?** Plaza Terrace
Dr Junlei Li, Co-Chair, Human Development and Education;
Saul Zaentz Senior Lecturer in Early Childhood Education, Harvard University Graduate School of Education (US)

9:30am **Plenary Panel** Plaza Terrace
In a System That Fails Them, Parents Turn to Other Parents Who Understand
Panel moderator: Karyn Walsh, Chief Executive Officer, Micah Projects (AUS)
Tammy Prince-Doyle, Family Inclusion Strategies in the Hunter (AUS)
Laura Sheenan, Family Inclusion Network – Southeast Queensland (AUS)
Jenny Whitworth, Family Inclusion Network – Southeast Queensland (AUS)
Jessica Cocks, Life Without Barriers (AUS)
Rachael Dean, Life Without Barriers – South Australia (AUS)

10:10am **Peer Parent and Family Advocacy with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in child protection**
Karina Maxwell, PhD Candidate, University of Queensland (AUS)

10:30am - 11:00am **Break**

11:00am - 12:00pm **Workshop/Panel/Oral Presentation Session B**

P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P8	Plaza Terrace
(Panel) Staff Retention as an Integral Component in Applying Evidence-Based Practice in Residential Care <i>Amanda Dunn, Kelly Gill, Kimberley Jensen & Jack Barlow Safe Places for Children (AUS)</i>	(Oral) Therapeutic Crisis Intervention in Schools (TCIS) and Trauma-informed Positive Behaviour Support (TIPBS) in a Curriculum and Re-engagement (CARE) School. A case study <i>Stella Smith & Lisa Brockheizen, Department of Education WA (AUS)</i>	(Oral) From Research to the Real World: An Overview of How an EBP (Multisystemic Therapy) Moves from Research to the Community, and is Adapted for Different Target Populations and Across Various Cultures <i>Bernie Centeio, MST Services (Hawaii)</i>	(Oral) From Childhood Institutions to the Aged Care System: A Survey of the Perspectives of Older Care Leavers Accessing Aged Care Supports <i>Philip Mendes & Lena Turnbull, Monash University (AUS)</i>	(Oral) Evidence Based Foster Care – The Journey of TFCO in Australia <i>Margaret Saungweme, OzChild (AUS)</i>	(Workshop) The Importance of Play in Developmental Relationships <i>Brett Wilcock UnitingCare, Phoebe Kennedy YAG Youth Consultant, Hannah Ziebarth YAG Youth Consultant, Andre Anders UnitingCare, Larnie McDonald UnitingCare & Dominic Roth UnitingCare (AUS)</i>	(Workshop) Appreciating the Simple and Ordinary Human Interactions <i>Dr Junlei Li, Harvard University (US)</i>
	(Oral) Brains Built to Break Barriers: Building Inclusive Communities that Celebrate ADHD and ASD Strengths <i>Lisa Betts & Justine Capelle Collis, BRNWLD - Born ADHD (AUS)</i>	(Oral) TCI-F in the Early Intervention Space, Supporting Families with Adolescents That Use Violence <i>Chantal Dodd, Centacare Catholic Community Services, South Australia (AUS)</i>	(Oral) Barriers and Facilitators to Effective Transition Planning: Perspectives of Staff from a Community-Based Organization Supporting Young People Living in Out-of-Home Care <i>Philip Mendes, Monash University (AUS)</i>	(Oral) Improving the Foster Care Experience – An innovative approach to supporting CYP <i>Marg Stott & Amy Mackenzie, OzChild (AUS)</i>		

12:00pm - 1:00pm **Lunch and Yarning Circle | Walking Together: Yarning for Stronger, Caring Communities (P2)**

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THURSDAY 12 JUNE 2025

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1:00pm - 1:45pm **Plenary Keynote**
The Transformative Power of Being With, Allambi Care
Dr Howard Bath, Consultant, Program Director Allambi Care (AUS) Plaza Terrace

2:00pm - 3:00pm **Workshop/Panel/Oral Presentation Session C**

P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P8	Plaza Terrace
(Oral) Implementing CARE in Taiwan - Exploring the Transition from Charity Culture to Practical Transformation <i>Yu Hsu, National Chi Nan University; Taiwan Residential Child Care Alliance (Taiwan)</i> (Oral) CARE Journey in Taiwan <i>Eli Yihsun Lee, Holy Word Children and Youth Foundation (Taiwan)</i>	(Workshop) Multisystemic Therapy: Partnering with Families and Communities to Create Positive Outcomes for Young People <i>Cheryl Majka, Life Without Barriers, Kansas Martens, Anglicare Victoria, Gizem Tarazi, OzChild, Christine Kondov, Life Without Barriers & Kelly Hicks, Victorian Police (AUS)</i>	(Workshop) Why School Attendance Matters, and What You Can Do to Help <i>Professor Kitty Te Riele, Dr Emily Rudling, Shelley Stokes, University of Tasmania & Clea North, Life Without Barriers (AUS)</i>	(Oral) Theory to Practice: How We Made an Organizational Shift in Providing TCI to Our Organization <i>Brendan Shea, Wood's Homes (Canada)</i> (Oral) Innovating Tomorrow's Workforce: Human Centered Design and Diversity in Action <i>Samuel Mammen, Oak Hill Ranch (Canada)</i>	(Oral) Preserving a Vital System: The Future of Foster Care <i>Dr Lisa Griffiths, Ozchild & Jamie Crosby, Families Australia (AUS)</i> (Oral) Incorporating the CARE Model to Improve Family and Program Outcomes <i>Emily Thomson & Ashley Barker, Waterford Country School (US)</i>	(Workshop) Children and Families: Driving Systemic Change Through Co-Production <i>Laurence Stanton-Greenwood & Angela Stanton-Greenwood, The Listening Post (UK)</i>	(Panel) Honoring Differences, Strengthening Connections: Australian First Nations' Perspective in Caring for Children and Families <i>Brett Wilcock, Arabana, Kim Madison, Weilwan/Wiradjuri, Lenny Zillman, Gubbi Gubbi/Western GuGu Yalinji, Barry McGrady, Gomeroi and Cassie Benjamin, Meriam (Eastern) and Maluilgal (Near Western) (AUS)</i>

3:00pm - 3:30pm **Break**

3:30pm - 5:00pm **Plenary**
International Perspectives on Out-of-Home Care: Present and Future
Panel moderator: Cathy Taylor, Board Member, Life Without Barriers (AUS)
Professor Lisa Holmes, University of Sussex (UK)
Tammy Prince-Doyle, President of the Family Inclusion Strategies in the Hunter (AUS)
Professor Jorge de Valle, University of Oviedo (Spain)
Dr Junlei Li, Harvard University (US) Plaza Terrace

5:00pm - 5:30pm **Conference Close**
 Closing reflections from a range of participant perspectives Plaza Terrace