



JUNIOR DOCTOR CONFERENCE



# MACKAY 2026

SAT 25 – SUN 26 JULY

PLATINUM SPONSORS



SUPPORTING PARTNER



## ▶ Optional social function: Friday, 24 July

5.30pm – 7.30pm **AMA Queensland Member Networking Event**

▶ **Mantra Mackay Hotel – Marina View Room**

Hosted by JCU Northern Queensland Regional Training Hubs (NQRTH) and Mackay Hospital and Health Service

Complimentary to attend however you must RSVP to [nqrth.mackay@jcu.edu.au](mailto:nqrth.mackay@jcu.edu.au)

## ▶ Conference day one: Saturday, 25 July

9am – 10am **Registrations and breakfast with trade exhibitors**

▶ Sponsored by corporate partner – **Doctors Health Fund**

10am **Acknowledgement to Country**

**Kerry Maley** – Mackay HHS Executive Director Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health

▶ Sponsored by **Mackay HHS Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Health**

10.15am **Welcome from the AMA Queensland Committee of Doctors in Training (CDT)**

▶ **Dr Emma Hodge** – Co-Chair of Committee of Doctors in Training, A/Director of Clinical Training and Medical Administration Registrar at Gold Coast University Hospital

10.20am **Platinum sponsor – Mackay Regional Council**

▶ **Mr Greg Williamson** – Mayor

10.25am **Platinum sponsor – Isaac Regional Council**

▶ **Cr Melissa Westcott** – Councillor

10.30am **Platinum sponsor – Northern Queensland Primary Health Network**

▶ **Carley Radel** – Integration and Development Lead

10.40am **Panel session: Opportunities in Medicine**

Thinking about where your medical career could take you? Join an intern, a local GP and a representative from Mackay Hospital and Health Service (Mackay HHS) as they share insights into training, career progression and lifestyle opportunities in the Mackay and Isaac region. From hospital-based roles to general practice and regional healthcare leadership, this panel will showcase the diverse pathways available and why so many doctors choose to build their careers in regional Queensland.

▶ **Assoc Prof Elissa Hatherly**

– Panel host, Head of JCU Mackay Ngudya Yamba Clinical School and GP

▶ **Dr John Hadok** – Mackay HHS

▶ **Dr Kalaryn Fisher** – Mackay HHS Intern

▶ **Dr Hannah Trimble** – Mackay HHS Rural Director of Medical Services

▶ **Dr Stephanie Wood** – Mackay HHS A/Deputy Executive Director Medical Services



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## SAT 25 – SUN 26 JULY

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**11.10am**

### **Keynote: At the Edge of Medicine – Foundations, experience and the horizons of practice**

The early years of medicine shape clinical judgment, professional confidence, and future career possibilities. Drawing on lessons from critical care, regional and tropical practice, and work at the frontiers of medicine, this session will reflect on why the basics still matter, how experience develops good doctors, and how practising beyond the city, and one's comfort zones, can open unexpected horizons for service, growth and discovery.

- ▶ **Assoc Prof Eamon Raith** – JCU Mackay Ngudya Yamba Clinical School, Department of Intensive Care Services, Mackay HHS

**11.35am**

### **Panel session: Wellbeing**

Medicine is a rewarding career, but it also comes with unique challenges at every stage of training. Join a candid discussion with panelists as they share their experiences, practical strategies for maintaining wellbeing, and insights into navigating the pressures of study, training and clinical practice. This interactive session will explore resilience, work-life balance, mental health, and where to seek support throughout your medical career.

- ▶ **Dr Emma Hodge** – Panel host
- ▶ **Rachael Payne** – Medical student
- ▶ **Dr Bill Jarrett** – Mackay HHS Junior House Officer
- ▶ **Dr Marishka Shah** – Mackay HHS Psychiatry PHO
- ▶ **Dr Yoon Kwon Choi** – Mackay HHS Psychiatry AT

**12.05pm**

### **Career Pathways in Medicine: Leadership Beyond Clinical Practice**

Join AMA Queensland Vice President Dr Sarah Coll as she shares her unique career journey in medicine, the experiences that shaped her professional path, and her passion for advocating for doctors and patients. Discover why she became involved with AMA Queensland, the opportunities available through medical leadership and advocacy, and how junior doctors can make an impact beyond the consulting room.

- ▶ **Dr Sarah Coll** – Vice President, AMA Queensland and Orthopaedic Surgeon

**12.15pm**

### **Elevator Pitch Challenge**

You've navigated medical school interviews, ward rounds, and night shifts — but can you handle choosing between conference sessions? Before the breakout sessions begin, each speaker will have a few minutes to pitch why their session is the one you simply can't miss.

- ▶ **Cutcher & Neale**
- ▶ **QVAD**
- ▶ **Research program presentations**

**12.25pm – 1.25pm Lunch with trade exhibitors**

- ▶ Sponsored by platinum partner – **Cutcher & Neale**



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**Breakout sessions** 25 minutes each (5 minutes in between to change rooms)

▶ **Break out session one: 1.25pm – 1.50pm**

▶ **Breakout session two: 1.55pm – 2.20pm**

## **Topic one: Cutcher & Neale**

**– From scrubs to success: Smart money moves early career doctors can't afford to ignore**

▶ **Room 1 – Marquee (100+ pax)**

▶ **Cutcher & Neale: Sav Angi and Shannon Davies**

Starting your medical career comes with new financial opportunities and potential pitfalls. This practical session will help you understand the essentials of tax, superannuation, debt and budgeting, while highlighting the most common financial mistakes junior doctors make and how to avoid them. Walk away with simple, actionable strategies to build strong financial habits, reduce stress and set yourself up for long-term success.

### **Learning outcomes:**

- ▶ The early-career money traps: The common financial mistakes junior doctors make (and how to avoid them).
- ▶ Your first pay cheque decoded: Understanding tax, super and allowances so you're not leaving money on the table.
- ▶ Super basics that actually matter: What to focus on now, and what can wait.
- ▶ Good debt vs bad debt: How to think about HECS, cars and property without derailing your future.
- ▶ Building smart habits early: Simple systems that make managing money easier as your career grows

## **Topic two: Voluntary Assisted Dying – What doctors need to know**

▶ **Room 2 – Marina View (80 pax)**

▶ **Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Support and Pharmacy Service: Dr Max Ryder**

As Voluntary Assisted Dying becomes an increasingly important part of healthcare in Queensland, it is essential for future doctors to understand the legal, ethical and clinical considerations involved. Designed for medical students and junior doctors, this session will provide an overview of the legislation, the role of healthcare professionals, and what to expect when caring for patients who may enquire about or access Voluntary Assisted Dying. Gain practical insights to help you navigate this complex and evolving area of medical practice with confidence and professionalism.

### **Learning outcomes:**

- ▶ Understanding of legal responsibilities as a doctor
- ▶ Understanding how to respond to a person asking about VAD
- ▶ Know how to refer a patient who is asking for VAD

## **Topic three: Research program presentations**

▶ **Room 3 – Captain's Table (40 pax)**

▶ **Judges: Dr Yoon Kwon Choi, Dr Emma Hodge and Assoc Prof Eamon Raith**

The 2026 AMA Queensland Mackay Junior Doctor Committee has given attendees a valuable opportunity to present their research in a challenging and exciting forum. This helps strengthen their CV for specialty training applications, gain experience in presenting research and develop desirable leadership skills. If you are a finalist or would like to cheer on your peers, come to the Captain's Table.



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# MACKAY 2026

## SAT 25 – SUN 26 JULY

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### 2.20pm – 2.50pm Afternoon tea with trade exhibitors

- ▶ Sponsored by corporate partner – **MDA National**

### 2.50pm AMA Queensland awards and raffle prize draw

- ▶ Presented by **Dr Sarah Coll**
- ▶ Thank you to our exhibitors for donating these prizes

### 2.55pm Silver sponsor – James Cook University (JCU)

- ▶ **Assoc Prof Elissa Hatherly** – Head of JCU Mackay Ngudya Yamba Clinical School

### 3pm – 4.45pm Speed dating the specialties

Are you unsure how to go from junior doctor to specialist? Come and hear from the doctors who have taken the pathway to training with the ‘Speed dating the specialties’ session. Learn from their experience applying and progressing to their chosen field as they share their journeys and tips in brief 10-minute sessions. When time is up, swap onto the next specialty and have all your questions answered!

- ▶ **AI in Healthcare and Training** – **Dr Sanjeev Bandi**
- ▶ **Defence** – **FLTL Rosannah Blackwood**
- ▶ **General Medicine** – **Dr Kayla Christensen Anderson and Dr Nang Mai**
- ▶ **General Practice** – **Dr Rebecca Johnson, Dr Alexander Boland and Dr Alex McLaren**
- ▶ **Intensive Care Medicine** – **Dr Stephen Luke**
- ▶ **Medical Administration** – **Dr Emma Hodge and Dr Stephanie Wood**
- ▶ **Obstetrics and Gynaecology** – **Dr Leigh Grant**
- ▶ **Paediatrics** – **Dr Mari Tashiro and Dr Paula Mina**
- ▶ **Psychiatry** – **Dr Marishka Shah and Dr Yoon Kwon Choi**
- ▶ **Radiology** – **Dr Keenan Fanning**
- ▶ **Rural Generalism** – **Dr Hannah Trimble and Dr Kalaryn Fisher**
- ▶ **Surgery** – **Dr Sarah Coll and Dr Hanif Shiham**

### 4.45pm Day one wrap up

- ▶ **AMA Queensland Committee of Doctors in Training**

### 5.15pm / 5.45pm Complimentary transfers to accommodation or social event venue – see bus timetable for details

### 5.30pm – 8pm Saturday social event

- ▶ Sponsored by **Mackay HHS**
- ▶ **Sean Birgan** – Chief Executive Mackay HHS
- ▶ **Venue:** Red Dog Riverfront
- ▶ **Address:** 10D River St, Mackay
- ▶ **Inclusions:** substantial canapes, drink vouchers, live entertainment
- ▶ **Theme:** Coastal Chic

### 8pm Complimentary transfers from venue to Mantra Mackay Hotel – see bus timetable for details



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# MACKAY 2026

SAT 25 – SUN 26 JULY

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## ► Conference day two: Sunday, 26 July

6.15am – 2.15pm

### Option 1 (10 people only): The Sky Is No Longer the Limit

- Gilmour Space Technologies – Bowen Orbital Site
- Hosts: **Assoc Prof Eamon Raith** – JCU Mackay Ngudya Yamba Clinical School, Department of Intensive Care Services, Mackay Hospital and Health Service and **Dr Udani Liyanage** – AMA Queensland Committee of Doctors in Training

Step into Australia’s rapidly emerging space industry with an exclusive behind-the-scenes visit to Gilmour Space Technologies’ Bowen Orbital Spaceport. This immersive experience offers a rare opportunity to explore a live commercial launch site and gain insight into the operational, safety-critical, and human performance challenges of spaceflight.

Guided by industry experts, participants will learn about launch infrastructure, mission control operations, and risk management in extreme environments, while exploring the growing intersection between space operations and space medicine.

Discover how principles such as fatigue management, radiation exposure, remote medicine, and emergency response translate directly to regional and rural healthcare, and consider the future role of Mackay as a hub for space-related medical training, research, and workforce development.



### Learning outcomes:

- Gain insight into Australia’s commercial space launch capability.
- Understand operational aspects of a launch site, including safety critical environments.
- Explore emerging intersections between space operations and space medicine, with relevance to Mackay and regional health workforce development
- Applicants must submit a written response to the question below as part of the application process

### Written application question

How could principles or challenges from space medicine (such as human performance in extreme environments, remote healthcare delivery, or risk management) inform future medical research, training, or healthcare delivery in regional and rural Australia?

Complete application form by 10 July:

[\*\*AMA Queensland Junior Doctor Conference – Sunday Space Session\*\*](#)

Winners will be notified of their acceptance by email by 20 July

**Lunch and bus transfers will be provided by Mantra Mackay Hotel**



# MACKAY 2026

## SAT 25 – SUN 26 JULY

PLATINUM SPONSORS



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8am

**Complimentary transfers (remember to check out of your accommodation and bring your bags with you) – see bus timetable for details**

8.30am – 10am

**Breakfast with trade exhibitors**

9am

**Welcome and housekeeping**

▶ **Dr Lily Rath** – AMA Queensland Committee of Doctors in Training

9.30am – 1pm  
(3 hour sessions)

**Option 2 (Main group): Deep dive into emergency medicine underground**

Please note there will be two groups for the Sunday workshop

▶ Hosts: **Dr Lily Rath** and **Dr Yoon Kwon Choi** – AMA Queensland Committee of Doctors in Training

▶ Resources Centre of Excellence – Paget

This workshop is valued at \$75,000 and would not be possible without our sponsors:

- ▶ Queensland Mines Rescue Service
- ▶ Lone Viking Services
- ▶ Mackay Hospital and Health Service
- ▶ JCU Northern Queensland Regional Training Hubs (NQRTH)
- ▶ Local Buying Foundation

**Group one starts 9.30am**

**Group two starts 10am**

Step into the high-pressure world of emergency medicine on mine sites.

Descend underground (replica of a mine) with the Queensland Mines Rescue Service for an immersive and hands-on simulations experience led by the Mackay Hospital and Health Service (Mackay HHS) Clinical Training Team. You will rotate through six realistic scenarios, from machinery accidents to electrocutions, all within the confined space of an underground mine environment. Don't miss this rare opportunity to test your clinical skills and discover what it takes to deliver emergency care in extreme conditions.

### Learning outcomes:

Participants will rotate through **six simulation scenarios** (three Mines Rescue static simulations and three emergency simulation scenarios - Mackay HHS), designed to enhance clinical decision making, teamwork, leadership, and interagency collaboration.

**Important:** Must wear closed in shoes and long pants





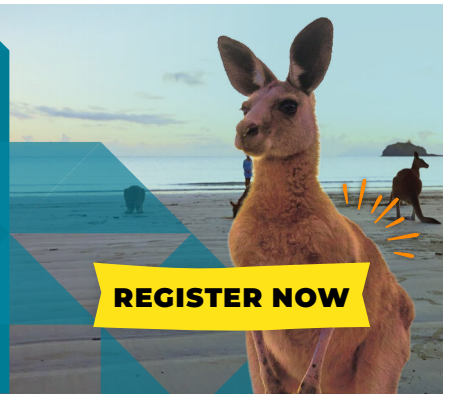
# MACKAY 2026

## SAT 25 – SUN 26 JULY

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12.30pm

**Wrap up for group one: Thank you for attending**

1pm

**Wrap up for group two: Thank you for attending**

**Day two wrap up: Thank you for attending**

▶ **Dr Yoon Kwon Choi** – AMA Queensland Committee of Doctors in Training

▶ **Michelle Liston** – ASMOFQ

1pm

**Bus 1: Complimentary transfers to the airport**

– see bus timetable for details

12.45pm – 2pm

**Lunch**

2pm

**Bus 2: Complimentary transfers to the airport**

– see bus timetable for details