



Rural and Remote Workforce Sustainability

Professor Melanie Birks



Professor Melanie Birks is Head of Nursing, Midwifery and Nutrition at James Cook University. She is an experienced researcher and educator, with an extensive background in leadership and management in the tertiary sector. Melanie is recognized internationally as an expert in qualitative research, in particular grounded theory methodology. She has authored numerous peer-reviewed research articles, books and book chapters. Melanie is passionate about quality education for health professionals, with her research focus being in the areas of accessibility, innovation and relevance of education programs. She has a particular interest in nursing and midwifery workforce sustainability, with particular reference to scope of practice and issues that impact on attraction to and retention in the professions.

Michelle Bombardieri

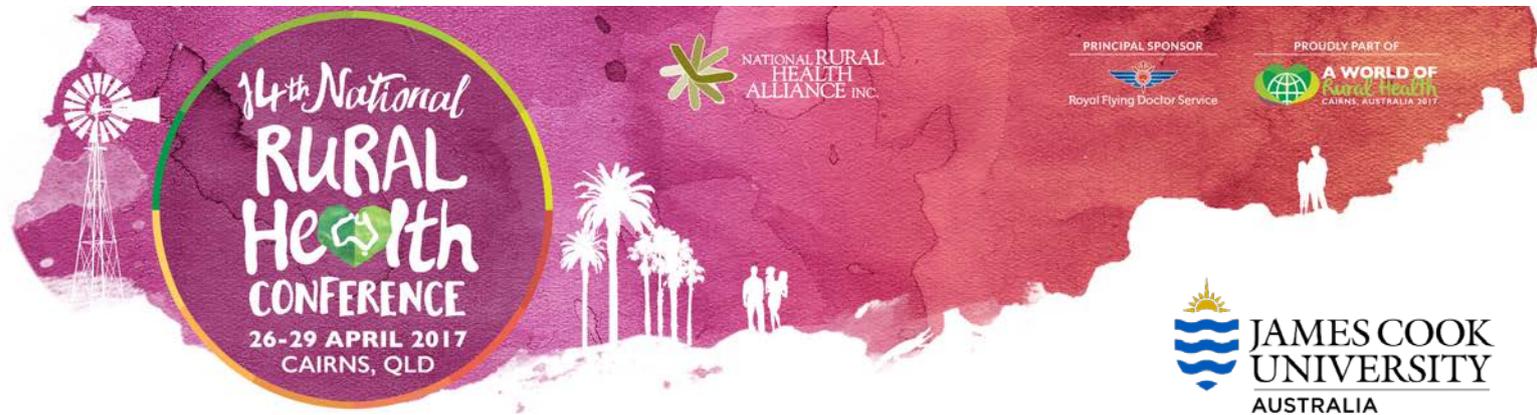


Michelle is the Midwifery and Nurse Unit Manager at Mareeba Hospital. This is a small rural hospital on the Atherton Tablelands, 1 hours' drive to Cairns. Mareeba supports local women to have pregnancy and birthing care with a known midwife from booking to 6 weeks following birth. There is a Midwifery Group Practice and collaborative model of care. She has a background in both nursing and midwifery care in Far North Queensland for the past 23 years and most recently has been involved as a clinician and now a manager in the development of the Midwifery Group Practice at Mareeba Hospital. Michelle is passionate about supporting rural families to have access to care locally and has worked closely partnering with the local community, other midwives, the Queensland Nursing Union and the Australian College of Midwives to ensure that these services are maintained and developed further.

Dr David Campbell



David Campbell has been a rural GP in Lakes Entrance, Victoria for more than 30 years. He holds the position of Associate Professor Rural Medicine and Director of the Monash University School of Rural Health in East and South Gippsland. David is the Censor-in-Chief of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, and a Past-President of the College. His interests include rural medical and health workforce and training for rural practice. He has a particular interest in teaching emergency and procedural skills, particularly by simulation.



Christopher Cliffe



Christopher Cliffe has spent his career in remote and isolated health care, having worked as a remote area nurse in a variety of remote and rural communities across the country. Raised in rural South Australia, his work has taken him far afield. Not only has he undertaken missions for the International Red Cross in war and disaster zones in the Sudan, Abkhazia, Afghanistan, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka, he has also worked in the wake of large scale disasters including the 2002 Bali bombings, the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami, and the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

Christopher Cliffe has led a variety of health care organisations, including as Nursing Director for Remote Health in the Northern Territory, Director of Nursing at the Leigh Creek, Lorne & Colac hospitals, Manager of Primary Health Care for the Royal Flying Doctors Service in Queensland, Executive Director of Nursing & Midwifery for Cape York Hospital & Health Service and currently as the Chief Executive Officer of CRANaplus. He also served as the inaugural Executive Officer of the National Centre for Quality Improvement in Indigenous Primary Health Care and was a long serving President of the CRANaplus Board of Directors. In addition to his undergraduate nursing qualification obtained at the University of South Australia, Christopher holds a Masters degree in Public Health & Grad Cert in Rural Leadership. Christopher was an appointee to the National Lead Clinicians Group and is Chair of CoNNMO, a coalition of 54 national nursing & midwifery organisations.

Regardless of his role, Christopher continues to practice clinically as a Registered Nurse in remote and isolated locations, something he feels is essential to ensure he remains current and contemporary as a leader in the specialty of remote health.

Heather Keighley



Heather is a Registered Nurse over forty years of experience in nursing, mainly in the NT with an emphasis on primary health care, clinical education, clinical governance, and quality improvement. She is currently working as the Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer for the Northern Territory Department of Health in Darwin, NT. Heather graduated as a registered nurse from the Royal Newcastle Hospital in 1973 and holds postgraduate certificates in midwifery and intensive care. She also completed her bachelor degree of nursing at Charles Darwin University in 2000 and her master degree of International Health Management at the University of New England in 2011. Heather recently coordinated the NT Safety Review into staff safety on-call after hours in NT remote communities and has been active nationally on this subject over the past two years. She is an inductee of the Golden Key International Honour Society, a member of the Australian College of Midwives, the Australian College of Nursing and College delegate to the National Rural Health Alliance. In her spare time, she loves live theatre, playing and listening to a wide range of music and spending time with family, especially her grandchildren.



Beth Mohle



Beth Mohle is Secretary of the Queensland Nurses & Midwives' Union (QNMU), the peak representative body for nurses and midwives in Queensland. Beth commenced her career in nursing in 1983. She worked as a registered nurse at the Royal Brisbane Hospital. Beth joined the QNMU as an Organiser in 1991. She subsequently held positions as Project Officer and Research Officer before being elected QNMU Assistant Secretary in January 2007 and QNMU Secretary in April 2011. Beth is also the Senior Vice President of the Queensland Council of Unions (QCU), the state's peak body for the union movement, Board Member of QSuper, Fellow of the Australian Institute of Superannuation Trustees and an active member of Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA.

Nicole Ramsamy



Nicole Ramsamy is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander woman, raised in Cairns, Far North Queensland. She is a Nurse Practitioner and Midwife by profession, and has worked extensively within the area of Indigenous Health especially in various remote communities of Far North Queensland. She is passionate about Indigenous health, as well as assisting families and communities to ensure that they receive exceptional health care services. She has also taken part in different professional presentations, which include the Nurse Practice Scope of Clinical Practice Presentation, and the Rural and Remote Nursing Presentation. Nicole has an undying passion for conducting advanced, comprehensive, nursing and midwifery oriented assessments using a family centred approach that is culturally suitable to the women and their family's needs that live in the remote mining and Aboriginal community of Weipa. Most importantly, she has previously provided clinical expertise and leadership in the Torres and Cape Hospital Health Service, which has assisted in the prevention, early detection, and management of various health conditions. Having worked in mostly health care facilities, she possesses vast professional experience and knowledge in working with health care employees, which she share with you in this workshop.





14th National
**RURAL
Health**
CONFERENCE
26-29 APRIL 2017
CAIRNS, QLD



NATIONAL RURAL
HEALTH
ALLIANCE INC.

PRINCIPAL SPONSOR

Royal Flying Doctor Service

PROUDLY PART OF

A WORLD OF
Rural Health
CAIRNS, AUSTRALIA 2017



**JAMES COOK
UNIVERSITY**
AUSTRALIA

Acknowledgement of Country

At James Cook University we acknowledge the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this nation. We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands on which our campuses and study centres are located and where we conduct our business. We pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past, present and future. JCU is committed to honouring Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to JCU and society.