

Pre-Conference Workshop

Sunday 17 April 2017, 11.00am-3.30pm

Standing up for Country Kids: giving a voice to the needs of rural children

How the needs of rural/remote infants and children can be better recognised and met through data and evidence, through institutional and regulatory action, and public and media attention.

- 10.45am Tea and coffee available
- 11.00am Welcome to Country: **Pat Ansell Dodds**
- 11.05am *Let's make a difference here today!*
Nigel Stewart, Regional Paediatrician; Workshop Chair
- 11.15am *Engagement with rural/remote children must be normal - and data speak loud too*
Megan Mitchell, Children's Commissioner
- 11.30am *How to hear young voices*
Chantal Ober, 2015 NT Young Australian of the Year
- 12.00 noon *Campaigning in NSW for positive outcomes for children living in poverty*
Rhiannon Cook, NSW Council of Social Service
- 12.20pm Discussion
- 12.45pm Lunch
- 1.30pm *Increasing participation of young people facing adversity*
Tim Moore, Snr. Research Fellow, Institute of Child Protection Studies, ACU
- 1.50pm *Hearing voices from the first 1,000 days*
Kerry Arabena, Director, Indigenous Health Equity, Melbourne University
- 2.05pm *Local action on matters relating to children's health: a user's guide*
Jo McCubbin, Regional paediatrician, Gippsland
- 2.20pm Discussion
- 3.00pm *Let's be louder about our ideas and advocacy*
Pat Anderson, Chair, The Lowitja Institute
- 3.10pm Discussion: *Actions that are agreed and can be reported to the main Conference*
 Facilitated by **Nigel Stewart**
- 3.30pm Close of pre-Conference event

See over the page for some issues that might be considered in this pre-Conference event

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Standing up for country kids: giving a voice to the needs of rural children

Some issues:

The rights of the child: who speaks for them? How can their voice be heard directly?

The needs of rural children and young people (RCYP) and the extent to which those needs are being met.

If we can't do it all, what are the priorities and who decides them?

The differences between urban children and young people and RCYP.

Is the difference significant in terms of life chances, wellbeing, life expectancy, fulfilment?

The benefits of living in a rural or remote area for a child or young person.

safety?

'community'?

science, ecology, nature?

outdoor activity?

family education (SoTA)?

The special groups of rural and remote Australia.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander CYP

those with a disability: physical, intellectual, behavioural

those in single parent, low income, dysfunctional families

those who live very remotely (children of pastoralists, miners, shearers and drovers)

those with early onset mental illness

those with chronic conditions

those who miss out on early diagnosis of a developmental condition

What actions can be recommended?