

# National Research Symposium 2026

## Program: Wednesday, 13 May 2026

10.00 am	<b>Welcome to Country</b>
10.05 am	<b>MCs Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Julian Trollor AM   Centre Director</li> </ul>
10.15 am	<b>Keynote: Dr Yona Lunsky</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yona Lunsky   Scientific Director, Azrieli Adult Neurodevelopmental Centre, CAMH</li> <li>Julian Trollor AM   The Centre</li> </ul>
10.45 am	<b>Identifying and Implementing National Research Priorities</b> <p>The Centre is working with people with lived experience, partners and researchers, to identify national research and data priorities that better guide practice.</p> <p>In this session, we hear the findings from the Centre's Co-Designing National Priorities Project and a panel of experts will discuss how these findings align with what we know about the research funding and other health and research priorities. Panellists will share their views about what is needed next to support action and implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mary-Ann O'Donovan   The Centre and Centre for Disability Studies (CDS)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Danielle Carey   The Centre and CDS</li> <li>• Alanna Julian   The Centre and CDS</li> <li>• Ryan Andriesz   CDS</li> <li>• Julian Trollor   Centre Director</li> <li>• Paul Knight   The Centre and First Peoples Disability Network</li> <li>• Nick Lennox   Department of Health, Disability and Aged Care</li> <li>• Mary Sayers   National Disability Research Partnership (NDRP)</li> </ul>
11.45 am	<b>Break:</b> Morning tea
12.00 pm	<p><b>From Evidence to Real-World Impact: A New Framework for Intellectual Disability Health Research Translation</b></p> <p>Research only makes a real difference when it is used in everyday health care. For people with intellectual disability, it is especially important that research about their health is turned into practical actions that improve care and health outcomes.</p> <p>In this session, Professor Janet Long will introduce the Centre’s new research translation framework.</p> <p>Dr Bronwyn Newman will then present on the Listen to Me, PREM project, an example of how the principles outlined in the framework, are applied in practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Janet Long   Macquarie University</li> <li>• Bronwyn Newman   Macquarie University</li> </ul>
12.45 pm	<p><b>Data: What We’re Seeing and Why It Matters</b></p> <p>Many people with an intellectual disability are missing from health data or are hard to find.</p>

	<p>In this session, biostatisticians, researchers, and advocates will talk about why it is hard to identify people with intellectual disability in health data. They will explain how poor data affects people’s access to health care and support. The session will also share examples from NSW and WA, where researchers have found practical ways to work through these problems and improve how data is used.</p> <p>Associate Professor Preeyaporn Srasuebkul and Senior Advocate Simon Cotterell will close the session by sharing key learnings and talking about what needs to happen next to improve data and health care for people with intellectual disabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raylene Griffiths  The Centre and Council for Intellectual Disability (CID)</li> <li>• Preeyaporn Srasuebkul   The Centre and UNSW</li> <li>• Helen Leonard   The Centre and the Kids Research Institute</li> <li>• Zhiyuan Wang   The Centre and UNSW</li> <li>• Peiwen Liao   The Centre and UNSW</li> <li>• Simon Cotterell   The Centre and CID</li> </ul>
1.30 pm	<b>Break:</b> Lunch
2.00 pm	<b>Breakout Sessions</b>
Breakout 1	<b>Lived Experience Researcher Meet-Up</b>
	<p>This session is an opportunity for researchers with lived experience, from around Australia to connect with other lived experience researchers and people who are interested in becoming a lived experience researcher.</p> <p>Lead speakers will talk about the different ways you can get involved in research.</p>

	<p>There will be fun networking activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Julia Hawkins   The Centre and UNSW</li> <li>• Rory Keyes   Researcher, Project Officer</li> </ul>
<b>Breakout 2</b>	<b>Culturally Safe and Inclusive Research Training</b>
	<p>How do we ensure research is conducted <i>with</i> communities, not <i>on</i> them?</p> <p>The Centre is working to address a gap in training for researchers in how to conduct research that is both inclusive and culturally safe.</p> <p>This breakout session introduces a pilot training module designed to strengthen researchers' capability to undertake research that is both culturally safe and inclusive, particularly when working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with intellectual disability.</p> <p>Erin Whittle will introduce this work before handing over to Bronwyn Gwyther and Wayne Wright who will lead a workshop in culturally safe and inclusive research practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wayne Wright   The Centre and CDS</li> <li>• Erin Whittle   The Centre and CDS</li> <li>• Bronwyn Gwyther   The Centre and UNSW</li> </ul>
<b>Breakout 3</b>	<b>Imagining Clinical Trials</b>
	<p>Clinical trials are important, but they are not truly inclusive if people are excluded unnecessarily. The National Health and Medical Research Strategy (2026 - 2036) highlights the need for better inclusion in trials.</p>

Drawing on findings from a national scan of Australian government-funded trials, this session will explore real examples of exclusion criteria that may directly or indirectly exclude adults with intellectual disability.

Through discussion and sharing expertise, participants will reflect on how trial design may be made more inclusive in future research.

- Andrea Kargodorian | The Centre and UNSW
- Rebecca Christidis | The Centre and UNSW
- Jenny Downs | The Centre and the Kids Research Institute

#### Breakout 4

#### **Identifying and Implementing National Research Priorities Continued**

The Centre is working with people with lived experience, partners and researchers, to identify national research and data priorities that better guide practice.

In this interactive breakout session, we will continue the discussion from this morning's plenary session on research priorities with input and insights from forum attendees about next steps in developing national priorities for intellectual disability health research.

##### Facilitator

- Julian Trollor | Centre Director

##### Lead Discussants

- Mary-Ann O'Donovan | The Centre and CDS
- Simon Cotterell | The Centre and CID
- Mary Sayers | National Disability Research Partnership (NDRP)
- Paul Knight | The Centre and FPDN

2.50 pm	<b>Break:</b> Afternoon Tea
3.05 pm	<b>Breakout Reflections</b> - Julian Trollor to host a highlight summary of the four breakout sessions
3.40 pm	Thank you and next steps
4.00 pm	End