



WORLD  
HEALTH  
SUMMIT

REGIONAL MEETING **2024**  
MELBOURNE 22-24 APRIL

**A LOOK BACK**

2024 WORLD HEALTH SUMMIT  
REGIONAL MEETING

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA  
APRIL 22-24



PROUDLY HOSTED BY



**MONASH**  
University



“Ensuring the right to health for all people has never been more important as our world grapples with multiple crises—from diseases to disasters, conflicts and climate change.”

**SAIA MA'U PIUKALA**  
Regional Director,  
World Health Organization Western Pacific



“We know the challenges are complex but we can't solve them by ignoring the complexities.”

**SHARON PICKERING**  
Vice-Chancellor and President, Monash University

“Local is not the antithesis of global. In an increasingly interconnected world, the health of one community, one region, is inextricably linked to the health of all.”

**SANDRO DEMAIO**  
Chief Executive Officer, VicHealth, Australia



“...the determination that our grandchildren will inherit a better place than we did” should be one of the founding principles of every conversation, of every decision, of every paper, of every policy, of every strategy that we in health write.”

**RIANA MANUEL**  
Te Aka Matua, Chief Executive, Te Aka Whai Ora  
Māori Health Authority, Aotearoa, New Zealand



“This [climate change] is a really serious threat for the planet, it's a threat that's real for Indigenous communities now. There's a lot of things that people can learn from listening to Indigenous scholars and Indigenous peoples around reimagining the future.”

**CATH CHAMBERLAIN**  
Head, Indigenous Health Equity Unit, Population  
and Global Health, University of Melbourne, Australia



“By standing together, working together and sharing knowledge, we build a better future, a better community, and of course a better health system that serves those who most need it.”

**GED KEARNEY**  
Assistant Minister for Health & Aged Care,  
Australian Government

“If we design a global health system that can tackle the diversity and address the needs of such a varied region (such as WPRO SEARO), we have probably set it right to be equitable for all.”

**LUCAS DE TOCA**  
Ambassador for Global Health and First Assistant  
Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs  
and Trade, Australian Government



“We must remember that lack of trust in institutions is a health risk, and as health professionals and institutions, we must address this. This is our task.”

**ILONA KICKBUSCH**  
Founding Director, Global Health Center,  
Graduate Institute of International  
and Development Studies, Switzerland;  
Co-Chair, Council of the World Health Summit



“The only way a new system emerges is really by coalescing pockets of change... it's really finding the spaces where we can influence and coalesce with another, because if we coalesce and change happens, it will be an impetus and an energy that will keep growing.”

**ESPERANZA MARTINEZ**  
Professor & Head of Health and Human Security,  
College of Health & Medicine,  
The Australian National University



“Where you get change is where the people speak... People want dignity, they want access to the basics that make life bearable and even give hope, so that would be my cry, support those who from the bottom up are trying to change things. The people speaking.”

**HELEN CLARK**  
Former Prime Minister of New Zealand,  
and Former Administrator of the  
United Nations Development Programme

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## ABOUT THE WORLD HEALTH SUMMIT

The World Health Summit was founded in 2009, on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin. Held annually in Berlin, the World Health Summit is the unique strategic forum for global health. It brings together stakeholders from politics, science, the private sector, and civil society from around the world to set the agenda for a healthier future.

### PRESIDENTS

- Axel R. Pries,  
World Health Summit President
- Christina Mitchell,  
World Health Summit International  
Co-President 2024
- Sophia Zoungas,  
World Health Summit International  
Co-President 2024

### PATRONS

The World Health Summit is traditionally held under the patronage of:

- Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany
- President of the French Republic
- Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO)

### GOALS

- Improve health worldwide
- Find answers to health challenges, guided by science
- Bring together stakeholders from all sectors and all regions of the world
- Facilitate open dialogue guided by science
- Strengthen collaboration
- Set health agendas
- Foster global health as a key political issue
- Promote the global health debate in the spirit of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

### M8 ALLIANCE

The M8 Alliance of Academic Health Centers, Universities and National Academies is the academic foundation of the World Health Summit. This unique network currently consists of 32 members worldwide.

### REGIONAL MEETINGS

Each year, the World Health Summit in Berlin is complemented by a Regional Meeting hosted by an M8 Alliance member. These offer a unique opportunity for health and research leaders to collaborate and advance pressing local and regional health agendas.

## 2024 WORLD HEALTH SUMMIT REGIONAL MEETING



**Professor Christina Mitchell AO**  
WHS 2024 International Co-President  
Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing  
and Health Sciences, Monash University



**Professor Sophia Zoungas**  
WHS 2024 International Co-President  
Head, School of Public Health and Preventive  
Medicine, Monash University

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In April 2024, global health leaders gathered at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre for the 2024 World Health Summit Regional Meeting, proudly hosted by Monash University. Held under the banner of *"Shape the future of health care across Asia and the Pacific"*, WHSMelbourne2024 marked the first of its kind for the region.

The Regional Meeting set a new record for attendance, attracting over 1200 participants from more than 30 countries. Delegates from across the Asia-Pacific and beyond came together to advance our region's most pressing health agendas, exchange insights on challenges, foster partnerships, and collectively chart a path for progress.

The three-day programme of events committed to amplifying diverse voices, featuring over 200 speakers who delivered 40+ sessions focused on advancing solutions and system change across the meeting's three focal themes of:

- Thriving Communities: Living well and living well together
- Climate and Health: Responding to the climate emergency
- Geopolitics and Health: Achieving equity within and across borders

The 2024 World Health Summit Regional Meeting was focused on addressing health issues unique or critical to our region. Prominent among these were Indigenous health, women's health, and the far-reaching impacts of climate change and political instability on health. Discussions consistently highlighted the essential role of trust and community-led approaches, as well as the pivotal role of research and policy working in partnership to generate evidence to improve models of care, translation and impact.

The 2024 World Health Summit Regional Meeting was more than just a forum, it was a call to action, particularly on health equity. As was highlighted throughout the meeting, if we get it right for those most disadvantaged by the system, we inevitably get it right for everyone.

Monash University was proud to convene this meeting in the Asia Pacific region and we are deeply grateful to all the participants, speakers and organisers whose dedication and hard work made this meeting such a success.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our Major Event Partner, VicHealth; our Strategic Partners, the Australian Global Health Alliance, the Council of Academic Public Health Institutions Australasia (CAPHIA) and the Lowitja Institute; as well as our fellow health and academic institutions who joined us as Program Partners, for their invaluable contributions to WHSMelbourne2024. Please take a moment to read through the full list of meeting partners who joined with Monash to help us deliver the event.

As the World Health Summit 2024 International Co-Presidents, it is our distinct honour to present this look back report, highlighting the key discussions and calls to action that characterised the 2024 World Health Summit Regional Meeting.

Together, we identified many opportunities for strengthening collaboration in our region. Let this report serve not only as a record of the events of this historic meeting, but as an ongoing reminder of the passion and deep commitment that we share in striving for a healthier, more equitable future across the Asia Pacific.







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## PARTNERS

The 2024 World Health Summit Regional Meeting was proudly hosted by Monash University. Monash is a founding member of the M8 Alliance - the academic foundation of the World Health Summit since its inception in 2009.



We thank all members of the M8 Alliance that joined us in Melbourne and acknowledge the generous support of the significant number of local and regional partners, sponsors, friends and supporters who joined with us to help stage this historic event.



### MAJOR EVENT PARTNER



### STRATEGIC PARTNERS

### GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



### PROGRAM PARTNERS



### SPONSORING PARTNERS



### REGIONAL MOBILITY PARTNERS

Monash University gratefully acknowledges the following institutions, governments, agencies and programs for providing travel support for international speakers.





## AT A GLANCE

### SHAPE THE FUTURE OF HEALTH ACROSS ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

THRIVING COMMUNITIES • CLIMATE & HEALTH • GEOPOLITICS & HEALTH

#### IN NUMBERS

<b>3</b> days	<b>60+</b> hours recorded content	<b>30+</b> countries represented	<b>219</b> speakers & moderators	<b>1000+</b> local and international media reports
<b>46</b> sessions	<b>1247</b> participants	<b>39%</b> international invited speakers	<b>60%</b> female speakers & moderators	<b>&gt;300,000</b> social media impressions
<b>23</b> satellite events & sideline meetings	<b>1150</b> opening ceremony attendance	<b>55/45%</b> academic / non-academic participants	<b>11%</b> First Nations speakers & moderators	<b>82%</b> said the knowledge gained will impact their work

#### 8 KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR ACTION

##### FOCUS COLLECTIVE COMMITMENTS TO:

<b>1.</b> Advance Indigenous peoples' rights and wellbeing	<b>2.</b> Prioritise women's health as a cornerstone of gender equity	<b>3.</b> Build resilience to the health impacts of climate change	<b>4.</b> Recenter human rights and lived experience in health practice
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##### STRENGTHEN SYSTEMS-BASED APPROACHES FOR:

<b>5.</b> Greater communication, transparency and trust	<b>6.</b> Meaningful co-design and localisation	<b>7.</b> Expanded intersectoral and regional collaboration	<b>8.</b> Safeguarding the healthcare workforce
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## DAY 1

WHSMelbourne2024 commenced with a moving Welcome to Country, featuring a traditional Smoking Ceremony and Wominjeka Ngarra (Welcome Dance) performed by Wurundjeri artist and Traditional Custodian of Naarm (Melbourne), Mandy Nicholson, and Wurundjeri women's dance group, Djirri Djirri.

These ceremonies set a respectful and culturally rich tone for the proceedings, and highlighted the unique knowledge and holistic approaches that First Nations peoples bring to health and wellbeing.

The Opening Plenary "*Shaping the future of health across Asia and the Pacific*" provided an overview of the key challenges and opportunities facing the region. Laying the groundwork for the conversations to follow, this session underscored the need for trust, respect, collaboration and diplomacy in addressing regional health issues and achieving health equity.

A significant focus of the day's discussion was on women's health, emphasising the importance of addressing gender-specific health needs and promoting equity in healthcare access and outcomes. The sessions explored various dimensions of women's health, including maternal health, reproductive health, sexual and gender based violence, and the impact of social determinants on women's health outcomes. Other key dialogues included drug policy reform, highlighted by a press conference calling upon governments to rethink their approach to drug policies. These discussions advocated

for prioritising health and safety as fundamental rights; decriminalising drugs; promoting proven prevention, harm reduction, and treatment measures; and refocusing enforcement responses to drug trafficking and organised crime.

Day 1 concluded with a Welcome Reception offering delegates a timely opportunity to network, reflect and collaborate. Attendees enjoyed a specially curated Indigenous menu and captivating Yidaki/Didgeridoo performance from special guest performer and Dharug man, Kiernan Ironfield.

## SESSIONS

- Welcome to Country and Opening Ceremony
- Shaping the future of health across Asia and the Pacific
- Digital platforms as a women's health hack
- Strengthening regional collaboration and partnerships in environmental health
- Updated research evidence at our fingertips - what are the implications and considerations for health policy?
- Achieving health equity for women and girls
- Rethinking drug policy: Minimising harm and unintended consequences
- Climate Change and the Health of Indigenous Peoples
- Priorities for education, training and a future-proof health workforce
- Building the capacity of health care workers providing care to refugees and migrants
- Cardiovascular-Kidney-Metabolic (CKM) Syndrome in the Asia-Pacific: Tackling this highly prevalent condition with an equity focus
- Clinician-led health system reform: Benefits for patients, payers, policy and practitioners
- Emerging and re-emerging infectious health threats: Opportunities for effective regional coordination and leadership
- Pacific priorities for prevention of violence against women
- Regional Showcase Lightning Talks: Generating knowledge for global health

## MONDAY, APRIL 22



“Everybody needs to have access to good health, and it’s something that we’ve known since the beginning of time as well. Because we were the first doctors, we were the first healers. The first community binding structure is the health and wellbeing of our community. We try to heal our community but in a different way these days, we heal them through ceremony, we heal them through knowing their language, rekindling their language, breathing life back into everything that was taken”

**MANDY NICHOLSON**  
Founder, Djirri Djirri; singer and songwriter



“Where women’s health is neglected everything else falls. Not only do women suffer, but the whole community does”

**GED KEARNEY**  
Assistant Minister for Health & Aged Care, Australian Government

“Good health is more than the topic of discussion among experts, it is more than the words written into a policy, it is more than the ideas captured in grand programs designed in capitals far away. Good health is the living product of our social fabrics. Good health is the living reflection of the cultures, traditions and values we hold dear.”

**SAIA MA’U PIUKALA**  
Regional Director, World Health Organization Western Pacific  
Dr Saia



“Addressing health inequalities is not a single strategy approach. It does take collaborative efforts... it takes consultation with the community, inclusion of the community, and the fundamental importance of building trust.”

**JANE FISHER**  
Finkel Professor of Global Health; Director of Global and Women’s Health; Co-Lead, Division of Planetary Health, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University, Australia



“The governments can’t do it alone. It requires joint action by all of us. Multilateral, bilateral partners, civil society, non-governmental organisations, academic institutions, the community, parents and everyone at large. Let’s unite to bring an end to all forms of health disparity against women and girls”

**TITILOLA DURO-AINA**  
Pacific Chief of Health, United Nations Population Fund



“While the road ahead for Fiji and the Pacific is challenging, it is also filled with opportunities for significant improvements. By uniting our efforts and focusing on strategic opportunities and engagement, we can prevent, control and reduce the burden of cardiovascular and kidney disease.”

**ATONIO RABICI LALABALAVU**  
Minister of Health and Medical Services, Fiji Government

“We must reaffirm our commitment to multilateralism, cooperation, and diplomacy as essential tools for promoting health and wellbeing at the global scale”

**SANDRO DEMAIO**  
Chief Executive Officer, VicHealth, Australia



“We are here together because despite all our cultural richness and heritage, we have some common wishes, and one of the strongest common wishes is the wish for health”

**AXEL R. PRIES**  
President, World Health Summit, Germany







## DAY 2

The second day of WHSMelbourne2024 commenced with the plenary session *“Thriving Communities: Priorities for living well and living well together”*.

This session served as a poignant reminder of the inequities faced by Indigenous peoples and highlighted the critical role of self-determination and embracing Indigenous wisdom and leadership in addressing these disparities..

Speakers stressed the importance of trust and respect for traditional knowledge within Indigenous communities, with clear calls to prioritise those most disadvantaged by the system and ensure that today's actions create a better world for future generations.

Climate change and planetary health were also key themes of the day. Discussions explored the intersection of the environment on health and health outcomes, with a particular focus on the disproportionate impact

of climate change on vulnerable populations. The importance of community co-design was emphasised, ensuring those directly affected by health policies are actively involved in their creation and implementation.

Day 2 also featured presentations from the IAS-Lancet Commission. These discussions underscored the importance of framing health within a human rights context, advocating for the right to health for all, and highlighting the responsibility of health professionals in upholding human rights.

Prior to the main program, VicHealth hosted a Regional Roundtable and press conference focusing on preventing the uptake of e-cigarettes. The discussions centred on strategies to curb the rising trend of e-cigarette use, particularly among young people, and emphasised the need for robust policies and community engagement to address this growing public health issue.

## SESSIONS

- Stories of First Nations excellence: Lessons in partnership, sustainability and impact
- Advancing Together: Building emergency and critical care capacity across the region
- Breaking barriers, building bridges and shaping the future of public and global health education
- Thriving Communities: Priorities for living well and living well together
- Childhood obesity prevention: Innovative food policy and setting-based approaches from Asia and the Pacific
- New and old knowledges: First Peoples' health and AI
- Improving health by strengthening healthcare financing in the Asia Pacific
- Trans-continental collaboration for global health
- Regional Showcase Lightning Talks: New horizons in global health
- Community Forum on Health and Human Rights
- A call for community and corporate action for childhood obesity prevention
- SPECIAL LAUNCH - Health: A political choice. Advancing Indigenous peoples' rights and well-being
- Health and Human Rights: IAS-Lancet Commission focusing action in 2024
- The power of finance and investments for addressing the commercial determinants of health
- Living and breathing health - Is it time for clean indoor standards and a revolution on air pollution?
- A One Health Approach to Public Health: A Call to Action
- Regional Showcase Lightning Talks: Working Together for Impact
- From Climate Change Evidence to Action: Accelerating pathways for healthy people and a healthy planet
- Research and Action toward Planetary Health and Climate Adaptation: Revitalising Informal Settlements and their Environments (RISE)

## TUESDAY, APRIL 23

“If we get things right for those groups who are most disadvantaged by the system, they will inevitably be right for everybody”

**RIANA MANUEL**

Te Aka Matua, Chief Executive  
Te Aka Whai Ora, Māori Health Authority  
Aotearoa, New Zealand



“Indigenous wisdom, leadership and expertise not only can but must play a critical role in improving health for all and for our planet”

**TRISTAN KENNEDY**

Pro-Vice Chancellor (Indigenous),  
Monash University, Australia



“If we are researching and we come to research output and it goes no further, we have failed. If we come to innovations and technologies that are brilliant but that are not scaled to shift the dial at a profound level for populations, we have failed. If we come to insights that are deeply relevant to policy makers, locally, regionally and globally, but that we do not translate those insights into policy decisions that can protect our precious earth and its people, then we have failed”

**BRETT SUTTON**

Director, Health and Biosecurity, CSIRO, Australia



“We need to re-centre human rights if we are to achieve health and well-being for all”

**ADEEBA KAMARULZAMAN**

CEO, Monash University Malaysia, and Pro-Vice Chancellor and President (Malaysia), Monash University

“Most adults know we’ve messed it up, we are not delivering a better life for our grandchildren, and we know we can do better, and we’re not doing it”

**MICHAEL MARMOT**

Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health,  
University College London; Director, The UCL  
Institute of Health Equity, UK



“We must co-design our research with the people we work for, to develop tools for building thriving communities... Having a voice in health, works to improve health”

**MARCIA LANGTON**

Associate Provost, University of Melbourne,  
Australia



“There will be no planetary health without climate justice. We cannot just keep asking the communities in the front lines to adapt, to be resilient, and we’re not fixing the root cause of this problem”

**RENZO GUINTO**

Associate Professor, SingHealth Duke-NUS Global Health Institute, National University of Singapore;  
Visiting Professor of Global and Planetary Health,  
St Luke’s Medical Centre College of Medicine,  
Philippines



“Too often the assumption or the paradigm is that knowledge flows one way, down into communities, with no recognition or respect for the knowledge and wisdom that resides in the communities and an understanding that learning goes both ways”

**HELEN EVANS**

Professor (Hon), The Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne, Australia

“If we root our despair in climate change, then we must root our hopes in its solutions. It’s time to intentionally put our efforts into creating and sharing stories of what is possible, stories that bring out the most extraordinary aspects of humanity. Compassion, kindness, ingenuity and creativity. These are the stories we can choose to tell and we must choose to tell them together.”

**KATHRYN BOWEN**

Deputy Director, Melbourne Climate Futures, and Professor of Climate, Environment and Global Health,  
School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne, Australia

“When words don’t match actions, when promises are broken, when inertia is the norm, when leadership is not clear or lacking, it means our relationships can be damaged, and trust can be lost”

**JAMES WARD**

Director, Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, The University of Queensland, Australia



## DAY 3

The final day of the 2024 World Health Summit Regional Meeting centred on the complex interplay between geopolitics and health, examining how the current “confluence of crises”, a recurring theme throughout the meeting, is impacting global health. The opening plenary “*Geopolitics and Health: Achieving equity in a divided world*” explored how escalating conflicts, economic instability, and the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are intensifying global health challenges.

Speakers underscored the urgent need for new and innovative approaches that go beyond the current multilateral systems, advocating for models that empower local communities and align with the needs of the affected populations - particularly at a regional level.

The challenges and opportunities presented by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in the context of health, was another key focus. Speakers discussed the importance of adopting a holistic

approach to the SDGs, one that addresses poverty, education, environmental sustainability and systemic inequities, to achieve good health. However, concerns were raised that in their current form, and within the prevailing political climate, the SDGs are falling short in effectively addressing the needs of disadvantaged communities.

Day 3 also explored pandemic preparedness, reflecting on lessons learned from recent global health crises and the inequities faced

by countries in the Asia-Pacific. Discussions emphasised the importance of strengthening health systems and enhancing regional cooperation to better address future challenges. Another significant topic was the inclusion of lived experience in mental health reform. This session identified the need to shift power dynamics, promote collaboration, and ensure the rights to system navigation, social connections, and cultural engagement for better mental health outcomes globally.

## SESSIONS

- The Built Environment and Health - connecting research to practice
- Australian Global Health Alliance and Australian Network of WHO Collaborating Centres breakfast
- Management of Tuberculosis in a remote Aboriginal community: Addressing health disparities
- Geopolitics and Health: Achieving equity in a divided world
- Where do the real leadership opportunities lie for SDGs and health?
- Net zero and climate resilient health care services: How do we get there?
- Lived experience at the heart of mental health and well being reform: Different perspectives on the need and prospects for change
- Is the world ready for the next pandemic?
- Co-creation of guidelines and evidence
- What's the role of research in a post-truth world?
- Workplace mental health and wellbeing
- Misinformationitis - the impact of tech on health



## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24



“Where there are those emerging best practices, make them the way that you operate. We don’t have to keep reinventing the wheel. When we do see what works, we have to be big enough to say the way we were working actually wasn’t that effective but there’s other ways and we can learn from each other”

**HELEN CLARK**  
Former Prime Minister of New Zealand, and Former Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme



“People don’t do things because you tell them to do them, they do things because you show them a different future, you show them the pockets of change”

**SHARON PICKERING**  
Vice-Chancellor and President, Monash University

“Health helps to bring the conditions in which peace happens, because health, health outcomes and health interventions bring people together, and healthier people actually really prosper and thrive”

**ESPERANZA MARTINEZ**  
Professor & Head of Health and Human Security, College of Health & Medicine, The Australian National University



As we reflect on the challenges that we faced, it’s important that lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic don’t go unheeded. Each country remains culpable for for strengthening their own capacity to respond to public health emergencies, but low-income settings have no choice but to be reliant on collaboration and partnership and aid from more well resourced countries around the region”

**ARABELLA KOLIWAN**  
Director - Clinical Systems, Emergency Physician, St Johns Ambulance, Papua New Guinea



“All the best efforts have been made [in Geneva and New York], but in reality things move at glacial speed, and in the meantime, Indigenous people wait, as nations within nations... because our mandate is no matter which jurisdiction you’re in, we live shorter and sicker lives than anybody else”

**ADRIAN TE PATU**  
Co-Director, Centre for Men’s Health, University of Otago

“We’ve looked to New York for too long, we’ve looked to Geneva for too long, we need to start deciding for us in the global south... we need to start looking at our own targets, we need to start looking at what makes sense for us... the SDGs effectively for many of us in the South have failed.”

**AYOADE ALAKIJA**  
World Health Organization (WHO) Special Envoy for the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, and World Health Summit Ambassador



“When I turn to a new narrative, it must include the voices of youth in a way that is meaningful”

**SELINA NAMCHEE LO**  
Executive Director, Australian Global Health Alliance



## SATELLITE EVENTS

The 2024 World Health Summit Regional Meeting provided a key platform for high-level discussions between senior government leaders and representatives from NGOs, academic institutions, civil society and healthcare services.

Multilateral sessions included:

- Regional Roundtable on Preventing Uptake of E-cigarettes
- Roundtable on Pandemic Preparedness and Response

In addition to the main program, WHSMelbourne2024 hosted a number of satellite events hosted, including:

- Welcome reception at Government House hosted by Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, Governor of Victoria
- Intergenerational Masterclass on Health, Policy and Leadership
- Special launch of Health: A political choice. Advancing Indigenous peoples' rights and well-being
- Research and Action toward Planetary Health and Climate Adaptation: Revitalising Informal Settlements and their Environments (RISE) Showcase
- The WHO Collaborating Centres Network Breakfast





# HEALTH: A POLITICAL CHOICE - ADVANCING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS AND WELL-BEING

The 2024 World Health Summit Regional Meeting was proud to host the launch of a special edition of the publication *Health: A Political Choice - Advancing Indigenous peoples' rights and well-being*.



“Health: A Political Choice” is an official series by the Global Governance Project and is supported by the World Health Organization and the World Health Summit. This special edition, the first-ever edition published to mark the occasion of a Regional Meeting, focused on elevating the voices and improving the health of Indigenous peoples around the world.

Presenting to a packed room, guest editors Catherine Chamberlain and Karen Adams acknowledged and thanked Indigenous leaders from around the world who contributed to the landmark publication, providing powerful thought leadership on issues ranging from decolonising public health and building blended knowledge systems, to destigmatizing mental health and advancing cultural and Indigenous determinants of health frameworks.

Launch of the publication at WHSMelbourne2024 marked another step towards significantly elevating the role and influence of Indigenous voices in major global health forums and decision making arenas.

“Worldwide, Indigenous peoples are playing a critical role in reshaping thinking about issues that affect us all. We just need the world to listen – and health is a key place to begin”

**CATHERINE CHAMBERLAIN AND KAREN ADAMS,**  
Guest Editors

“Recognising and addressing the enormous health burdens borne by Indigenous peoples worldwide has been undertaken at a glacial pace, but last year the World Health Assembly approved a resolution aimed at addressing such challenges – and change is on the horizon”

**ILONA KICKBUSH AND JOHN KIRTON,**  
Editors







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# INTERGENERATIONAL MASTERCLASS ON HEALTH, POLICY AND LEADERSHIP



## HOSTED BY VICHEALTH, MONASH UNIVERSITY, AND THE AUSTRALIAN GLOBAL HEALTH ALLIANCE

On Sunday, April 21st, a cohort of 60 driven and ambitious emerging leaders participated in the 2024 Masterclass on Health, Policy, and Leadership hosted by VicHealth, Monash University, and the Australian Global Health Alliance.

Held at Monash College City Campus immediately preceding the 2024 World Health Summit Regional Meeting, the masterclass focused on the critical intersection of health, policy, and leadership. Its aim was to build the capacity of future leaders to enhance sustainability, innovation, adaptability, and long-term success across our health ecosystem.

The objectives of the day were to:

- Strengthen the capacity of emerging leaders to drive and deliver better health outcomes
- Create opportunities for inter-generational and in-generational knowledge sharing and networking within the region
- Develop a common language and framework for leadership in health-creating a cohort of like-minded and aligned leadership across the region
- Build trust and connections across emerging leaders within the region

This unique opportunity allowed emerging leaders to engage directly with global experts, thought leaders, and fellow scholars. Through dynamic panels, hands-on workshops, and captivating keynotes delivered by top leaders from Australia and around the world, the masterclass served as a powerhouse of inspiration, innovation, and collaboration.

The event highlighted the importance of equipping future leaders with the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate and shape the future of global health.

Thank-you to all of the participants, speakers and organisers for making this event a success.



## SPEAKERS

### Anders Nordström

Former Swedish Ambassador, Global Health & former Acting Director-General, WHO

### Nick Watts

Director, Centre for Sustainable Medicine, National University of Singapore & Former (Founding) Chief Sustainability Officer, National Health Service

### Ilona Kickbusch

Founding Director, Global Health Centre, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Switzerland

### Caterina Giorgi

CEO, Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE), Founding Member, Women in Public Health, Director, For Purpose

### Paul Briggs

Founding Executive Chair of the Kaiela Institute, Founding President of the Rumbalara Football Netball Club, Former Chair of the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Inaugural Chair of the Victorian Community Controlled Health Organisation

### Teo Yik Ying

Vice President for Global Health, National University of Singapore

### Nicola Roxon

Former Federal Minister of Health and Attorney General, Chair of Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth)

### Helen Clark

Former New Zealand Prime Minister, Former UNDP Administrator, Patron, The Helen Clark Foundation

### Selina Namchee Lo

Executive Director, Australian Global Health Alliance, Consulting Editor (Commissions), The Lancet

### Renzo Guinto

Associate Professor of Global and Planetary Health, SingHealth Duke-NUS Global Health Institute, National University of Singapore & Visiting Professor of Global and Planetary Health, St Luke's Medical Centre College of Medicine, Philippines

### Veronica Pardo

Former CEO for Multicultural Arts Victoria, Chair of Western Edge

### Todd Fernando

Former Commissioner for LGBTIQ+ Communities

### Lucas de Toca

Australia's Ambassador for Global Health, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

### Esperanza Martinez

Professor and Head of Health and Human Security, Former Head of ICRC Health Division

### Tony Capon

Director, Monash Sustainable Development Institute, Chair, Planetary Health School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University.

### Adam Knobel

Communications and Advocacy Strategist, Former Digital Campaign Director, Australian Marriage Equality Plebiscite

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

### Sandro Demaio

CEO, VicHealth

### Rhiannon Tate

Director, Strategy and External Relations, Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University

Director, World Health Summit Regional Meeting, Melbourne 2024

### Selina Namchee Lo

Executive Director, Australian Global Health Alliance

## PROJECT TEAM

### Azal Ahmed

Coordinator, CEO Office, VicHealth

### Sarah Xia

Chief of Staff, CEO Office, VicHealth

### Mariah Csolle

Project Coordinator, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Monash University

## ON-GROUND SUPPORT

### Prabhleen Kaur

Project Assistant, Australian Global Health Alliance

### Georgina Wawryk

Digital Coordinator, Australian Global Health Alliance

## WORKSHOP ADVISOR

### Brian Li Han Wong

Digital Health Consultant, Global Public Health Adviser, Youth Leadership in Global Health, UK



WORLD  
HEALTH  
SUMMIT

REGIONAL  
MEETING **2024**  
MELBOURNE 22-24 APRIL

## WELCOME RECEPTION

Distinguished speakers and guests were officially welcomed to the 2024 World Health Summit Regional Meeting during a special evening event at Government House hosted by Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, Governor of Victoria.





## SPECIAL PUBLIC EVENT



### MISINFORMATIONITIS - THE IMPACT OF TECH ON HEALTH

The 2024 World Health Summit Regional Meeting concluded with the special public event, *Misinformationitis- the impact of tech on health*. Hosted by VicHealth, this panel discussion delved into how technology spreads harmful information and its effects on our wellbeing and health.

This session brought together public health experts, journalists and content creators to shed light on the issues of misinformation and disinformation in health, and the challenges of finding accurate health information online.

With the rapid expansion of digital platforms, misleading or false health information has surged, posing challenges to public health and wellbeing, and young people are particularly at risk. This session explored questions such as: What role does social media play? Do influencers and marketers have a responsibility? Should we hold Big Tech companies accountable? How do we tell the difference between reliable evidence and vicious fake news?

Tegan Taylor, Health & Science Reporter at ABC and co-host of ABC Radio National's Health Report, led the discussion with a compelling line-up of speakers, including:

- Brett Sutton, Director of Health and Biosecurity at CSIRO and former Victorian Chief Health Officer
- Brian Li Han Wong, Digital Health Consultant, Global Public Health Adviser, Youth Leadership in Global Health, UK
- Zara Seidler, Co-founder at The Daily Aus
- Akec Makur Chuot, Former AFLW player and role model





## EMERGING LEADERS

Early and mid-career public health professions are ‘emerging leaders’ who have typically received their final degree within the last ten years. This cohort represents the ‘next generation’ of health professionals, but they also share the future vision for the landscape of health, and consequently should have a pivotal voice in its creation.



Twenty six ‘emerging leaders’ consisting of health researchers, clinicians and educators were recruited by selection for the 2024 World Health Summit Regional Meeting. These emerging leaders provided critical reflections on allocated sessions, forming session summaries and academic outputs. In doing so, Monash University and the World Health Summit seek to formalise the views of these emerging leaders and build on the importance of such leadership across the Australia and Asia Pacific region.

We sincerely thank all of our Emerging Leaders for their time and commitment to helping to shape the future of public and global health.

Stefanie Vaccher  
Dylan Barth  
Soazic Elise Wang Sonne  
Kiran Bam  
Chowa Nkonde  
Bethany Howard  
Lydia O’Meara  
Clare Humphreys  
Gemma Allinson  
Dinesh Bhandari  
Seamus Horan  
Wenbo Song

Matthew Carvalho  
Rebecca Reilly  
Lanique Pitasua  
Chaturangi Yapa  
Sarah Lang  
Rob Mitchell  
Adeel Shareef  
Ryan Brigham  
Arporn Wangwiwatsin  
Sam McEwen  
Sian Dooley  
Joshua Aliifaalogo  
Juliana Silva  
Xenia Zubenko

The cohort was led by Dr Claudia Rouse, WHSMelbourne2024 Monash/CAPHIA Intern.

## VOLUNTEERS

The success of WHSMelbourne2024 would not have been possible without the help of our stellar student volunteers. Comprising of Monash University undergraduate and postgraduate students, our volunteer cohort were on the floor supporting delegates with wayfinding, reconfiguring rooms during session breaks, providing tech assistance and overall support to ensure smooth run of event each day of the summit.



We thank our volunteers for their outstanding dedication, hard work and enthusiasm. Their commitment and tireless efforts were integral to the success of WHSMelbourne2024, making it a memorable and seamless experience for all attendees.

Hanan Oumer  
 Kristy Chung  
 Kirsty Urquhart  
 Shanti Nair  
 Mahalakshme Thiagarajan  
 Zoe Sampson  
 Ashly Moris  
 William Terry  
 Seshani Iddawela  
 Susan Mohseni  
 Charles Ma  
 Sofia Cobbledick  
 Jerry Ji  
 Rochelle George

Matilda Day  
 Debbie Tan  
 Minh Chau Hoang  
 Sugandha Gupta  
 Kiana Pourhossein Khabazi  
 Lauren Dickins  
 Rachel Chen  
 Bianca Davidson  
 Jimena Gonzalez  
 Anina Latu  
 Kanupriya Aditya  
 Eason Zhengtian Chen  
 Yen Huang  
 Awadsheskumar Thakkar  
 Wajiha Qasem  
 Liam Quach  
 Sze Ern Evangeline Cheryl Lee  
 Derek Villaceran  
 Ella McCahy  
 Xiaomin Xie

Cecilia Keung  
 Yvonne Zhang  
 Krince Patel  
 Thi Thanh Thao Nguyen  
 Arwen Judge  
 Shiva Mirkazemi  
 Amy Buck  
 Kenneth Ong  
 Chenruka Ranasinghege  
 Tarteel Kamoni  
 Rija Arshad  
 Honey Cin Zah  
 Gandanni Liu  
 Yehyung Lee  
 Annie Liu  
 Yasmin Bousis  
 Fayzia Fayazi

The cohort was led by Kirsten Marks and Lauren Pearson from the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University.



## REACH

**1000+**  
media mentions

**193,000**  
LinkedIn impressions

**28,500**  
Twitter/X impressions

**63,000**  
Facebook impressions

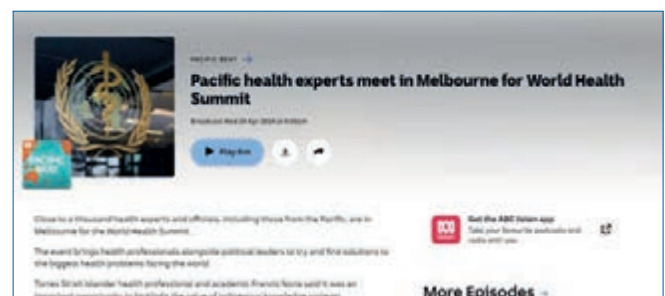
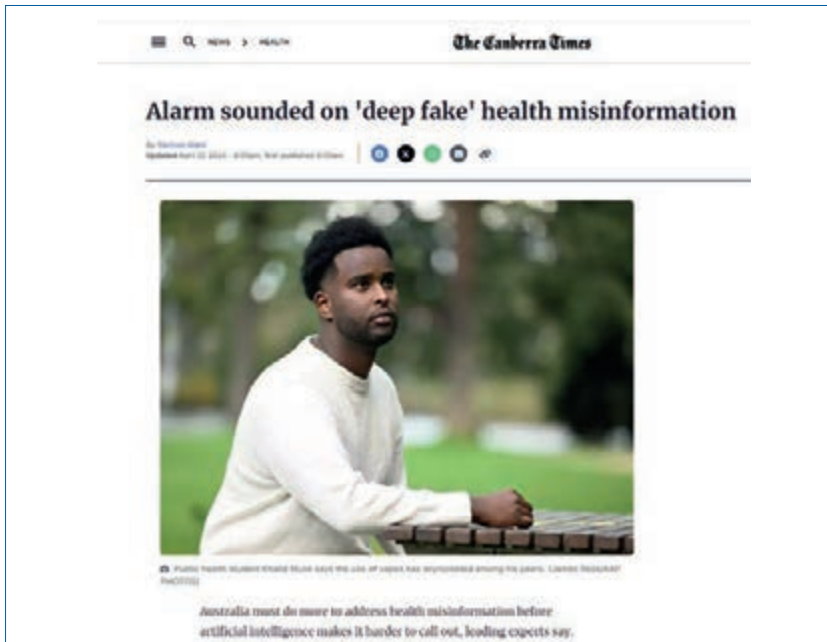
**31,000**  
Instagram impressions

**338,000**  
website visits  
(Oct 2023 - May 2024)

## MEDIA

### Selected Media Mentions

- The Guardian
- Associated Press
- ABC News
- The Sydney Morning Herald
- SBS News
- The Herald Sun
- The Australian
- Times Higher Education
- The Canberra Times
- The Saturday Age
- Daily Mail
- News.com.au
- Fiji One News



# SOCIAL MEDIA

**Food for Health Alliance** 1,716 followers

We loved attending and speaking at the World Health Summit regional meeting in Melbourne last week!

Our Executive Manager, Jane Martin, was part of a stellar line-up discussing policies and setting-based approaches to preventing childhood obesity.

The discussion covered a range of angles – including learnings from the Pacific and Asia, the role governments must play in preventing obesity, and the importance of research and evidence bases (such as the Obesity Evidence Hub: <https://ohedl.in.govt.nz/>).

Thank you for having us #WHSMelbourne2024!



**Russell Green** 2nd • 400+ followers

Thrilled to chair the discussions on "Clinician-led health system reform: Benefits for patients, payers, policy, and practitioners" at the upcoming Regional World Health Summit on April 23-24. This panel will dive into the critical role of clinicians in driving health reform and the collective action needed for meaningful change.

This is not a one-off conversation. It is a call for all involved in healthcare to contribute to a future where health systems work better for everyone.

Your questions and ideas will shape our conversation. Join us, share your voice, and let's work together for a healthier tomorrow.

#WHSMelbourne2024  
Register at [www.whs-melbourne2024.com](https://www.whs-melbourne2024.com)



**Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (F...)** 3,393 followers

At FARE, we focus on the commercial determinants of health. It's one of the many tools in our toolbox that can drive change we want to see.

Our CEO Caterina Giorgi chaired a panel at the World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2024 in Melbourne, discussing how we hold companies accountable for the harms they create.

The alcohol industry's business model is to push sales to people who drink at the highest risk levels. In Australia, 36% of alcohol is sold to only 5% of the population.


"Alcohol companies trade on addiction - and in a digital world, alcohol companies are able to track, trace and target the most vulnerable like never before," Caterina said in her opening address.

In order to shift power away from companies that largely profit from addiction and mass ill-health, we must understand where power lies in the corporate sector. We then shift this power by ensuring commercial players are kept accountable for their harmful practices.

By advocating for change in this way, we will secure more positive outcomes for our whole community.

We want to extend a huge thank you to Catherine Howarth OBE, CEO of ShareAction, Choon Hong Tay, Chief Executive of Singapore's Health Promotion Board, Dr Adnan Hyder from The George Washington University's Milken Institute, and Dr Ella Robinson from Australian Ethical Investment for joining Caterina for this profound panel discussion.

#PublicHealth #CommercialDeterminantsofHealth #CDoH #WHS2024 #WHSMelbourne2024 Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth)



**Burnet Institute** 14,547 followers


Burnet researchers joined health experts and world leaders from across the globe at the World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2024 held in Melbourne last week.

Burnet was a Program Partner of the summit, which brought together leaders in global health, with the theme "Shape the future of health across Asia and the Pacific".

<https://bnid.in.govt.nz/>

#WHSMelbourne2024 #HealthEquity #GlobalHealth Brendan Crabb AC Suman Majumdar

**Researchers join world leaders at World Health Summit | Burnet Institute**



**Bindu Patel** 3rd • 100+ followers

Health systems strengthening through multisectoral action...

I am grateful and honoured to have had the opportunity at the #WHSMelbourne2024 to meet with the Honourable Minister of Health, Dr. Ratu Atoto Rabi Latabalavu and Honourable Permanent Secretary for Health, Dr. Jemesa Tudravu and discuss our current work with the Fiji government to prevent and manage #NCD through the life course. Emphasising the importance of data from Fiji's current implementation of the WHO STEPS survey to monitor and evaluate policies and strategies to reduce NCD burden. Anushka Patel, Veronica Le Nover, Srilakshani The George Institute for Global Health Ministry of Health & Medical Services



**Jennifer Barr** 5th • 100+ followers

Experimental Scientist at CSIRO

Wonderful session hosted by #CSIRO yesterday at the #WHSMelbourne2024. A One Health Approach to Public Health: A Call to Action. Excellent panel of speakers bringing together experts in Public Health, Animal Health, environmental monitoring and data availability and integration to allow interoperability between the sectors to bring a One Health response to a zoonotic disease outbreak.



**Espanza Martinez** 3rd • 100+ followers

Global Public Health - Strategic Leadership / Researcher

Collective action and shared knowledge - including the wisdom of communities - are key to addressing health challenges across communities global areas. This is a resonating message coming out of the #WHSMelbourne2024. And one that I contribute to with this piece in the Canberra Times: <https://link.in.govt.nz/16kXZif> Let's keep working together on the challenges facing us today and tomorrow.

Health must be a priority amid simmering global tensions



**The George Institute for Global Health** 21,730 followers

Great to be part of conversations with Gerandine (Dee) Kearney on what's needed to achieve parity in women's and girls' health at World Health Summit regional meeting in Melbourne today.

Key takeouts: ask women what their health needs are, involve them in decision making, and accommodate biological differences and regional variations in research and solutions.

Multidisciplinary engagement is important, as is involving not only the health sector but also governments and society at large, since so much of women's health is determined by where and how they live.



**Caterina Giorgi** 3rd • 100+ followers

Chief Executive Officer at Foundation for Alcohol Research...

This week I joined 1200 people for the World Health Summit Regional Meeting.

There have been so many great summaries shared on this platform about key lessons, take-aways, reflections and next steps - and I encourage you to check them out.

The Summit has come at a time when there are 120 armed conflicts around the world, when we're seeing and feeling the effects of the climate emergency and when many health indicators are heading in the wrong direction.

Health outcomes are most influenced by power, politics and leadership (or lack thereof). But discussions about health, particularly at the domestic level still largely focus on the provision of healthcare services.

We're in fierce agreement now that the structures, systems and ways of working that we have are not working for our communities as we face these new layers of complexity.

As we move forward - the connections that we make are important.

Making space to come together is important.

This pic sums this up for me. It's the many incidental interactions - where we can connect and build trust - leading to opportunities to collaborate and make a difference.

These events don't give us all the answers - but they allow us to learn from each other and share.

Thank you to the many people who so generously gave their time for a side chat or coffee (Bonnie Matheson, Mikhele Murray, Brian Li Han Wang, Robyn Littlewood, Anders Nordström, Lana Formosa, Choon Hong Tay, Alex Holloway, Edwina Pearce, Sarah Jackson, Shalini Anunagir, Dan Lubman AM, Aimee Brownbill), to share a ride (Espanza Martinez, Catherine Howarth OBE, Ilona Kickbusch) chat over a meal (Delfina Sanchez Lo, Jane Martin) or even join me on an evening walk with the kids (Dr Sandro Demako, Lucy Westerman).

Thanks also to Monash University and Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) for all of the work that goes into planning such a huge event.

#WHSMelbourne2024 #WorldHealthSummit #Health







## WHAT PEOPLE SAID

At the conclusion of the 2024 World Health Summit Regional Meeting, delegates were invited to participate in a post-event survey designed to gather valuable feedback and insights on the event's overall impact, effectiveness and potential areas for improvement. The feedback was overwhelming positive, with delegates reporting high levels of satisfaction across multiple areas, including the quality of the speakers and program, commitment to diversity and inclusion, overall impact, and the organisation and execution of the event.

The Organising Committee extends its sincere thanks to all delegates for their input. The responses have played an important role in identifying emerging global health priorities for the Asia Pacific region and will be pivotal in shaping future meetings.



**82%**

said the knowledge they gained at the Regional Meeting will impact their work

**>80%**

found the Regional Meeting to be a useful networking event

**46%**

made 4 or more new connections they will engage with in the future



**97%**

said they would value the opportunity to come together again for another APAC Regional Meeting

**>half**

said they would like to attend an APAC Regional Meeting every 2 years



“It felt genuinely inclusive, of all peoples, genders, cultural and language backgrounds. It is the first major event I have ever attended where the agenda, speakers, room access, all felt inclusive.”



“It was truly relevant to the region, and I hope that it will not be a one-off as the regional meeting rotates to another location next year. There is a place for an Asia-Pacific summit on a regular, probably 2-year basis.”



“Attending the 2024 World Health Summit Regional Meeting was an incredible experience. The systematic approach they took in addressing global health challenges really stood out to me. They covered a wide range of topics, from emerging infectious diseases to healthcare infrastructure and digital health technologies.”



“What I found most valuable was the focus on engaging young leaders like myself who aspire to pursue leadership roles in healthcare. It was inspiring to have access to insights and knowledge from world leaders in the field. This direct interaction provided me with a unique opportunity to learn from their experiences and expertise, which is incredibly valuable as I continue on my journey in the healthcare sector.”



“Meeting kindred spirits from all walks of life gathering with respect for each other and who believe we can all collectively still make some positive changes in a world fractured by the 3 Cs Covid, Climate and Conflict (framed by Helen Clarke so aptly) It was very well organised with excellent food and drinks.”





## ORGANISING COMMITTEE

### ACADEMIC TEAM



**Professor Christina Mitchell AO**  
2024 International Co-President,  
World Health Summit; Executive  
Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing  
and Health Sciences, Monash  
University, Australia



**Professor Sophia Zoungas**  
2024 International Co-President,  
World Health Summit; Head,  
School of Public Health  
and Preventive Medicine,  
Monash University, Australia



**Professor Sally Green**  
Program Committee Co-Chair;  
Deputy Head (Research), School  
of Public Health and Preventive  
Medicine, Monash University,  
Australia



**Professor Dragan Ilic**  
Program Committee Co-Chair;  
Deputy Head (Education), School  
of Public Health and Preventive  
Medicine, Monash University,  
Australia

### EXECUTIVE TEAM



**Rhiannon Tate**  
Director, 2024 World Health  
Summit Regional Meeting;  
Director, Strategy and External  
Relations, School of Public Health  
and Preventive Medicine, Monash  
University, Australia



**Dr Mariah Csolle**  
Project Coordinator, Faculty of  
Medicine, Nursing and Health  
Sciences, Monash University,  
Australia



**Olivia Bonanno**  
Project Officer, School of  
Public Health and Preventive  
Medicine, Monash University,  
Australia



**Kirsten Marks**  
Marketing Manager, 2024 World  
Health Summit Regional Meeting;  
Marketing & Communications  
Coordinator, School of Public  
Health and Preventive Medicine,  
Monash University, Australia



**Jackie Conheady**  
Director, Office of the Dean,  
Faculty of Medicine, Nursing  
and Health Sciences, Monash  
University, Australia



**Dr Svetozar Kovacevic**  
Director, Research and  
Graduate Research, Faculty of  
Medicine, Nursing and Health  
Sciences, Monash University,  
Australia



**Dr Jayamini Illesinghe**  
School Manager, School of  
Public Health and Preventive  
Medicine, Monash University,  
Australia



**Mandi Daluwatte**  
Senior Manager, Marketing &  
Communications, University  
Marketing, Admissions and  
Communications, Monash  
University, Australia



**Dr Claudia Rouse**  
Monash University/Council  
of Academic Public Health  
Institutions Australia Intern

### PROGRAM COMMITTEE



**Associate Professor  
Jonathan Abraham**  
Director, Monash University  
Disaster Resilience Initiative,  
Monash University Accident  
Research Centre, Australia



**Professor Karen Adams**  
Director, Gukwonderuk -  
Indigenous Health, Monash  
University, Australia



**Associate Professor  
Clare Arnott**  
Global Director of  
Cardiovascular Program,  
The George Institute for  
Global Health, Australia



**Professor Colin Bell**  
Professor of Public Health, School  
of Medicine, Deakin University;  
Adjunct Professor, College of  
Medicine, Nursing and Health  
Sciences, Fiji National University



**Associate Professor  
Angie Bone**  
Associate Professor of Practice,  
Planetary Health, Monash  
Sustainable Development  
Institute, Australia



**Professor Tony Capon**  
Director, Monash Sustainable  
Development Institute,  
Monash University, Australia



**Professor Cath  
Chamblair**  
Head, Indigenous Health  
Equity Unit, Population and  
Global Health, University of  
Melbourne, Australia



**Alex Dandan**  
Strategic Communications  
Manager, VicHealth, Australia



**Dr Sandro Demaio**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
VicHealth, Australia



**Professor Jane Fisher AO**  
Finkel Professor of Global Health,  
Director of Global and Women's  
Health; Co-Lead, Division of  
Planetary Health, School of Public  
Health and Preventive Medicine,  
Monash University, Australia



**Professor Martin Foley**  
Professor of Practice, Faculty  
of Medicine, Nursing & Health  
Sciences, Monash University,  
Australia



**Professor Russell Gruen**  
Dean of the College of Health  
and Medicine, The Australian  
National University



**Professor Caroline Homer AO**  
Deputy Director, Gender Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; Co-Head, Global Women's and Newborn Health, Burnet Institute, Australia



**Dr Adnan Hyder**  
Professor of Global Health and Senior Associate Dean for Research, Milken Institute School of Public Health, The George Washington University, USA



**Professor Rebecca Ivers**  
Head, School of Population Health, University of New South Wales, and Director & Chair, Council of Academic Public Health Institutions Australasia



**Professor Dato' Adeeba Kamarulzaman**  
CEO, Monash University Malaysia, and Pro-Vice Chancellor and President (Malaysia), Monash University



**Dr Bronwyn King AO**  
Special Advisor on Clean Air, Burnet Institute, Australia



**Professor Karin Leder**  
Co-Lead, Division of Planetary Health, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine; Director, Monash University Health & Climate, Australia



**Associate Professor Suman Majumdar**  
Chief Health Officer of COVID & Health Emergencies, and Deputy Program Director (Health Security and Pandemic Preparedness), Burnet Institute, Australia



**Professor Esperanza Martinez**  
Professor & Head of Health and Human Security, College of Health & Medicine, The Australian National University



**Professor Cathy Mihalopoulos**  
Head, Monash University Health Economics Group, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University, Australia



**Dr Sarah McGuinness**  
Clinical Research Fellow (Infectious Diseases), School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University, Australia



**Associate Professor Bev Muhlhauser**  
Deputy Director - Human Health Program, Health and Biosecurity, CSIRO, Australia



**Dr Selina Namchee Lo**  
Executive Director, Australian Global Health Alliance



**Emma Jane Pristov**  
Coordinator, Commercial Determinants of Health, VicHealth, Australia



**Professor Luciano Saso**  
Faculty of Pharmacy and Medicine, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy; Member, Executive Committee, M8 Alliance



**Professor Anthony Scott**  
Director, Centre for Health Economics, Monash Business School, Monash University, Australia



**Lucy Stackpool-Moore**  
Founder and Managing Director, Watipa, Australia; Tutor, Global Health Policy, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine



**Associate Professor Henry Surendra**  
Coordinator, Master of Public Health Program, Monash University Indonesia



**Dr Rohan Sweeney**  
Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Health Economics, Monash Business School, Australia



**Professor Jacqui True**  
Professor of International Relations, Monash University; Director, ARC Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence against Women (CEVAW)

## PROGRAM ADVISORS



**Associate Professor Darshini Ayton**  
Deputy Head, Health & Social Care Unit, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University, Australia



**Professor Alex Collie**  
Director, Healthy Working Lives Research Group; Lead, Division of Health Systems, Services and Policy, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University, Australia



**Professor Sandra Eades**  
Associate Dean (Indigenous), Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences, University of Melbourne, Australia



**Professor Wayne Hodgson**  
Dean, Sub-Faculty of Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences, Monash University, Australia



**Dr William May**  
Immediate ex-Dean, College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences, Fiji National University



**Professor James Whisstock**  
Deputy Dean (Research), Faculty of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences, Monash University, Australia

## ON-SITE SUPPORT



**Dr Tsharni Zazryn**  
Project Manager, School of Public Health and Preventative Medicine, Monash University, Australia



**Dr Lauren Pearson**  
Research Fellow, School of Public Health and Preventative Medicine, Monash University, Australia

# M8 Alliance

Academic Health Centers, Universities and National Academies

The M8 Alliance is the academic foundation of the World Health Summit. A unique network of 32 leading international academic health centres, universities, and research institutions worldwide, it includes the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP), which represents all national academies of medicine and science.



All M8 Alliance members are committed to improving global health and working with political and economic decision-makers to develop science-based solutions to health challenges worldwide.

In addition to the annual World Health Summit in October in Berlin, the M8 Alliance organises annual Regional Meetings, regular Expert Meetings, and Summer Schools in different parts of the world.

## REGIONAL MEETINGS

**2025** New Delhi, India

**2024** Melbourne, Australia

**2023** Washington DC, USA

**2022** Rome, Italy

**2021** Kampala, Uganda

**2020** Meeting postponed due to COVID-19

**2019** Kish Island, Iran

**2018** Coimbra, Portugal

**2017** Montreal, Canada

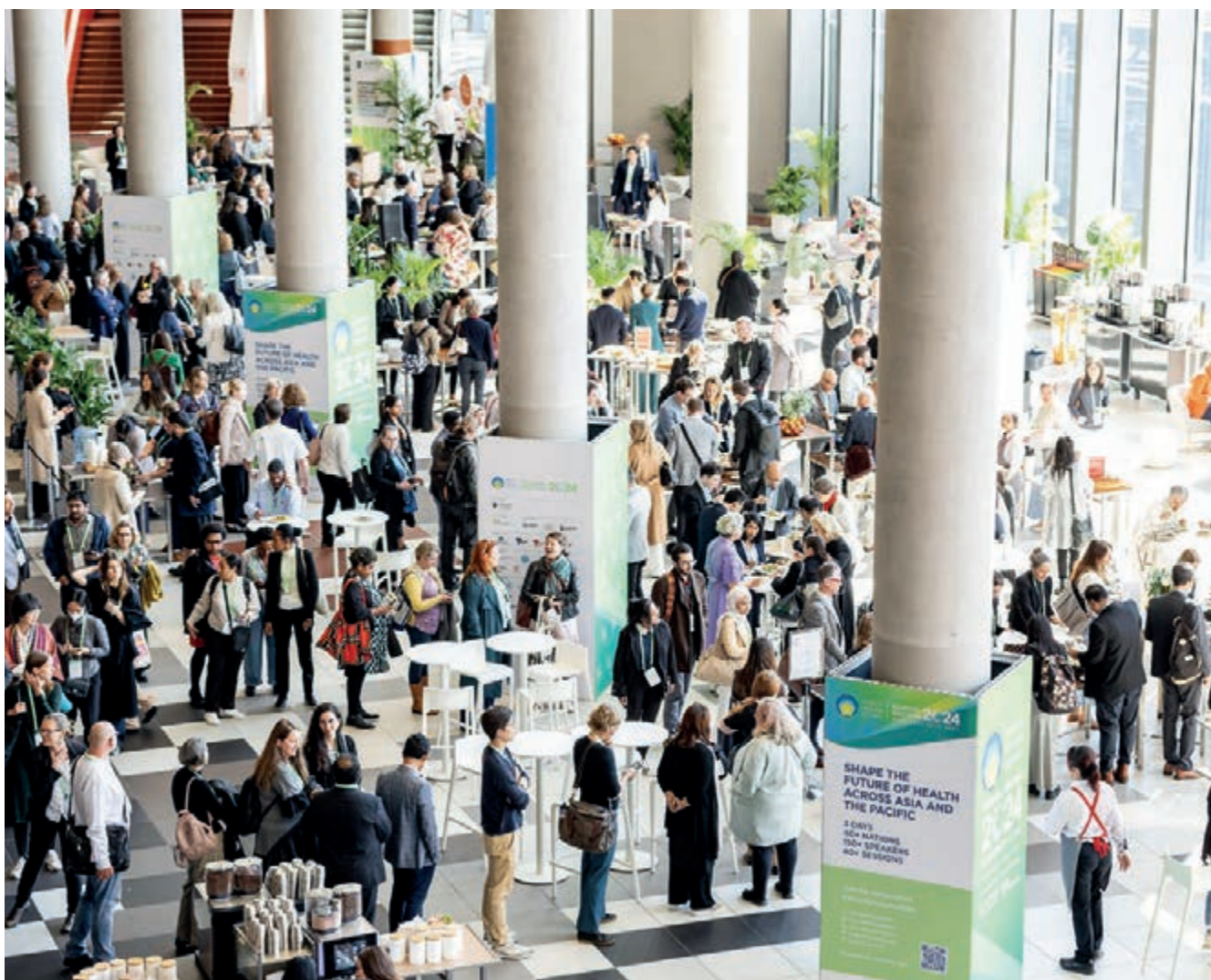
**2016** Geneva, Switzerland

**2015** Kyoto, Japan

**2014** São Paulo, Brazil

**2013** Singapore



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**Acknowledgements**

The Organising Committee extends special thanks to Mariah Csolle for her work in analysing feedback survey results and compiling this report.

**Want to Know More?**

Session recordings and summaries are available at [whsmelbourne2024.com](http://whsmelbourne2024.com)

**Contact**

School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine  
Monash University  
553 St Kilda Road  
Melbourne VIC 3004  
Australia

Tel: +61 3 9903 0444

Email: [sphpm@monash.edu](mailto:sphpm@monash.edu)

[www.monash.edu/medicine/sphpm](http://www.monash.edu/medicine/sphpm)



**RESPONDING TO  
CLIMATE CHANGE,  
PRESERVING  
GEOPOLITICAL  
SECURITY AND  
FOSTERING THRIVING  
COMMUNITIES, FOR  
A HEALTHY WORLD**