



Orange Neuropsychology Symposium Program

Western NSW Local Health District

20th & 21st
March 2025

Presenter Biographies

Vincent Oxenham:

Dr Vincent Oxenham is a Senior Clinical Neuropsychologist at Royal North Shore Hospital and Senior Lecturer at Macquarie University. He developed the first multidisciplinary public health concussion clinic in NSW and sits on Football Australia's expert working group on heading and concussion, assisting with policy development. His other areas of interests include developing and implementing holistic interventions for stroke survivors and people with functional neurological disorders as well as improving ways for better access to cross-cultural cognitive evaluations.

Heather Francis:

Associate Professor Heather Francis is a Clinical Neuropsychologist. She works clinically at Royal North Shore Hospital in the Neurology Department, where her interests are in autoimmune conditions and differential diagnosis of dementia. She also works as an academic in the School of Psychological Sciences at Macquarie University where she is Director of the Master of Clinical Neuropsychology program. Her research has primarily focused on how consumption of highly-processed Western-style diet impairs memory and predisposes people to neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease. She has 56 peer-reviewed papers, 5 book chapters and one co-authored book on the topics of nutritional neuroscience, interoception, neuropsychological profiles of neurological conditions, and assessment and intervention for cognition and mood.

Nicola McKern:

Nicola McKern is a Clinical Neuropsychology Registrar and Research Neuropsychologist. She works clinically in the Neurology Department at Royal North Shore Hospital, with a dedication to patient-centred care. Her special areas of interest are in assessment of neurodevelopmental conditions and cognitive rehabilitation and intervention. She additionally works in the Centre for Applied Medical Research at St Vincent's Hospital. She is first author on 2 published peer reviewed papers in the field of gesture use to aid in communication, including a paper comparing gesture use between autistic and neurotypical individuals, published in the highly prestigious Psychological Bulletin.



Lana Simpson:

Lana Simpson (she/her) is an early career clinician working full-time within a multidisciplinary team in Inpatient Drug and Alcohol Services, Northern Sydney Local Health District. She is nearing the end of her Clinical Neuropsychology Registrar program. She works predominantly with involuntary patients under the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Act. In addition to neuropsychological assessment, intervention and psychoeducation, she values the application of therapeutic skills in her practice as a neuropsychologist. Lana has particular interests in substance-related brain injury, how best to incorporate cognitive intervention into substance use treatment, and the interplay of personality and functioning day-to-day. She is also broadly interested in neurodegenerative conditions.

Sally Byrne:

Sally Byrne is a Clinical Neuropsychology Registrar currently working at Royal North Shore Hospital, Port Kembla Hospital and The Wollongong Hospital. She primarily works across neurological, rehabilitation and geriatric settings. She has a special interest in acquired brain injury and neurodegenerative conditions. She routinely conducts neuropsychological assessments to assist with clarifying diagnoses and supporting patients by providing tailored strategies to help them achieve their goals, such as returning to work or living independently. In addition, Sally frequently consults on cases involving decision making capacity and provides capacity education to medical and allied health professionals. She has recently published her first peer reviewed paper, which systematically reviewed interventions for prosopagnosia.

Olivia Munn:

Olivia Munn is a dually registered psychologist with endorsements in Clinical Neuropsychology and Forensic Psychology, having completed her postgraduate training at Macquarie University and UNSW. She is currently employed as a Senior Clinical Neuropsychologist at Royal North Shore Hospital and as a Clinical Placement Supervisor at Macquarie University. With over 19 years of experience working in both clinical and forensic settings, Olivia has expertise in the assessment and management of various neurological conditions and disorders across both adult and paediatric populations. She has a specialist interest in neurodevelopmental and neurodegenerative conditions.

Western NSW LHD MDT:

Yvette Black, Jessica Apps, Madeline McPhan and Manjot Singh represent a multi-disciplinary team of Mental Health Clinicians working in the WNSW LHD with a special interest in cognitive remediation therapy (CRT). They attended the inaugural Australasian Cognitive Remediation in Mental Health Conference in 2024 and are excited to share updates on the latest research which was presented. Yvette, Jessica and Madeline are all CIRCuiTS Trained therapists, with Yvette currently on the CRT Advisory Board for upcoming research in NSW.



Day 1 Program

Thursday 20th March 2025

Morning Session:

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)
8:15	Registration	
8:45	Welcome to Country & Conference Opening	Uncle Neil Ingram & Rebecca Shaw
9:00	Setting the scene for Rural Psychology	Panel discussion
9:30	Concussion Assessment & Management	Dr Vincent Oxenham
10:30	Development of a Head Injury Screening Tool for use in Domestic Violence	Dr Vincent Oxenham

Mid-Session Morning Tea and Lunch:

Time	Topic	
11:00	Morning tea	
11:30	Capacity Assessments	Sally Byrne
12:15	Capacity Assessments – Skills Practice	Sally Byrne & MU Team
1:15	Lunch	

Afternoon Session:

Time	Topic	
2:00	Neuropsychology in inpatient D&A	Lana Simpson
2:45	Hot Topics in Neuropsychology (may include): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electronic testing• Use of AI• Use of Norms• New tests....	Panel Discussion - MU Team & Audience Questions
3.30	Afternoon Tea	
3.45	Day One Wrap Up & Review, Q&A, Networking	Rebecca Shaw



Day 2 Program

Friday 21st March 2025

Morning Session:

Time	Topic	
8:15	Registration	
8:45	Welcome & Day One Review	Rebecca Shaw
9:00	Dementia, psychosis and delirium	Dr Heather Francis
10:00	Cognitive Remediation Therapy	WNSWLHD - MDT

Mid- Session Morning Tea and Lunch:

Time	Topic	
11:00	Morning tea	
11:30	Cognitive Screen vs Neuropsych Assessments	Nicola McKern
12:15	Considerations when testing of people from culturally & linguistic diverse backgrounds	Dr Heather Francis; Dr Vincent Oxenham
1:00	Lunch	

Afternoon Session:

Time	Topic	
1:45	Intellectual disability vs FASD	Olivia Munn
2:30	Specific Learning Disability	Olivia Munn
3:15	Afternoon Tea	
3:30	Q&A in Neuropsychology	MU Team
4:00	Wrap Up & Networking	



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- **Primary Health Network – Western NSW**
- **Mission Australia**



On behalf of the Neuropsychology Planning Team, we thank you for your attendance.