



2020 NSW WOMEN'S WEEK HEALTH FORUM SPEAKERS



Professor David Currow

David is Chief Cancer Officer, New South Wales and the Chief Executive Officer of the Cancer Institute, NSW, the state's cancer control agency. The agency is responsible for prevention, screening, improved cancer services, and funding of research infrastructure.

David is Professor of Palliative Medicine at University of Technology Sydney, the Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor of Palliative and Supportive Care, Flinders University and Associate Director (Research) at the Wolfson Palliative Care Research Centre, University of Hull, England. Research includes clinical trials and use of large datasets to understand better the impact of life-limiting illnesses on patients and caregivers. Research into chronic breathlessness is a particular area of expertise.

He is the principal investigator for the Australian national Palliative Care Clinical Studies Collaborative (PaCCSC) which has randomised more than 2000 people to phase III symptom control studies, and supports an active international phase IV collaborative with data on more than 1150 people from 11 countries. These studies have been shown to influence clinical practice. He is a foundation partner in the Australian national Palliative Care Outcomes Collaborative (PCOC), an initiative to improve palliative care clinical outcomes through point-of-care data collection.

David has published more than 550 peer-reviewed articles, editorials and books. He is senior associate editor of Journal of Palliative Medicine and Editor of the 5th and 6th editions of the Oxford Textbook of Palliative Medicine. David is a former president of Palliative Care Australia and the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia.

Julie Anne Mitchell

With experience in both the government and non-government sector, Julie Anne Mitchell is National Director of Health Strategy at the Heart Foundation. In this role she oversees policy and program implementation in the areas of risk reduction, nutrition, physical activity, tobacco control, Clinical evidence and Research.

Julie Anne is the Heart Foundation's national spokesperson on women and heart disease and since 2008 she has strategically designed, led and overseen the Heart Foundation's women and heart disease program. The focus of the Foundation's strategy has been to engage with not only women, but also clinicians and researchers, addressing gaps in knowledge, understanding and management of heart disease in women.

Julie Anne is a graduate of La Trobe, Deakin and Sydney University.

She has been publicly recognised for her work in promoting heart health messages to Australian women as the 2018 NSW Women of the Year Awards Lifetime Achievement Award Finalist, and a 2013 NSW Telstra Women's Award finalist, and is pleased to see that Women's health organisations across Australia are now incorporating women and heart disease messages into their work as a result of the Heart Foundation's leadership in this space.





The Hon. Bronnie Taylor, MLC

For 20 years prior to her election, Bronnie was a registered nurse, specialising in cancer care and palliative care. Her work in these fields saw her become one of the first McGrath Foundation Breast Care nurses, and then on to become the Director of Cancer Services in the Southern NSW Local Health District. Her political journey is one of an 'accidental activist', becoming involved in politics only due to her frustrations with the 'system' and its implications for regional patients. Bronnie served as the Deputy Mayor of the Cooma-Monaro Shire and became involved in the National Party, before being elected to the Legislative Council in 2015. In August 2016 Bronnie was appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Southern NSW and Regional Communications. In January 2017, she became Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Premier and Southern NSW. She is passionately committed to our rural and regional communities, and in particular about health and education outcomes, local government and agriculture. After the 2019 State election, Bronnie was appointed Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women. Bronnie is married with 2 daughters and is part of a family farming operation at Nimmitabel.



Clinical A/Professor Deborah Bateson

Deborah has worked as a clinician, educator, researcher and advocate in sexual and reproductive health for 20 years. Deborah is the Medical Director of Family Planning NSW, Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Sydney and Adjunct Professor at the Centre for Social Research in Health at UNSW, and in 2019 was awarded the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetrician and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) Excellence in Women's Health Award. Deborah works clinically at Family Planning NSW clinics in Fairfield, Penrith and Dubbo and her work focusses on equitable access to cervical cancer screening, contraception and STI prevention and treatment. Deborah sits on a range of committees including the National Cervical Screening Program Quality and Safety Monitoring Committee and the NSW Cervical Screening Program Advisory Committee and has authored many articles for clinicians and for the community on a range of women's health issues.

FACILITATOR



Jean Kittson

Jean Kittson is a performer, author and scriptwriter for stage, television, radio, magazines and newspapers. Jean came to national attention on 'THE BIG GIG'. Followed by multiple other television series and is a regular guest on the TODAY SHOW. Jean has been a regular columnist with New Weekly, Sunday Telegraph, the Sydney Morning Herald- Sydney Magazine, Inspire Magazine, the Readers Digest Health Smart magazine and The Hoopla. She is the author of TONGUE LASHING, YOU'RE STILL HOT TO ME, and in 2020 Jean's next book WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT MUM (AND DAD) will be published. Jean also has extensive film and theatre credits. Jean guest starred in the pilot comedy ABCTV series BLEAK with Kate McLennan and Kate McCartney and guest starred in their new TV series for the ABC GET CRACKIN'. She is a regular guest on ABC 702 radio drive programme, THANK GOD IT'S FRIDAY. Jean is an experienced MC, keynote speaker, panellist, debater and facilitator of conventions, conferences, award nights and other after dinner frolics, in corporate, government and community arenas. Jean was a founding Director of the National Cord Blood Bank, the inaugural Chair of the Australian Gynaecological Cancer Foundation (AGCF) and a founding Ambassador for Ovarian Cancer Australia. She is currently an Ambassador for The Macular Disease Foundation, Northcott Disability Services, The Raise Foundation, Taldumande Youth Services and the Australian Gynaecological Cancer Foundation. She is the Patron of Junction Works and most recently she has been appointed the Patron of Palliative Care Nurses Australia.