

HETI SENIOR EXECUTIVE FORUM REPORT

JUNE 2026



HETI Higher Education 2026 graduates; HETI's Dr Susan Grimes, with from L-R Academic Excellence Awards recipients, Kelly Walker and Meghan Garzaniti.

CELEBRATING 53 GRADUATES ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH CARE

HETI Higher Education recently celebrated 53 graduates from its mental health programs, recognising their contribution to strengthening mental health care across NSW. The event brought together graduates, educators and health leaders to acknowledge both academic achievement and the commitment these professionals bring to improving outcomes for individuals and communities.

The cohort reflects a diverse, statewide workforce, spanning perinatal and infant, child and youth, adult and older persons' mental health. While each graduate had unique motivations for study, all share a focus on delivering more effective, person-centred care.

Beyond qualification attainment, the programs emphasise lifelong learning, practical application and evidence-based practice. Graduates develop skills in early intervention, complex care and whole-person approaches, enabling immediate impact in clinical

settings. As noted by HETI Higher Education leadership, students contribute to improved care throughout their study, not only on completion.

The ceremony also recognised outstanding academic performance, with Academic Excellence Awards presented across specialisation areas, reinforcing high standards of study and practice.

Graduates reported increased confidence, deeper understanding of mental health across the lifespan and strengthened ability to support diverse populations. These outcomes align with HETI's role in building a capable, adaptable workforce equipped to meet evolving sector demands.

This year's graduates represent a continued investment in mental health capability across NSW, with their enhanced skills already contributing to improved service delivery and better outcomes for patients, families and communities.

Read the full article at <https://heti.edu.au/news/news/celebrating-53-graduates-advancing-mental-health-care>

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STRENGTHENING MENTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE

70 Psychiatry Trainees have completed the three-year Postgraduate Course in Psychiatry. Their achievement was formally recognised at the HETI Higher Education Graduation ceremony held on 15 May 2026 in Sydney.

This milestone reflects sustained investment in specialist psychiatric training and workforce development across the health system. The cohort's completion contributes to strengthening clinical capability and supports ongoing efforts to meet growing mental health service demand.

Further details on the graduation event are available online <https://heti.edu.au/news/news/celebrating-53-graduates-advancing-mental-health-care>

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conversations. Participants highlighted the immediate relevance of the learning and identified practical changes including embedding 'Our Way' approaches, strengthening culturally informed staff engagement and advocating for culturally safe practices. There was also strong interest in ongoing support such as cultural supervision, mentorship and continued leadership development.

The Nambi Managers Forum strengthened connections across districts and reinforced a shared commitment to culturally responsive leadership in maternal, child and family health services. By investing in the capability and confidence of managers, the Nambi initiative continues to support strengths-based, culturally grounded improvements that benefit Aboriginal staff, families and communities across NSW.

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NAMBI MANAGERS FORUM



The Nambi Managers Forum held on 4 May 2026 in Sydney, brought together Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal managers and leaders from the Aboriginal Maternal Infant Health Service (AMIHS) and Building Strong Foundations (BSF) teams across NSW. The forum strengthened leadership capability in culturally responsive practice, supporting participants to deepen self-awareness, understand power and influence, and build psychologically and culturally safe teams. Delivered by Yamurrah, the 'Lead with Heart: Building Power-Conscious, Culturally Responsive Teams' program provided a safe and supportive space for guided yarning, reflection and practical learning, with participants describing the experience as grounding, practical and highly relevant to their work.

Overall, participant feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with all respondents reporting increased understanding of how leadership influences cultural and psychological safety, and greater confidence in managing conflict and navigating challenging

CONNECTIONS FORUM- YARNING UP HEALTH: ABORIGINAL CULTURE AND COLLABORATIVE CARE



L- R, Suzanne Kelpsa (HETI), Shirley Bramfield, Tamara Blanch (HETI), Vanessa Koder and Lisa Newman.

The Connections Forum held on 19 May 2026 brought together multidisciplinary staff from the Aboriginal Maternal Infant Health Service (AMIHS), Building Strong Foundations (BSF) and other NSW Health services across the state. Delivered by HETI's Training Support Unit, the virtual forum centred on Aboriginal leadership and created a space to share knowledge on strengthening culturally responsive care for Aboriginal children, families and communities.

The forum featured two keynote speakers, Shirley Young and Keira Edwards, who shared complementary perspectives on practice. One explored trauma and trauma informed care, highlighting the importance of recognising the impacts of trauma and creating safe, trusting environments for families. The other focused on identifying family strengths and the importance

of documenting these in ways that reflect resilience, connection and cultural context. These perspectives were complemented by locally led practice examples from AMIHS and BSF teams, including work to decolonise Safe Start and approaches to 4-year-old Personal Health Record check days. These initiatives demonstrated how services are adapting care in partnership with community, strengthening engagement and creating more meaningful, culturally safe experiences for children and families.

Feedback reflected a highly positive response, with participants consistently rating the forum highly and reporting increased confidence in applying culturally safe and collaborative approaches in their roles. Participants described the presentations as powerful and thought provoking, particularly valuing the focus on trauma informed care, culturally safe communication and strengths-based ways of working. Evaluation responses also highlighted strong agreement that the forum strengthened understanding of culturally safe, trauma informed and collaborative practice, and supported participants in their work with Aboriginal families and communities. The forum strengthened connections across services and reinforced a shared commitment to culturally responsive practice across maternal, child and family health.

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peer connection and leadership development, equipping attendees with approaches they can immediately apply in their workplaces.

Held twice yearly and consistently well attended, these forums play a key role in building workforce capability, strengthening culturally safe practice, and supporting improved outcomes for Aboriginal communities across NSW Health.

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ABORIGINAL ALLIED HEALTH NETWORK FORUM

The Aboriginal Allied Health Network, a partnership between HETI, the NSW Ministry of Health and Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) continues to strengthen the capability and connection of the Aboriginal allied health workforce across NSW Health.

On 20 May 2026, the Network convened its biannual forum at the Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council (AH&MRC), bringing together clinicians from across the state. The focus on Strengths Based Clinical Documentation, Culture and Connection brought attention to the role of strengths-based documentation in quality care.

Participants explored practical ways to embed culturally responsive, strengths-based language into everyday clinical practice, grounded in Aboriginal ways of knowing, being and doing. The forum supported shared learning,

MY HEALTH LEARNING



NEW AND REVISED RESOURCES:

TITLE	COURSE CODE
Culturally responsive end of life care for people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities	371772300
Delirium care 1 (Rebuild)	233003664
Employment People with a Disability	214564254
Fraud and Corruption Prevention (Rebuild)	40022231
Negotiation Skills	39985658
Pain Management: Peripheral regional infusions (Refresh)	425285164
Peer Work Reflective Supervision	657887596
Perineal repair	126102169
Post Incident Safety Huddles (Refresh)	221824316
Project Management in a Nutshell (Refresh)	40017593
SHAPE End of Life Conversations (Rebuild)	88619342
Vaccination against Smallpox using ACAM2000	650771958
Younger Onset Dementia (Refresh)	415490634

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