

5th Annual



National Health & Innovation Precincts Summit

by informa...

1 DECEMBER 2026 | DISCOVERY DAY SITE TOURS

2-3 DECEMBER 2026 | CONFERENCE, MELBOURNE CONNECT

INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE:



Natalie Self, SVP of Equitable Economic Impact, Cortex Innovation Community, St Louis

LOCAL EXPERT SPEAKERS:



Peter Steel, Chief Transformation Officer,
The Royal Melbourne Hospital



Leon Teo, Acting Principal Research Scientist and Director,
Research Advisory Section, Health and Medical Research
Office, Australian Government Department of
Health, Disability and Ageing



Patrice O'Brien, Chief Employment and Engagement
Officer, Victoria University



Elizabeth Koff AM, Managing Director, Telstra Health
& Chair, Randwick Health & Innovation Precinct
Council



Narelle Mills, CEO,
Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network (MPHN)



Sarah Herridge, Director Research & Scientific Affairs,
BioNTech



Dr Felicia Pradera, Director, Regional Research Centre and
Strategic Alliances, Moderna Australia



Professor Abid Khan, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research
and Enterprise), Australian Catholic University



Prof Trent Munro, General Manager, Boggo Road
Innovation Junction (BRIJ) & Venture Partner & Head of
Biocatalyst for Queensland, Brandon Capital



Professor Annemarie Hennessy AM, Deputy Dean
(Westmead), University of Sydney



Prof Zoe Terpenning, Pro Vice-Chancellor Precincts,
UNSW



David Masters, Head of Policy, Australia & New Zealand,
Anthropic



Professor Nico Voelcker, Director - Victorian Node of the
Australian National Fabrication Facility & Scientific Director,
Melbourne Centre for Nanofabrication (MCN)



Tara Kernezis, CEO & Managing Director,
Gertrude Biomedical

PRECINCT PARTNERS



healthprecinctssummit.com.au

National Health & Innovation Precincts Summit

DISCOVERY DAY

Tuesday 1 December 2026

The Discovery Day offers delegates an exclusive opportunity to step inside some of Australia's leading innovation precincts, experiencing firsthand how collaboration between research, healthcare, education, industry and government is accelerating the translation of ideas into real-world impact.

Following the outstanding success of last year's program, the 2026 Discovery Day will feature exclusive visits to Victoria University, RMIT and one more additional precinct destination to be announced.

The final stop will be at ACU for the welcome reception. We look forward to welcoming you the summit experience!

The full day's activities are still being finalised, but here's a little taste of what you can expect!

Victoria University

Partnership Showcase – Western Bulldogs & Western Bulldogs Community Foundation

VU High Performance Centre

New Footscray Hospital

VU Research Building (VURB)

RMIT University

Details to be announced soon!

Welcome Reception – Australian Catholic University

Tuesday 1st December 5:30pm

The Greg Craven Centre

Level 7, St Teresa of Kolkata Building

115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy VIC 3065



National Health & Innovation Precincts Summit

DAY ONE: Wednesday 2 December 2026

PLENARY KEYNOTE SESSION

8:55 Welcome to Country

9:05 Welcome to Melbourne Connect

9:10 **INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE** | **Attracting philanthropic funding, startups, investors, and companies to precincts**

Natalie Self, *SVP of Equitable Economic Impact, Cortex Innovation Community, St Louis*

9:40 **KEYNOTE** | **How you leverage a health precinct to enable the digital transformation of a health system**

Peter Steel, *Chief Transformation Officer, The Royal Melbourne Hospital*

10:10 **KEYNOTE** | **National Health and Medical Research Strategy and the MRFF Strategy and Priorities**

Leon Teo, *Acting Principal Research Scientist and Director, Research Advisory Section, Health and Medical Research Office, Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing*

10:40 Networking break

11:10 **JOINT KEYNOTE CASE STUDY** | **Building the future healthcare workforce: The Centre of Excellence in Paramedicine model for collaborative innovation innovating workforce development in partnership**

- Co-design approaches: How multi-stakeholder collaboration shaped an innovative education facility
- Bridging education and practice: New models for workforce-ready paramedicine training
- Scaling impact: Lessons from delivering large-scale emergency healthcare education
- Beyond graduation: Supporting research, innovation and ongoing professional development
- Replicable partnership models: Key insights for health precinct collaboration and workforce solutions

Patrice O'Brien, *Chief Employment and Engagement Officer, Victoria University*

11:40 **KEYNOTE PANEL** | **Governance, Leadership & economic sustainability: Building Adaptive health & innovation precincts**

- Setting the North Star – How do we move from good intentions to measurable outcomes? What leadership models and structures deliver real results?
- Creating adaptive precincts – how can we build flexible governance structures that respond dynamically to evolving challenges and opportunities?
- Sustainable funding & investment – Exploring viable economic models, public-private partnerships, and strategies for attracting long-term investment
- Enabling cross-sector collaboration – Governance frameworks that foster genuine partnership across universities, hospitals, industry, and government

Elizabeth Koff AM, *Managing Director, Telstra Health & Chair, Randwick Health & Innovation Precinct Council*

Prof Trent Munro, *General Manager, Boggo Road Innovation Junction (BRIJ) & Venture Partner & Head of Biocatalyst for Queensland, Brandon Capital*

Victoria Cogger, *Executive Director, Sydney Biomedical Accelerator*

Paula Rogers, *Inaugural Independent Chair of the Precinct Leadership Group (PLG), Western Australia's Health and Biomedical Precinct at Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre (QEII)*

12:25 **Beyond the precinct: Building innovation ecosystems at city scale**

- The shift from individual precincts to connected, city-scale innovation ecosystems
- Melbourne as a model for collaboration, bringing together the complementary strengths of universities, hospitals, research institutes, industry, government and communities
- RMIT's role in connecting people, ideas and capability across the city through our research, education, industry partnerships and precinct work
- What we're learning through our own place-based work about building stronger connections between institutions, industry and communities
- What it takes to move beyond co-location to genuine collaboration
- How stronger connections between precincts can create greater economic, social and civic value, while also building national and international networks

Tom Bentley, *Vice President, Strategy and Community Impact, RMIT University*

12:55 Networking Lunch

National Health & Innovation Precincts Summit

DAY ONE: Wednesday 2 December 2026 | Afternoon Tracks

TRACK 1 INDUSTRY & COMMERCIALISATION

Chair:

2:00 From Payer to Partner: Building Preventative Health Ecosystems Beyond the Hospital

- Transitioning from transactional payer models to strategic health service partnerships
- Shifting focus to prevention programs and out-of-hospital care ecosystems
- The role of health precincts as research engines for preventative medicine and digital health innovation
- Opportunities for collaboration with universities, hospitals, governments, and industry stakeholders
- Testing and scaling new care models through multi-stakeholder health precinct partnerships

Robert Read, *Group Lead - Amplar Health, Medibank*

2:25 **PANEL | Research Translation and Commercialisation: Bridging the Gap from Lab to Market**

- What are the real barriers to translating research into commercial outcomes?
- How do startups navigate IP, institutional processes, and commercialisation pathways? How can precincts play a constructive role here?
- Are precincts effectively connecting researchers and startups to the right capital and networks? How can we do better?
- What infrastructure and support actually move the needle for early-stage ventures?
- How can precincts become better testing grounds and translation hubs? What can we learn from successful models?
- What would make the translation journey faster, fairer, and more successful?

Tara Kernezis, *CEO & Managing Director, Gertrude Biomedical*

Dr Felicia Pradera, *Director, Regional Research Centre and Strategic Alliances, Moderna Australia*

Alan Cui, *Partner, Boson Ventures*

Moderator: Katrina Lapham, *Head of Policy and Economics, Biointelect*

3:10 **IN CONVERSATION | Translating mRNA and AI Innovations Through Global Biomedical Ecosystems**

- Strategic corporate locations that accelerate mRNA and AI innovation pipelines
- Bridging the gap: moving mRNA therapeutics and AI diagnostics from research to patients
- Building global ecosystems that enable mRNA and AI collaboration across borders
- Integrating AI with mRNA platforms to optimize development and clinical outcomes

Sarah Herridge, *Director Research & Scientific Affairs, BioNTech*

3:40 Afternoon Tea

TRACK 2 GOVERNANCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Chair:

2:00 **PANEL | Building Human-Centered Precincts: From Community Co-Design to Thriving Innovation Hubs**

- What does meaningful community engagement actually look like in precinct development?
- How do you design spaces that foster both innovation and human connection?
- Can precincts demonstrate their impact in ways the community can see and experience?
- What turns a precinct from a collection of buildings into a thriving ecosystem? e.g. networking, social events, community facilities?
- Does human flourishing create economic value, or are they competing priorities?
- How do we truly understand and involve the communities we're building for?

Professor Annemarie Hennessy AM, *Deputy Dean (Westmead), University of Sydney*

Dr Heather St John, *Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Partnerships and Translation, RMIT University*

Moderator: Kate Spencer, *General Manager, Fishermans Bend Innovation Diversity Experimentation and Activation Ltd*

2:45 **CASE STUDY | Workforce Attraction, Retention & Development**

- Growing local talent pipelines and training pathways
- Research partnerships and workforce development
- Student placements and international collaboration
- Rural placements and specialist training in regional areas
- Future workforce skills and education-to-employment pathways
- Regional training success stories and their national impact
- Strategies for keeping talent local: community engagement, social integration

Maya De Mattia, *Manager, Murrumbidgee Health and Knowledge Precinct*

Narelle Mills, *CEO, Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network (MPHN)*

3:10 **Beyond "Grow Our Own": Measuring the Regional Health Workforce Impact of Place-Based Higher Education**

- How CUCs connect regional students to tertiary education and local health workforce opportunities
- The role of place-based education hubs in regional health and innovation ecosystems
- Measuring student outcomes through the Impact Evidence Pathway framework
- Using university data and economic evaluation methods to demonstrate program effectiveness
- Quantifying the value of "grow our own" workforce strategies in regional communities

Lou Conway, *Chief Executive Officer, Country Universities Centre*

3:35 Afternoon Tea



National Health & Innovation Precincts Summit

DAY ONE: Wednesday 2 December 2026

INDUSTRY ROUNDTABLES: 4:10PM – 5:10PM

INDUSTRY ROUNDTABLE 1

Precinct constellations, networks & collaboration

- Precinct network models
- Precinct connectivity: providing line of sight across precincts to avoid duplication and enable specialization
- Tools and strategies for precinct value measurement and collaboration
- Clarifying specialization pathways to maximize efficiency and meet national priorities
- Building national connectivity to align precincts, optimize talent flow, and pool resources strategically

Simon Radmore, *Executive Director, Strategy & Office of the Chief Executive*, Northern Sydney Local Health District

Tom Bentley, *Vice President, Strategy and Community Impact*, RMIT University

INDUSTRY ROUNDTABLE 2

Victoria University roundtable – The flipped campus partnership model for future proofing workforce

- What is the Flipped Campus model?
- Rethinking partnership models: How can co-location transform industry-university relationships beyond traditional engagement? How does VU's approach differ to others?
- How can co-location, collaboration and integrated engagement create shared value across education, research, workforce development, and community impact?
- What are some emerging workforce needs and how can we deeper collaboration to tackle them?
- What are some barriers and enablers to university/industry partnerships?
- How can health precincts leverage embedded partnerships for greater community impact?

Patrice O'Brien, *Chief Employment & Engagement Officer*, Victoria University

Natalie Zaibak, *Director, Major Partnerships*, Victoria University

INDUSTRY ROUNDTABLE 3

Why Are We Losing Our Best Startups? Retaining Innovation Talent in Australian Precincts

- Why do Australian startups continue to relocate overseas despite significant domestic investment, and what role can precincts play in reversing this trend?
- Leveraging precinct ecosystems and strategic partnerships to provide integrated support infrastructure that scales with growing companies
- What critical gaps in capital access and growth-stage support are driving startup exodus, and how can collaborative frameworks address them?
- Creating place-based competitive advantages through precinct-enabled networks, talent pipelines, and market connections that rival international alternatives

Vanessa Campbell, *Director Innovation Precincts*, The University of Melbourne

5:00 Networking Drinks

6:30 **NETWORKING DINNER** | Science Gallery Victoria



National Health & Innovation Precincts Summit

DAY TWO: Thursday 3 December 2026

PLENARY KEYNOTE SESSION

9:00 Welcome to Day 2!

Dr Joshua Kavoor, *2026 Inaugural Future Health Fellow & AI Taskforce*, **Adelaide University**

9:10 PANEL | Unlocking philanthropic capital – strategic investment in precincts

- Embedding philanthropy as a core investment strategy, not an afterthought
- Case studies: precincts with integrated funding and partnership models that work
- What philanthropists fund and what motivates high-net-worth donors
- Creating meaningful connections between donors, startups, and researchers within precincts
- Venture philanthropy: new opportunities for impact-driven precinct investment
- The enduring role of traditional philanthropy in precinct ecosystems
- What major donors seek when investing in innovation
- Sponsorship models: untapped opportunities for precinct growth and engagement

Moderator: Peta Magee, *Executive Director, Development - Health and Medical Sciences*, **University of Sydney**

9:50 Building thriving communities: Human flourishing in place-based innovation

- Reimagining governance: non-traditional structures that empower communities
- Designing precincts with people at the centre
- Measuring human flourishing: frameworks, indicators, and global insights from Indonesia

Professor Abid Khan, *Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise)*, **Australian Catholic University**

10:20 Networking break

10:50 FIRESIDE CHAT | Startup precinct journey: Real impact, real gaps, real growth

- Who we are: our mission, stage, and journey to date
- Why we chose a health innovation precinct
- Our honest experience: wins, challenges, and surprises that shaped our startup's development
- What worked and what didn't
- Lessons for precincts and fellow startups

11:20 FIRESIDE CHAT | From Discovery to Treatment: How AI is Accelerating Biomedical Breakthroughs

- How is Anthropic partnering with leading Australian research institutes to accelerate biomedical discovery?
- Using Claude to analyse complex datasets and identify disease mechanisms: what's working in practice?
- Shortening the timeline from research findings to potential therapies: where is AI making the biggest impact?
- Transforming research workflows and scientific methodologies: how are institutes adopting Claude across operations?
- What opportunities exist to collaborate with Anthropic and build successful research-industry partnerships in life sciences?

David Masters, *Head of Policy, Australia & New Zealand*, **Anthropic**

12:00 Networking Lunch



National Health & Innovation Precincts Summit

DAY TWO: Thursday 3 December 2026 | Afternoon Tracks

TRACK 1

2:05 FIRESIDE CHAT | How Precincts Are Transforming University Operating Models

- Why traditional university structures are incompatible with precinct ecosystems and what needs to change
- UNSW's transformation journey: lessons from implementing a multi-precinct operating model
- Redefining value creation—how precinct success metrics reshape institutional priorities
- What precincts mean for the future sustainability and relevance of higher education

Prof Zoe Terpenning, *Pro Vice-Chancellor Precincts*, UNSW

Matthew Proft, *Director, Precincts*, University of Technology Sydney

2:35 Rethinking Health Procurement: Can We Bridge the Gap Between Innovation and Adoption?

- What are the current barriers preventing promising innovations from reaching clinical environments at scale?
- How can innovation precincts serve as testing grounds to de-risk procurement and reduce costly tendering processes?
- Why do integration costs often outweigh product costs, and what can we do differently?
- What's working now? Examining real examples of university-industry-health collaborations that succeeded
- Where do we go from here? Exploring new models that balance rigorous evaluation with faster adoption pathways

TRACK 2

2:05 Co-Designing Talent Pipelines: An Industry Perspective on Workforce Development

2:35 Shared Infrastructure, Accelerated Innovation: The MCN Success Story

- How shared facilities accelerate company commercialisation
 - Maximizing ROI from major infrastructure investments
 - Building successful research clusters through equipment access
 - Opportunities for industry to access world-class capabilities
 - Key lessons from Australia's largest university joint venture
- Professor Nico Voelcker, *Director - Victorian Node of the Australian National Fabrication Facility & Scientific Director*, Melbourne Centre for Nanofabrication (MCN)

3:05 CLOSING KEYNOTE PANEL | From Integration to Network: Building Collaborative Precincts and Connecting Them Across Australia

- Building integrated precincts: Breaking down institutional silos to enable shared access, collaborative infrastructure, and precinct-level thinking beyond individual organizations
- Understanding precinct identity and typology: Defining what makes each precinct unique while learning from diverse models and successful examples
- Creating precinct networks: Connecting integrated precincts to form seamless, collaborative ecosystems across regions and Australia-wide
- Learning from practice: Insights from established precincts and network initiatives, including NSW's precinct network and data platform for measuring collective impact
- Activation and implementation: Practical strategies for precinct activation projects and scaling integration from local precincts to national networks

Patrick Silvey, *Director*, Herston Health Precinct

Professor Kevin Pflieger, *Director, Biomedical and Health Innovation*, The University of Western Australia and WA Life Sciences Innovation Hub, *Chair*, Biodesign Australia and Perth Biodesign

Simon Radmore, Executive Director, Strategy & Office of the Chief Executive, Northern Sydney Local Health District

15:50 Conference close

National Health & Innovation Precincts Summit

NETWORKING ACTIVITIES AND ADDITIONAL EVENT FEATURES

MELBOURNE PRECINCT DISCOVERY DAY

Tuesday 1 December

Where: Victoria University, RMIT & ACU

Kick off your National Health & Innovation Precincts Summit experience with an exclusive, behind-the-scenes look at Melbourne's leading health and innovation ecosystems.

These curated tours provide delegates with the rare opportunity to explore Melbourne's precincts in action and understand how place-based innovation is being embedded across infrastructure, education, research, and commercialisation.



WELCOME RECEPTION

Wednesday 2 December

Where: The Greg Craven Centre

Level 7, St Teresa of Kolkata Building

115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy VIC 3065

Join your industry colleagues for drinks and networking at the Welcome Reception hosted by ACU.

Connect with precinct champions and fellow delegates before the main conference begins the following day.

NETWORKING DINNER

Wednesday 2 December

Where: Science Gallery Melbourne

Located inside Melbourne Connect, corner of Swanston Street and Grattan Street, Parkville.

Dinner service will be nestled in the heart of Science Gallery Melbourne's Western Gallery space.

A true highlight of the event. Continue your discussions of the day and network with speakers, delegates, and sponsors in a more relaxed and informal setting while enjoying a three course dinner with drinks.

Book early to avoid disappointment.



INTERACTIVE ROUNDTABLES

Wednesday 2 December | 5:30pm – 7pm

An opportunity for a more in-depth discussion on the hot issues in health and innovation precincts.

Take the opportunity in 2026 to workshop ideas, brainstorm and network with your peers in the Roundtables.



National Health & Innovation Precincts Summit

1 December 2026 | Discovery Day Site Tours
2-3 December 2026 | Conference, Melbourne Connect

Easy Ways to Register

- 1 Web**
healthprecinctssummit.com.au
- 2 Telephone**
+61 (0)2 9080 4307 – Quoting P26A13
- 3 Email**
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Pricing Details

Register Early & Save		Early Bird Rate Book & pay by 16 October 2026			Standard Rate Book & pay from 17 October 2026		
Conference Package	PRICE	GST	TOTAL	SAVE	PRICE	GST	TOTAL
Standard 2 Day Conference Pass	\$2,495	\$249.50	\$2,744.50	\$400	\$2,895	\$289.50	\$3,184.50
Universities/Public Hospital/ Govt/NFP	\$1,795	\$179.50	\$1,974.50	\$400	\$2,195	\$219.50	\$2,414.50
Networking Dinner					\$260	\$26	\$286
Site Tours					FREE FOR PAYING DELEGATES ONLY		
Welcome Reception					FREE FOR PAYING DELEGATES ONLY		

For full terms and conditions, please visit: healthprecinctssummit.com.au

