

SPEAKER PROFILES

THE JOHN DEEBLE LECTURE AND PANEL DISCUSSION:

**Beyond boundaries:
Leadership for health**

**15 OCTOBER 2024
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA
CANBERRA**

PROFESSOR JOHN DEEBLE AO, 1931 - 2018

WELCOME TO OUR EVENT

The establishment of Medicare and the creation of a universal health system is regarded as one of Australia's key public policy successes and a true foundation stone of the prosperity Australians enjoy.

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of Medicare, celebrating four decades of ensuring access to healthcare for all Australians. While many political names are associated with this innovation, it is widely acknowledged that it was the work of Professor John Deeble, often referred to as 'the father of Medicare,' that led to the establishment of first Medibank and subsequently Medicare.

Over a career spanning almost 50 years, Professor John Deeble was a conceiver, implementer, and defender of universal healthcare. He had a close association with the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association, and it was a great honour that he lent his name to the Deeble Institute for Health Policy Research, which has become renowned for its work in promoting rigorous and independent research to inform health policy.

John passed away in October 2018, and with the support of his family, we have established a lecture in his name.

The Lecture sees a distinguished leader in health policy development engage an audience of public sector leaders and executives, health executives, and academics regarding key issues of national health policy importance. Reflecting on the journey to date, attendees will also examine the vision to come.

John Deeble made an indelible mark on the Australian healthcare system and left us with an enduring legacy.

We hope that you can help in recognising and promoting that legacy for current and future generations of health leaders.

PROFESSOR JONATHON GRAY



***Honorary Professor, School of Medicine, Cardiff University
Member Centre for Healthcare Innovation, Leadership Council, Singapore***

Jonathon is a passionate leader of large scale change, and brings over thirty years of experience as a medical doctor, academic, CEO, executive team member, and as a director of local, national and international improvement and innovation.

Jonathon designed and co-led the 1000 lives Campaign in Wales; established and led an Innovation Institute in New Zealand delivering the 20,000 days Campaign and more than 10 improvement collaboratives. Jonathon was the founding Director of the Asia Pacific Innovation Conferences (APAC) that brought together thousands of passionate colleagues annually. Jonathon and colleagues supported Dr Michael Dixon's inspirational work, building a 'pop-up' Institute for Social Prescribing in England.

Jonathon is very proud to have spent time as an Ambassador for the Hillary Institute and the

co-creator of the Centre for Health Leadership, Innovation, Management and Beliefs (CLIMB).

Most notably, in 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic, Jonathon led the design and build of the 'surge hospital' for Cardiff, a 2000 bed hospital, built in 6 weeks, in the national rugby stadium. As a result of seeing young leaders 'running towards the fire' in 2022 Jonathon established 'Climb', a Welsh future leaders programme, and developed close links to similar programs in Singapore and London.

In 2024, with the support of King Charles III, Jonathon brought together a group of emerging and experienced leaders from across the Commonwealth countries to launch the Commonwealth Leadership Institute.

PROFESSOR MICHAEL PERVAN



Chief Executive Officer Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority

Michael has represented Western Australia and Tasmania at the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council, of which he was elected Chair in 2018. Michael was awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 1998 and the insights and global network that opportunity provided him can be seen in his consistent contributions to national reform discussions for over 20 years on issues such as service system reform, health workforce and mental health.

Professor Michael Pervan C.F. was appointed as Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA) on 1 February 2023. Prior to this, Michael was Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Communities Tasmania where for nearly a decade he was responsible for the delivery of health, housing and care services as well as designing and implementing major service reforms.

Michael's perspective on strategic and policy issues is informed by considerable operational experience at service and system level where he has led financial governance initiatives, and implemented reform programs across health, human services, child development services, chronic disease management, child protection, out of home care, youth justice and ambulance services in Western Australia and Tasmania.

RADM SONYA BENNETT AM

Commander Joint Health and Surgeon General Australian Defence Force

Rear Admiral Sonya Bennett AM MBBS FRACGP
MPHTM FAFPHM GAICD

Commander Joint Health and Surgeon General Australian Defence Force Rear Admiral (RADM) Bennett commenced as Commander Joint Health (CJHLTH) and Surgeon General Australian Defence Force (SGADF) on 1 December 2023. RADM Bennett is a practicing Public Health Physician and is a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine. RADM Bennett is a current member of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR) Berghofer Council.

RADM Bennett was previously Deputy Chief Medical Officer in the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care and Director General Navy Health Reserves. In addition RADM Bennett has previously worked in Queensland Health as Deputy Health Officer, a member of the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation, (ATAGI), Chair of the Communicable Disease Network of Australia (CDNA), and member of the Australian Health Protection Principle Committee (AHPPC).

As a medical officer in the Australian Defence Force, RADM Bennett served full-time with the Royal Australian Navy from 1994 to 2009. Postings during this period include HMAS



PLATYPUS as Submarine Squadron Medical Officer, Deputy Medical Officer in Charge at Balmoral Naval Hospital, sea postings on HMAS SUCCESS, the Army Malaria Institute and Centre for Military and Veterans Health as the Research Manager/Chief of Operations.

Following transition to the part-time force in 2009, RADM Bennett has deployed to Pacific Partnership 2015 on the USNS Mercy as a public health physician as well as continuing in the RAN as a member of the Independent Seaworthiness Management Review panel. RADM Bennett's broad technical expertise and leadership in public health was recognised in the 2023 Australia Day awards where she was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) General Division.

MR ANDREW COLVIN AO APM



***Mr Andrew Colvin AO APM
Chief Executive Officer
Red Cross Australia***

Andrew Colvin AO APM brings to Australian Red Cross a deep understanding of crisis management and leadership capabilities that will play a critical role as the organisation responds to the evolving needs of communities across Australia and beyond.

With a career dedicated to public service, Andrew has played leadership roles during some of Australia's most high profile incidents and events. This includes leading the National Bushfire Recovery Agency in coordinating recovery efforts following the 2019-2020 Black Summer, as a Partner at Deloitte Australia's financial advisory area where he led multidisciplinary teams to deliver advisory and support services,

and his role as Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police where he drove a significant cultural and structural reform agenda with a specific interest in workforce health and wellbeing.

In his new role as Australian Red Cross CEO Andrew is looking forward to working with the organisation's dedicated members, volunteers, and staff alongside corporate and government partners to further enhance Australian Red Cross' response to emergencies, in building resilient communities and supporting those in need.

DR LUCAS DE TOCA PSM

Ambassador for Global Health Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Dr Lucas de Toca is Australia's Ambassador for Global Health. In addition, he leads the Global Health Division (GHD) as First Assistant Secretary, and heads the Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He is also a medical doctor, public health expert and Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of New South Wales and Honorary Professor in the College of Health and Medicine at the Australian National University.

Lucas leads a dedicated team that manage Australia's regional and global investments in health, including the new \$620 million Partnerships for a Healthy Region initiative.

Prior to joining DFAT, Lucas led Australia's National COVID-19 Vaccine Program at the Department of Health and Aged Care, and was heavily involved in many aspects of Australia's COVID-19 response, including the Primary Care and First Nations responses as well as the response in multicultural and rural communities.

Lucas has a wealth of health sector experience, including previously serving as Chief Health Officer at Miwatj Health, the regional Aboriginal community-controlled health service for East



Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory, and was a member of the Northern Territory Clinical Senate, and a board member of the Northern Territory Aids and Hepatitis Council. He has also held academic positions at the University of Melbourne, University of Sydney, Flinders University and Harvard University.

Lucas undertook his medical training at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain, with placements at the University of Sydney. He completed further post-graduate training at Harvard University, focusing on health systems and leadership in health and human rights.

ANDREW DENTON



Mr Andrew Denton
Go Gentle Australia

Andrew Denton is an award-winning writer, performer and producer. His TV programs include *The Money or the Gun*, *Enough Rope*, *CNNNN (The Chaser)*, and *The Gruen Transfer*.

In 1997, Andrew witnessed the painful death of his father Kit. Determined to help others avoid this suffering, he campaigned to introduce compassionate laws for voluntary assisted dying. His two, ground-breaking podcast series, *Better Off Dead*, (2015 & 2021) helped to both inform, and inflame, this debate.

He formed the organisation *Go Gentle Australia* in 2016 to help Australians with untreatable or terminal illnesses, as well as their families and carers.

In tandem with state-based organisations, Andrew has led successful advocacy campaigns to introduce VAD laws in Victoria (2017), Western Australia (2019), Tasmania, South Australia and Queensland (2021), and NSW (2022)

DR ALICIA VEASEY

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS



Dr Alicia Veasey, a proud Torres Strait Islander woman, is an Obstetrician & Gynaecologist with a subspecialty fellowship in Paediatric & Adolescent Gynaecology working on Bundjalung Country with Northern New South Wales LHD.

She also holds a senior leadership position within Queensland Health as Co-Chair of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Clinical Network, where she provides leadership on systemic cultural safety and strengths-based approaches to health system reform that centres Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's sovereignty and right to self-determination.

Obstetrician and Gynaecologist Northern NSW Local Health District

Recognising early on in her medical career the need for health system reform to address the racism and inequity in health care, Alicia completed a Master of Public Health and a Master of Health Management. In 2023, Alicia was awarded a Fellowship with the prestigious Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity, where she completed a Master of (Indigenous) Social Change Leadership, culminating in a dissertation exploring opportunities to embed Indigenous self-determination and sovereignty within the acute care health systems.

Alicia is an experienced and sought after health leader, providing input into local, state and national health policy, A strategies and reform agendas, as well as being a senior advisor to media, research projects and non-government organisations.

She is currently a non-executive Director for the Australian Commission for Safety & Quality in Health Care, and Advisory Board member for the Australian Health Review journal. She has previously served as a non-executive Director for the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association, a founding member of Health Workforce Australis Future Health Leaders Council and was a delegate with the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples.

DR MATARORIA LYNDON

NGĀTI HINE, NGĀTI WHĀTUA, NGĀTI WAI, WAIKATO



Co-Founder Tend Health, New Zealand

Dr. Mataroria Lyndon descends from the Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Whātua, Ngāti Wai, and Waikato iwi, indigenous tribes of Aotearoa New Zealand. As a Māori clinician, academic, and governance leader, Dr. Lyndon's influence spans health and academia.

In his governance roles, he has served as the Deputy Chair of the Health Promotion Agency and as a board member of the Māori Health Authority and the Northland District Health Board. Currently, he is a board member of Pūtahi Manawa Centre of Research Excellence for Heart Health and the Fisher & Paykel Healthcare Foundation.

Mataroria completed his Master of Public Health at Harvard University as a Fulbright Scholar and his PhD is focused on medical education. He was also awarded the Deloitte IPANZ Young Professional of the Year.

Mataroria is the co-founder of Tend Health, which has become one of the largest primary healthcare providers in New Zealand. He also serves as a Senior Lecturer in Medical Education at the University of Auckland. He was previously the Equity Lead at Mahitahi Hauora Primary Health Organisation, a Clinical Lead at Ko Awatea – Centre for Innovation and Improvement, and a medical lead for Māori Health at Counties Manukau District Health Board.

PROFESSOR BRIAN ABBEY



***Deputy Director
LaTrobe Institute of Molecular
Science***

***NHMRC Leadership Fellow
LaTrobe University***

Professor Brian Abbey is an NHMRC Leadership Fellow at La Trobe University's School of Computing, Engineering, and Mathematical Sciences. He is also co-founder of AlleSense, a company focused on advancing nanotechnology-based cancer diagnostics. Prof. Abbey holds postgraduate degrees in Physics, Nanotechnology, and Engineering from UCL, Imperial College London, and the University of Oxford, respectively. He earned his PhD in Chemistry from Cambridge University in 2007.

For over 16 years, Prof. Abbey has led the development of pioneering technologies in optical biosensing. His research has been recognized with several national prizes and awards for research excellence and innovation. In 2019, he received the national Medtech's Got Talent award for co-inventing a novel photonics-based diagnostic test for early-stage breast cancer. More recently, he was honoured with both the 2022 Eureka Prize for innovative use of technology and the 2022 Victoria Prize for Science and Innovation.

AUSTRALIAN HEALTHCARE AND HOSPITALS ASSOCIATION



PROFESSOR ANNA PEETERS AM

Chair

***Deeble Institute for Health Policy Research,
Advisory Board***

Director

***Institute for Health Transformation
Deakin University***

Deakin Distinguished Professor Anna Peeters, AM, PhD, is Director of the Institute for Health Transformation and Professor of Epidemiology and Equity in Public Health at Deakin University. She is Principal Research Translation Investigator at Western Alliance, an NHMRC Investigator Grant fellow, Board Member for the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) and Western Health, and Past President of the Australian and New Zealand Obesity Society. Anna is Chair of the Deeble Institute for Health Policy Research Advisory Board and a member of the World Cancer Research Fund's Policy Advisory Group.

She is internationally recognised for her work building the evidence for effective and equitable policy and practice to improve health outcomes. Anna has led large programs of research into population prevention and health services research, with a focus on research-policy-practice partnerships and translational outputs. She currently leads RE-FRESH, an NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence into Healthy Food Retail, an NHMRC Investigator Grant, and DELIVER, and MRFF grant focussed on building research translation capability in rural Australia to support evidence informed home based care for older Australians.

AUSTRALIAN HEALTHCARE AND HOSPITALS ASSOCIATION



MS KYLIE WOOLCOCK

***Chief Executive
Australian Healthcare and Hospitals
Association***

Kylie has worked in the health sector for over 20 years, starting her career as a pharmacist, before moving her focus into health workforce development, health policy and reform. She is passionate about reorienting the health system to achieve the outcomes that matter for people and their communities.

Kylie has extensive experience in the for-purpose sector, bringing the diverse views of stakeholders together with the evidence base to influence and effect change.

She has worked with a range of health professions, service providers and governments; from a range of perspectives; and from a local region, national and international focus. She has postgraduate qualifications in health economics, artificial intelligence, training and management.

She is a Visiting Fellow at the Faculty of Health, Research – Public Health, Queensland University of Technology, and a member of the International Hospital Federation Governing Council.

ABOUT US

Professor John Deeble AO (9 July 1931- 5 October 2018)

Together with Doctor Dick Scotton, Professor John Deeble co-authored the original proposals for universal health insurance in Australia in 1968 while working at the Melbourne University Institute of Applied Economic Research. These proposals led to the 1975 establishment of Medibank, and subsequently, Medicare, in 1984.

John was Special Adviser to the Ministers for health in the Whitlam and Hawke governments, Chairman of the Planning Committees for both Medibank and Medicare and a Commissioner of the Health Insurance Commission for 16 years. Other appointments have included First Assistant Secretary in the Commonwealth Department of Health, Founding Director of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, and from 1989 to 2005, Senior Fellow in Epidemiology and Adjunct Professor in Economics at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health at the Australian National University.

Professor Deeble was a World Bank Consultant on health care financing in Hungary, Turkey, and Indonesia, and for over 10 years an adviser to the government of South Africa.

John was a Sidney Sax Medallist and life member of the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association, and patron of the Deeble Institute for Health Policy Research.

ABOUT US

The Deeble Institute Of Health Policy Research

Established in November 2011, the Deeble Institute for Health Policy Research is the research arm of the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA).

At the Deeble Institute, we develop and promote rigorous and independent research that informs national health policy. Our goal is to make evidence the cornerstone for health policy development in Australia. We do this by connecting researchers, policymakers and practitioners and by creating opportunities to translate research into good health policy and practice.

Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA)

Founded in 1946 as the Australian Hospital Association, the AHHA is the independent peak membership body and advocate for the Australian public healthcare system, and a national voice for universally accessible, high quality healthcare in Australia.

AHHA membership includes state health departments, Local Hospital Networks and public hospitals, community health services, Primary Health Networks and primary healthcare providers, aged care providers, universities, individual health professionals and academics.

AHHA's vision is for the best possible healthcare system that supports a healthy Australia.

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AHHA acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's First Nation Peoples and the Traditional Custodians of this land. We respect their continued connection to land and sea, country, kin, and community. AHHA also pays our respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging as the custodians of knowledge and lore