

CCOPMM & VPCC Symposium Consent, Ethics and Responsibilities 31 July 2026

Time	Topic	Speakers
0830	Registration opens	
Symposium Outline		
0930	Welcome	
0940	Consultative Councils Why mortality and morbidity councils matter: dignity, accountability, prevention (case review) A brief history of consent Framing the day: moving from procedural consent to ethical care, shared decision making	Professor Mark Umstad AM CCOPMM Chair Associate Professor Marinis Pirpiris VPCC Chair
1000	The Victorian context: safety, transparency and the responsibility of system leadership	Ms Louise McKinlay SCV CEO
Session one: Professor Wendy Brown - The Future of Consent: Beyond Signatures Towards Shared Understanding		
1015	Vignette	Professor Mark Umstad AM
1020	Role of Nurses and Midwives in the consent process	Ms Colleen White
1030	Innovations: Multi-model consent tools, digital consent pathways, culturally responsive communication	Dr Margot Lodge
1040	Mini Panel – Ursula Harrison facilitating – A medico-legal perspective discussion	Ms Kate Booth & Ms Danielle Corden
Morning Tea - 11.00am -11.15am		
Session two: Associate Professor Marinis Pirpiris – Ethics of Access: Outpatient Clinics and Justice in Healthcare		
1115	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why access is an ethical issue, not just an efficiency issue Outpatient waiting lists as a form of harm, delayed diagnosis, pain, disability, inequity Ethical obligation of the system: transparency, triage fairness, and statewide minimum standards The clinician & patient dilemma: balancing demand, safety and finite resources. 	Panel Discussion: Associate Professor Robert Roseby Ms Jayne Parker Dr Greg Rowles Professor Ben Thomson Ms Rebecca Donald Ms Elyse Coffey

Session three: Professor Mark Umstad AM – Ethics & Dilemmas in Paediatric and Maternity Decision-Making		
1200	Ethical basis of decision making	Professor Lynn Gillam
1210	Informed decision making when more than one life or identity is involved	Professor Lisa Hui
1220	Balancing maternal autonomy with fetal welfare: a framework for respectful care	Ms Elisa McDonald
1240	The sandwich dilemma – the perspective of a Paediatrician and Paediatric Nurse	Dr David Tran Ms Sam Peet
1250	Spotlight on cultural safety, migrant families, and communication barriers identified in Victorian mortality cases	Dr Niroshini Kennedy
Lunch –1.00pm-1.30pm		
Session four: Dr Ben Slater – High-Stakes Moments: Consent Under Pressure in Perioperative & Maternity Care		
1330	Gawthrop v Bendigo Health	Ms Emma Frauman
1340	Case: A deterioration perioperative scenario requiring rapid ethical choices	Dr Tony Gray (VPCC)
1345	Case: A deterioration maternity scenario requiring rapid ethical choices	Dr Penelope Sheehan (CCOPMM)
1350	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency surgery, haemorrhage, unexpected deterioration, maternity emergency Capacity assessment in real time, when is implied consent valid Managing disagreement: family conflict, uncertainty, escalating risk 	Panel Discussion: Dr Andrew Jeffreys Associate Professor Ryan Hodges Ms Emma Frauman Ms Annie McPherson Professor Trevor Duke Dr Craig Ironfield
Session five: Ms Louise McKinlay – What do Organisations Owe to Patients		
1415	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The shift from individual responsibility to collective accountability How governance, culture, and leadership shape ethical behaviour Systemic contributions to harm revealed in statewide mortality reviews Safety-II principles: learning from what goes right, not just what goes wrong Ethical use of data, transparency with families, and statewide consistency in practice 	Panel Discussion: Professor Andrew Wilson PSM Professor Ben Thomson Ms Shelly Dolan Mr Graeme Campbell Ms Denice Spence
Afternoon tea – 3.00pm-3.15pm		

Session six: Ms Rebecca Van Wollingen – A Victorian Vision for Consent

1515

- What would consent look like in an ethical health service
- Rapid ethical analysis tools for everyday use
- Making an informed choice
- Approach to difficult conversations
- Integrating ethics into team briefings, perioperative huddles, and obstetric escalation pathways
- Reducing moral distress and protecting staff wellbeing
- What would statewide standards look like for consent and communication

Interactive Audience Discussion

Closing reflections and next steps

1610 Networking opportunities

1630 Event closes

**Speakers are subject to change*

Networking opportunities: During the breaks and following the program – connect with key representatives from the Councils, Safer Care Victoria (SCV) and Victorian Managed Insurance Authority (VMIA).