Palliative Care
Western Australia
Living, dying & grieving well

PALLIATIVE CARE SUMMIT

INNOVATION AT THE HEART OF CARE

AI and technology supporting compassion, dignity and connection in palliative care.

12 *November* 2026



Major Sponsor
silverchain

Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

We're proud to bring together clinicians, aged care and community service professionals, researchers, policymakers, students, volunteers, carers and community members at the 2026 Palliative Care Summit. Each brings a different perspective on how we can continue to improve care for people and families across Western Australia.

Our theme, Innovation at the Heart of Care, asks how AI and technology can support compassion, dignity and connection in palliative care.

Much of the conversation about AI and technology focuses on what these tools can do. But perhaps a more important question for palliative care is: What could it allow us to do better?

AI has the potential to make tasks that were previously time intensive significantly faster, reduce administrative burden and help health professionals access and interpret information more efficiently. If that gives a clinician more time to sit with a patient, listen to a family member or have an important conversation, then technology is not replacing the human element of care. It is creating more space for it.

As you explore the program and join the conversations at this year's Summit, I encourage you to consider one question: If you had an extra hour in your day, how would you spend it?

For palliative care, the possibilities extend beyond saving time. Technology is opening new ways to recognise pain in people who cannot communicate it, support earlier conversations about care preferences, improve access for regional communities, address loneliness and help people preserve their stories and memories.

These possibilities deserve scrutiny. Does a tool improve care? Is it accurate and accessible? Does it protect privacy and choice? Does it strengthen human connection?

The Summit program will explore these questions through pain assessment, advance care planning, digital legacy, and ethics. Our WA snapshots will also highlight innovation and developments closer to home including regional access and community palliative care, and Sandcastles (Boodja Mia), WA's first children's hospice.

Bringing these different perspectives together is central to PCWA's role. Clinicians, researchers, people with lived experience, and families and communities will see different strengths and risks in the same technology. We need all those perspectives to make informed decisions about its place in the future of palliative care.

Thank you to WA Health, our Major Sponsor Silverchain, and all our sponsors, partners, speakers and the PCWA team for making the 2026 Palliative Care Summit possible.

I encourage you to question the ideas presented, share your experience and connect with others. I hope the Summit prompts us to think about how we can use AI and technology to create more time, capacity and opportunity to improve care for people and families across Western Australia.

Mark Kinsela
Chief Executive Officer
Palliative Care WA



A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAJOR SPONSOR



Silverchain is proud to support the PCWA Summit 2026, an event that brings together leading experts in palliative care, health, ageing, technology and artificial intelligence to explore the future of compassionate care. The Summit aligns strongly with Silverchain's commitment to innovation, evidence-based practice and delivering high-quality care that enables people to receive treatment and support in the place they call home.

As a leader in community health and specialist palliative care, Silverchain recognises the importance of understanding how emerging technologies and AI can enhance care delivery, improve patient experiences and support clinicians. The Summit provides a unique opportunity to hear from internationally recognised thought leaders, and learn more about how technology can support advocacy, research, care delivery and communication in palliative care.

By supporting the Summit, Silverchain is investing in conversations that will help shape the future of health and palliative care, ensuring that technology is applied in ways that strengthen, rather than replace, the human connection at the heart of compassionate care.
This aligns with Silverchain's ongoing focus on innovation, sustainability and improving outcomes for people living with complex, chronic and life-limiting conditions.

Janelle McFarlane
Director Health Services
Silverchain

PALLIATIVE CARE SUMMIT 2026

12 November OPTUS STADIUM

Program

INTRODUCTION		
7.50am	Registration (foyer) Seated in River Room at 8.20am	Tea/coffee/networking Sponsors' information stands
8.30am	Introduction and housekeeping	Di Darmody
8.35am	Welcome to Country	Olman Walley Wilman, Balardong, Binjareb, Wadjuk Nyoongar
8.45am	Ministerial address	Hon Meredith Hammat Minister for Health; Mental Health; Preventative Health
8.50am	Palliative Care WA President's welcome	Liz Behjat
8.55am	Palliative Care Australia CEO address	Dr Chris Hatherly
9.00am	Major Sponsor's address	Janelle McFarlane Director Health Services, Silverchain

MORNING SESSION – GUEST SPEAKERS AND PRESENTATIONS		
9.05am	**Keynote Speaker 1** **Fit for the Future:** Thriving, not just surviving, in a fast-changing world	**Gihan Perera** Business futurist, conference speaker, AI researcher, and author ***Visit sponsored by Bethesda Health Care***
9.50am	**Special Interest Discussion** Pain Assessment in Palliative Care: Potential role of technology	**Emeritus Professor Jeff Hughes** Co-inventor and Chief Scientific Officer, PainChek
10.15am	**Special Interest Discussion** Towards a Good Digital Death: Digital legacy as care	**Dr Jenny Kidd** (UK) Reader in the School of Journalism, Media and Culture, Cardiff University **Dr Eva Nieto McAvoy** (UK) Lecturer in Digital Media in the Department of Digital Humanities, King's College London
10.30am	**MORNING TEA – RECEPTION AREA**	
11.10am	**Keynote Speaker 2** **The Last Conversation:** How AI will transform advance care planning and serious illness discussions	**Associate Professor Charlie Corke AM** Senior Intensive Care Specialist ***Visit sponsored by Brightwater Care Group***
11.55am	**Special Interest Discussion** Bridging the Loneliness Gap: How Abi is fighting loneliness in aged care	**Brian McCarthy** Chief Commercial Officer, Andromeda Robotics
12.10pm	**So.... What does the robot think?**	**Di Darmody & Rocco**

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Program

CONTINUATION OF MORNING SESSION – SPEAKERS AND PANEL DISCUSSION

12.15pm	**Keynote Speaker 3** **Who Will Care?** AI, loneliness, and the future of ageing	**Professor Barbara Barbosa Neves** *Award-winning sociologist of ageing and technology* ***Visit sponsored by Community Vision***
12.30pm	**Panel Discussion** **Ethics Meets Innovation:** How do we ensure AI enhances compassionate care without replacing or diminishing human connection?	Facilitated by **Di Darmody** **Associate Professor Charlie Corke AM** Senior Intensive Care Specialist **Clare Mullen** CEO, Health Consumers' Council WA **Dr Derek Eng** Palliative Care Physician, Head of Department Royal Perth Hospital
1.15pm	**LUNCH - RECEPTION AREA**	

AFTERNOON SESSION – WA SNAPSHOTS - SPONSORED BY COMMUNITY VISION

2.00pm	**Predicting for the End-of-Life Pathway:** Predicting mortality for timely referral to palliative care in an aged care setting	**Emeritus Professor Davina Porock**
2.20pm	**WA's First Children's Hospice – Boodja Mia (Sandcastles)**	**Dr Lisa Cuddeford** Head of Department, Paediatric Palliative Care and Hospice Service **Suzanne Kearney** Clinical Nurse Manager, Sandcastles (Boodja Mia) Children's Hospice
2.40pm	**Using AI to Communicate Risk of Harm in Community Palliative Care**	**Janelle McFarlane** Director Health Services, Silverchain
3.00pm	**Leveraging Innovations in Digital Technology to Expand Access to Equitable Palliative Care in Regional and Remote WA**	**Dr Anu Krishnan** Medical Lead, Telepalliative Care, WACHS
3.20pm	**'Acai Goodbyee'** (ah-sah-EE Goodbyee)	Viewport XR – VR demonstration
3.25pm	**Interactive Video**	Before I Die Wall
3.30pm	**Thanks and Close**	**Mark Kinsela** Chief Executive Officer, Palliative Care WA Includes raffle draw
3.40pm	**Closing Video**	**Rocco** has the last word
3.45pm	**Refreshments and networking**	We invite you to stay on for further networking and to celebrate the day with colleagues and friends from across the sector. Drinks will be available for purchase.

Keynote Speakers



Gihan Perera
Sponsored by Bethesda Health Care

Fit for the Future: Thriving, Not Just Surviving in a Fast-Changing World

Change is happening faster than ever – in healthcare, aged care, palliative care, and in our communities. That brings more uncertainty and disruption – but also opportunity and possibility.

From AI to digital health tools, from telehealth to data-driven care models, the world of palliative and end-of-life care is shifting in big and small ways. These are disruptions, but also your opportunity to better support the people and families in your care.

You might think the future is outside your control, but you have more influence than you think. We can't be future proof, but we can be future ready. The key to innovation is knowing how to adapt, embrace new ideas, and stay flexible – without losing sight of what matters most: compassion, dignity, and human connection.

In this engaging, thought-provoking, and interactive presentation, you will explore the biggest trends shaping palliative and aged care, discover how to navigate the fast-changing world of AI and technology, and walk away with practical ideas for bringing innovation into your work – in ways that deepen care and elevate human connection. Come ready to think, laugh, reflect, and leave inspired!



Associate Professor Charlie Corke AM
Sponsored by Brightwater Care Group

The Last Conversation: How AI will Transform Advance Care Planning and Serious Illness Discussions

This talk will outline emerging developments in artificial intelligence that will transform difficult medical conversations and more fully realise genuine patient-centred care. It will examine how interactive AI avatars, multilingual conversational systems, and adaptive communication platforms can help patients clarify their values, consider treatment preferences, and prepare for discussions about serious illness, goals of care, and end-of-life decisions. Particular attention will be given to ensuring cultural sensitivity together with recognising family expectations and decision-making traditions.

The presentation will also consider how AI can support clinicians to practise realistic communication training in ways that have previously been impractical.

This is not about replacing clinicians but about how thoughtfully designed AI can strengthen compassionate communication, improve patient messaging, and support more consistent, culturally responsive care.

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Keynote Speakers



Professor Barbara Barbosa Neves
Sponsored by Community Vision

Who Will Care? AI, Loneliness, and the Future of Ageing

From social robots in aged care to chatbots offering companionship, AI is increasingly becoming part of later life. Yet older people (aged 65+) are often excluded from the decisions that influence how these technologies are developed and used.

This is particularly concerning in aged care, where people live with complex health and social needs, including those approaching the end of life or receiving palliative care. In this talk, Professor Barbara Barbosa Neves will explore how AI can reinforce ageist assumptions about older people, even when presented as a solution to the challenges associated with ageing.

Based on research with AI developers, care staff, residents, and advocates - as well as on studies of AI systems for aged care - she will show how technologies are built on the belief that older people are homogeneous and passive. These assumptions shape technologies that claim to address loneliness or improve care, but that in practice undermine independence, increase surveillance, intensify labour, and overlook what matters to older people and their communities.

This talk critiques the view that ageing is a problem in need of fixing, an idea that strongly shapes how current AI is created and implemented. AI can support care and well-being, but only when it is genuinely designed with, rather than for, older people and those involved in their care. Moving beyond both hype and fear, Professor Neves will argue for approaches to AI that contribute to more connected and dignified ageing futures.

Thank you to our sponsors, partners and supporters

Innovation at the Heart of Care: AI and technology supporting compassion, dignity and connection in palliative care is organised by Palliative Care WA with funding support from WA Health.

We would like to acknowledge our very generous sponsors, partners and supporters for the 2026 WA Palliative Care Summit.

The summit is kindly supported by Major Sponsor Silverchain and Valued Summit Sponsors, including Carers WA, Palliative and Supportive Care Education at the Cancer Council WA and HESTA. We also acknowledge Richard Lockwood and thank him for his generous ongoing support of Palliative Care WA.

Bethesda Health Care is supporting the involvement of Gihan Perera, Brightwater Care Group is supporting the visit of Associate Professor Charlie Corke AM and Community Vision is supporting the visit of Professor Barbara Barbosa Neves and the WA Snapshots presentations.

Sorin Pty Ltd is supporting the Care Innovation Hub.

Thank you to all our very generous sponsors and supporters who have helped make this biennial event possible.