

INVITATION

We invite you to contribute to the *Building Caring Communities: Bringing evidence, research, and practice together to create a community where every child can thrive* conference by submitting abstracts for workshops, oral presentations, panels or poster sessions. This international event will provide a platform for practitioners, advocates with lived experience, researchers, policymakers and everyone in between to collaborate and share innovative approaches, research findings, and practical applications aimed at improving outcomes in the child and family sector.

We encourage submissions that align with the conference themes of creating caring communities, addressing systemic challenges, and inspiring practice transformation. Submissions can focus on research, best practice, system and policy innovations, or program-based contributions.

We welcome contributions that engage attendees through interactive learning and focus on practical implementation in diverse social, political, and cultural contexts. Submissions from traditionally underrepresented groups, including First Nations, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and people with disabilities, are especially encouraged.

OVERVIEW OF CONFERENCE THEME

The theme of *Building Caring Communities* reflects our commitment to fostering environments in which every child can thrive. The conference will emphasise the importance of connecting research, practice, and policy to build supportive, inclusive, and resilient communities. Key focus areas for submission include:

- **Translating research into practice:** Addressing the benefits and challenges of applying research and evidence-based approaches in real-world contexts, especially in diverse social, political and cultural environments
- **Driving systemic change:** Offering strategies for navigating and influencing systemic challenges.
- **Cross-sector collaboration** to support community-driven approaches to child and family support.
- **Practice Innovation:** Innovative models of care and service delivery for children and families, including case studies, therapeutic interventions, and practical tools that contribute to positive outcomes for children and families

Cross-sector submissions are encouraged, such as submissions which explore integrated services, challenging conventional siloed approaches. Proposals might explore, for example, parenting supports in out-of-home care, as well as prevention and reunification efforts.

PRESENTATION OPTIONS

Oral Presentation: A 20-minute session to present your work, followed by a brief discussion and opportunities for questions.

Workshop: A 45-60 minute interactive session where participants engage in hands-on learning and discussion. Workshops should emphasize active learning and practical tools.

Panel Discussion: A 60-minute session featuring 3-5 speakers offering different perspectives on a central issue related to the conference theme. Panels should encourage dialogue between panellists and the audience.

Poster Presentation: A visual representation of your work displayed throughout the conference, allowing for informal interaction with attendees.

Submissions that incorporate interactive elements such as live polls, questions, or discussions, or adopt creative formats like short, dynamic presentations (e.g., TEDTalk-style) are especially encouraged.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Abstract word limit: 250 words (not including title and author names).
- Clearly state the presentation title, background, aims/objectives, methodology (for research-based presentations), outcomes, conclusions, and implications.
- Ensure your abstract is aligned with the conference theme and includes the author's name(s) and affiliations.
- Select your preferred presentation format (oral, workshop, panel or poster), although the final decision is at the discretion of the review committee.
- Submit your abstract by [submission deadline].
- A short biography (up to 80 words) of the presenting author/s should accompany the submission.

KEY DATES

- Abstract submission closes: 19 January 2025
- Presenter notifications: 26 February 2025
- Deadline for Speaker Registration: 04 May 2025

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Abstracts can only be submitted online through the [conference website](#).

SELECTION CRITERIA

All abstracts will be peer-reviewed. Submissions will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Relevance to the conference theme.
- Inclusion of diverse voices and perspectives.
- Clarity of objectives and research questions/issues addressed.
- Quality of evidence or innovation.
- Contribution to the field and potential for practical application.
- Opportunities for active learning and engagement of participants.