

# NEWSLETTER

April 2026



SUNSHINE COAST  
**LOCAL MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATION**

[SCLMA.COM.AU](http://SCLMA.COM.AU)

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[admin@sclma.com.au](mailto:admin@sclma.com.au)



## President's Message

Dr Jon Harper

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As I write this, our Prime Minister is addressing the nation on television. Never a good sign.

In the last few weeks Australia has discovered, like many nations around the world, how vulnerable it is. Not from missiles, airstrikes or amphibious landings, but from a choked supply of products derived from crude oil.

Petrol, diesel, jet fuel, fertilisers, bitumen, plastics, soaps, pharmaceuticals the list goes on and on. But king of all is the fuel that runs the engines in our factories, trucks, farming machinery and the things that get us to work every day.

You don't have to go very far west to find that hospitals, medical centres and pharmacies start to get pretty spread out. As fuel prices rise and, in some places, supply tightens people may have to make hard choices about accessing healthcare.

Thankfully, the COVID-birthered provision of Telehealth has survived the test of time (and politics) and will no doubt be relied upon again. But Telehealth can't splint a broken bone, and health professionals still have to get to their workplaces.

I am hopeful that this oil crisis will be short-lived. Ultimately, the world's addiction to crude oil will be the driving force for de-escalation in the Middle East. Concessions will be made, embargoes temporarily forgotten, sanctions relaxed, at least until oil reserves have been restocked.

In brighter news, Monday 30th March was National Doctors Day and the SCLMA was proud to sponsor a barbecue lunch for the doctors at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital.

We also have a date and venue for the SCLMA Gala 2026! We will be holding this year's Gala event at the Altitude Nine bar in Maroochydore on Saturday 1st August. More information coming soon!

**Dr Jon Harper**  
President

## Welcome to our new members!

One of the greatest strengths of the Sunshine Coast Local Medical Association (SCLMA) is the diversity, talent and collegiality of its members. With each new member who joins, our network grows stronger – creating more opportunities to learn from one another, support each other, and collectively advance health care in our region.

In this issue, we are pleased to welcome the following new members below, to the SCLMA. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming meetings, events and social gatherings, and to the contributions you'll bring to our professional community.

- **Tim Lyon**
- **Vivienne Smith**
- **Deepak Singhal**
- **Rosie Lushington**
- **William Meyers**
- **Clare Walters**
- **Shenal Dharmatilleke**
- **Deborah Jeronimo**

### **Membership in the SCLMA offers a range of benefits, including:**

- Regular educational meetings with high-quality clinical updates and guest speakers
- Members only access to podcasts of monthly meeting presentations
- Gala dinner and/or other events
- Opportunities for collegial networking and collaboration across specialties
- Advocacy on local medical issues and representation of members' interests
- Access to our newsletter and communication channels for keeping up-to-date with medical news and events
- A strong professional and social support network within the Sunshine Coast medical community

If you know of colleagues who are new to the area, recently commenced practice, or who might benefit from joining, please encourage them to connect with us. The more voices and perspectives we bring together, the more vibrant and effective our Association becomes.

We warmly welcome our new members and look forward to building an even stronger medical community together.



SUNSHINE COAST  
RADIOLOGY

Same Day  
& Next Day  
Appointments  
Available

# New 3T MRI at Noosa

Advanced imaging has become more accessible for your Sunshine Coast patients, with our 5th MRI unit now operational at our Noosa site.

## Why Refer to Us?

- ✓ Greater access and shorter wait times for patients
- ✓ Clinically tailored imaging acquisition
- ✓ Rapid, detailed reports by sub-specialist radiologists
- ✓ State-of-the-art technology gives:
  - sharper images
  - shorter scan times
  - wide design for patient comfort
- ✓ Selected sites offer after hours and weekend appointments

Noosa Civic | Maroochydore (Baden Powell St & Wises Rd) | SCUPH | Caloundra

**Refer your patients to Sunshine Coast Radiology today for rapid access and detailed results.**

Need anything else? Contact your Referrer Relationship Specialist:  
Tremain Permewan | 0418 289 686 | [tremain@scradiology.com.au](mailto:tremain@scradiology.com.au)  
Bernie Rushton | 0477 444 230 | [brushton@scradiology.com.au](mailto:brushton@scradiology.com.au)

Bookings: 1300 697 226 | [scradiology.com.au](http://scradiology.com.au)

*Excellence in Diagnostics*

SUN 485128 SCLMA Digital Advert A4



Supporting Queensland doctors,  
creating better health.

## Queensland Update



The first of April brings with it a private insurance premium hike that unfortunately is no joke. This 4.41% average increase gives more weight to our ongoing call for private health reform, including an independent body that can oversee premiums and exclusions.

It is imperative for the health of our public hospitals that the private health sector is robust. When patients see little value in

retaining their cover due to increases and benefit reductions, they are more likely to give it up. This puts more pressure on our public hospitals, blowing out waiting lists and hidden waiting lists for planned surgery, and reducing options for doctors to work across both sectors.

In a triumph for our advocacy work, the Queensland parliamentary inquiry into e-scooters, e-bikes and e-motorcycles recommended banning under 16s from using them.

We're also promoting Queensland's free flu vaccination program, with Immediate Past President Dr Maria Boulton hosting Health Minister Tim Nicholls at her Windsor practice to launch the FluMist nasal spray vaccine.

**Dr Brett Dale, AMA CEO  
and President Dr Nick Yim**

## Advocacy

### Private health insurance premiums

From today, Australians with private health insurance face average premium rises of 4.41%.

At a time of rising interest rates and fuel hitting unprecedented highs, it's another blow to the budgets of singles, couples and families.

Having a robust private health sector is necessary to ensure options for patients and opportunities for doctors.

If Australians continue to feel like they're not getting enough value for their insurance or experiencing frustration at out-of-pocket expenses or gaps in coverage, they may drop tiers or their cover altogether.

This puts more patients back into the public system and onto waiting lists.

AMA Queensland has long called for an independent private health authority to ensure accountability and transparency.

We've been actively urging Queenslanders to review their existing coverage to make sure they have the best deal and continuing to campaign for reform.

[Read more here](#)

## E-scooters, e-bikes and e-motorbikes

The Queensland parliamentary inquiry into e-mobility devices handed down its findings on 4 March.

One of its key recommendations was implementing age restrictions, making it illegal for children under 16 to ride e-scooters, e-bikes or e-motorcycles.

This is a sensible and responsible outcome.

The report highlighted that 12 Queenslanders died in e-mobility-related incidents in 2025, including

children, with more than 6300 people requiring treatment in emergency departments.

Tragically, most of these incidents were likely preventable, meaning the inquiry's recommendations to improve the use and regulation of these devices is much needed.

This will save lives.

[Read more here](#)



## Veterans' healthcare

AMA Queensland's advocacy on behalf of veterans and the doctors who treat them has been a fixture in the federal Senate in 2026. In early February, Tasmanian Senator Jacqui Lambie moved a motion to urgently improve health care for returned service men and women.

It follows our calls for the Department of Veterans' Affairs to increase rebates paid for medical services provided to Australians who face physical and mental health challenges after serving their country.

DVA rebates are currently less than what Australians receive under NDIS and Workcover arrangements, placing stress on both the deserving patients, and the doctors doing their best to provide complex care.

AMA Queensland has held meetings with Senator Lambie, NSW Senator David Shoebridge and Queensland Senator Paul Scarr to raise our concerns and get the voices of our members and their patients into a national discussion.

Last month, Senator Scarr and Senator Shoebridge both raised issues around treating doctors being sent letters by DVA about billing practices in Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee Additional Estimates hearings.

This is another great example of AMA Queensland's federal advocacy.

[Read more here](#)



## Free flu vaccinations

Immediate Past President Dr Maria Boulton welcomed Health Minister Tim Nicholls to her Brisbane clinic on Sunday 22 March to publicise the new FluMist vaccine available for young children.

This easy and effective nasal spray is TGA-approved for children up to 2 to 17 years' old as an alternative to needles. 2 to 5 year-olds can access it free under the Queensland government's free flu vaccination program.

Board member Professor Paul Griffin has also been visible in the media explaining concerns around the

"Super K" strain of the flu. This variant is covered by the 2026 vaccine, which makes it all the more important that everybody who can gets their flu shot this season.

AMA Queensland continues to support the government in its mission to get more Queenslanders to roll up their sleeves ahead of winter and reduce pressure on our emergency departments.

[Read more here](#)

## News

### AMA Queensland Education and Training Institute

Strong leadership is critical to the success and sustainability of modern medical practices. The AMA Queensland Education and Training Institute (RTO 45101) is proud to now offer a Diploma of Leadership and Management, designed specifically for healthcare environments where clinical excellence must be matched by effective people, business and operational leadership.

This nationally recognised qualification equips doctors and practice leaders with practical skills to lead teams, manage performance, navigate change and strengthen practice operations.

Normally \$4,500 - AMA Queensland members receive a discounted rate: \$3,600 (available for enrolments made by 15 April 2026).

[Read more here](#)

### Peptides

Responding to media questions about health trends is a routine part of our work, and a recent example is the rising popularity of peptide supplements. Peptides are the building blocks of proteins like collagen and elastin and may provide anti-inflammatory or muscle-building properties. But a lot of claims about peptides circulating online lack evidence, leading to misinformation and potentially risk-taking behaviour.

[Read more here](#)

### Celebrating National Doctors' Day

Australia's day to mark the contribution of doctors to individuals and communities was Monday 30 March. Our team put together a series of videos from members about what they love about the profession, and they're well worth a watch.

[Read more here](#)

While we're talking about great Queensland doctors, check out our Meet A Member profile on paediatric emergency specialist Dr Sarah Davidson. She not only saves human lives on the Sunshine Coast, but animal ones too, with her Engle End Farm home to alpacas, llamas, donkeys and more!

[Read more here](#)

### Annual Conference

AMA Queensland remains unique in our yearly offering of an incredible annual conference in a fantastic overseas destination.

In 2026 we're heading to Copenhagen for six days of expert talks, site visits, historical intrigue and plenty of smørrebrød.

Join us from 20-26 September in the remarkable Danish capital.

[Read more](#)



## Dinner for the Profession

Our black-tie gala will take place on Friday 5 June, with Blackbird Bar and Grill in Brisbane to transformed into breathtaking green for our "Enchanted Forest" theme.

Master of Ceremonies Dr Chadden Hunter will immerse guests in the wilds of nature, with stories and images from his 20 years' experience filming documentaries alongside the one and only Sir David Attenborough.

This gala will also honour AMA Queensland members who've contributed so much to our profession. We recommend registering for tickets or a table early to avoid missing out.

[Read more](#)



## Medical Careers Expo 2026

More than 600 people attended our Medical Careers Expo on Saturday 14 March, making it our biggest one yet. A big thank you to all the trade exhibitors, sponsors, speakers and attendees for creating a welcoming and inspirational environment.

Make sure you scroll through our big gallery of photos from the day.

[Read more](#)



Dr George Bogiatzis

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Suite 19, Level 2 Nucleus Medical Suites - 23 Elsa Wilson Drive, Buderim 4556





SUNSHINE COAST

# AMA QUEENSLAND ROADSHOW

Pier 33  
Friday, 29 May

BUILDING YOUR WEALTH

BUILDING YOUR BUSINESS



## BUILDING YOUR BUSINESS. BUILDING YOUR WEALTH. SHAPING THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE.

*Hosted by AMA Queensland President and GP Dr Nick Yim*

The AMA Queensland Roadshow is a CPD Home-accepted, professional development event delivering 5 CPD hours for GPs and non-GP specialists navigating the evolving landscape of private practice, workforce pressures, technology and long-term financial security. A certificate of attendance will be provided upon completion of the event.

Attend the morning session, afternoon session or both.

This roadshow brings together trusted advisers, industry leaders and medical peers to deliver practical insights that support clinical sustainability and personal prosperity.

### VENUE:

Pier 33, Sunshine Coast

### DATE AND TIME:

Friday 29 May | 10am – 3pm

### REGISTER:

Online or email [registrations@amaq.com.au](mailto:registrations@amaq.com.au)

### COST:

- ▶ Member – free (2 tickets per practice)
- ▶ Non-member – \$99
- ▶ Toolkit subscriber – free (2 tickets per practice)

[amaq.com.au/RoadshowSC](http://amaq.com.au/RoadshowSC)

Free  
MEMBER  
EVENT



## MEMBER Networking EVENT

SUNSHINE COAST

THURSDAY, 28 MAY | 6.30–9PM  
MAROOCHYDORE SURF  
LIFE SAVING CLUB



[amaq.com.au/MNESC26](http://amaq.com.au/MNESC26)

# Exploring more options for people with depression

## Discover the EMBRACE trial for Major Depressive Disorder (MDD)

The EMBRACE trial is exploring a different kind of investigational study drug to learn how effective it might be at reducing symptoms of MDD.

The investigational study drug will be combined with several psychological support sessions with a licensed therapist who has training in EMBARK, a psychological support model for MDD. You would also continue taking your current antidepressant drug.

It is hoped that the investigational study drug given with psychological support may help people reach deeper into their thoughts to promote healing and potentially treat MDD.

## Who can take part?

We are enrolling people aged 18 to 85 who:



Have been diagnosed with MDD and don't feel their current medication is treating their depression well enough



Have been taking a single antidepressant drug at a consistent dose for at least 4 weeks



Do not have any psychotic disorder, such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder

There are other requirements to join this study.

## Study commitments



About 4½ months



8 clinic appointments



8 video call appointments



9 psychological support sessions by video call or at the clinic



Website

[bamh.org.au](http://bamh.org.au)



Phone

07 5220 8793



Email

[admin@tbmh.org.au](mailto:admin@tbmh.org.au)

  
**Brain & Mind**  
Hub



# GP Liaison

Your hospital connection, together we can deliver better healthcare.

Dr Edwin Krays and Dr Michelle Johnston



## Bridging the Gap

Strengthening the connection between primary care and the hospital system remains our top priority. We know that seamless communication leads to better patient outcomes and safer care.

## The GPs with Special Interests (GPSI) Program: Expanding Expertise

Our GPSI program continues to thrive, providing a link between the community and tertiary care. We currently have **42 GPSIs** working across **22 specialties**, bringing a primary care lens to hospital departments and bringing new skills back to the community. Interested GPs are welcome to contact the GP liaison unit for more information.

**Email:** [schhs-gplo@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:schhs-gplo@health.qld.gov.au)

## Education & Networking

**Save the date for our "Hot Topics" GP education event on Sat May 16.**

Presented by the hospital specialty teams and GP liaison unit it is sure to be popular!

### GP Education- Antenatal Shared Care held 21 March 2026

Over 80 GPs from across the Sunshine Coast attended the recent Antenatal Shared Care GP Education event presented by the SCHHS O&G department and the GP Liaison unit.

**Key clinical updates included:**

- **Soft ultrasound markers** in obstetric care and selective scanning within the virtual early medical termination of pregnancy service.
- **Obstetric Medicine Updates: Gestational Diabetes (GDM)** and protocols for treating **nausea and vomiting** in pregnancy.
- **Preventative Care:** Updates on vaccinations to protect both mother and baby.
- Physio update on **DRAM (abdominal muscle separation)** and **pelvic floor dysfunction**, ensuring mothers have the support they need for a strong postpartum recovery.
- Introduction to **Sunshine Coast Dads Group** and the importance of supporting fathers in the journey of parenthood.

## Strengthening the Shared Care Network

Events like these reinforce the "Shared Care" model, bridging the gap between the Sunshine Coast Health Service and local GPs. By attending these events, Sunshine Coast GPs can provide seamless, high-quality antenatal care close to home and encourage continuity of care for families through the antenatal and postnatal periods.

Pictured (Far right): Megan Willis (Med Liaison Officer-Coastal Medical Imaging) & Dr Michelle Johnston (GP Liaison Officer)



Pictured (Right): Dr Melissa Yeoh -Staff Specialist O&G  
Kaylene Lottkowitz (CN Public Health) & Dr Michelle Johnston (GP Liaison Officer)

## More patients to benefit from robotic-assisted surgery at SCUH



A high-tech surgical robot, which has helped more than 100 Sunshine Coast Health patients get home and back on their feet faster, is now being used in more types of procedures.

The Da Vinci robot joined the surgical team at Sunshine Coast University Hospital a year ago and has mostly been used for urological surgeries, with patients reporting reduced pain and quick recoveries.

The surgical team is now expanding the robotics program to include general surgery and gynaecology.

SCUH General Surgeon Dr Josefin Petersson explained the key benefits of robotic-assisted surgery are reduced pain, less blood loss and significantly faster recovery than open or laparoscopic procedures.

"It optimises your precision in your surgery," Dr Josefin Petersson said.

"I get a 3D view that is really up close and I'm able to move and do really precision surgery in places I wouldn't be able to do previously, that have been too hard to get to from a keyhole, laparoscopic point of view," she said.

For patients, this means less time in hospital and getting back to their lives faster.

"For patients undergoing urology surgery, robotics has cut down their hospital stay from five nights to one night, while also helping them return to normal activities up to two months faster," Robotic Surgery Clinical Nurse Consultant Phil Hall said.

For hysterectomy patients, it reduces a ten-day hospital stay to just one night, while significantly reducing the amount of scarring.

"This is going to significantly change our patient's surgical experience here at SCUH," Phil said. During robotic-assisted surgery, the surgeon sits at a nearby console and controls the robot's instruments with their hands and feet while viewing a crystal-clear, magnified 3D image of the surgical site.

"It's a great tool to use when you're performing difficult surgery in narrow smaller spaces, where there's not much room – it enhances your view and you can do amazing things," Dr Petersson said.

**Sunshine Coast  
Health**



**Shane Mitchell**  
General Manager  
E: [shane.mitchell@uhealth.com.au](mailto:shane.mitchell@uhealth.com.au)  
P: 07 5430 3260

## Introducing our new VMPs



### **Dr Anna Sandstrom - Breast Surgeon**

Dr Anna Sandstrom is a specialist general surgeon with advanced training in breast surgery. She attained her Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (FRACS) in 2021 and then underwent formal training in breast surgery through the BreastSurgANZ accredited fellowship program, before relocating back to the Sunshine Coast. She offers a range of oncoplastic and reconstructive techniques in breast cancer surgery. Her interests include benign and malignant breast disease, oncoplastic techniques for breast cancer surgery, implant-based breast reconstruction, risk assessment for women with a high-risk family history, breast reduction for macromastia, breast implant integrity assessment and explantation surgery.

[View doctor profile](#)



### **Dr Lisa Harris - Obstetrician, Gynaecologist and Fertility Specialist**

Dr Lisa Harris is an experienced obstetrician, gynaecologist, and fertility specialist who brings warmth, energy, and a genuine passion for women's health to every patient.

She has a special interest in fertility care, adolescent gynaecology, minimally invasive gynaecological surgery, and comprehensive women's health, supporting women through pregnancy, childbirth, and beyond. A Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) and member of the Fertility Society of Australia & New Zealand (FSANZ), Dr Harris is the founder of Maiden Health, a dedicated women's health specialist clinic.

[View doctor profile](#)

## GP Education & Events

It was great to see many SCLMA Members and local GPs at our education event in March, featuring Dr Neil Wylie (General and Bariatric Surgeon) and Dr Steven Kypraios (Interventional and General Cardiologist).

**Don't miss our next event at 6pm Thursday 30 April to be held at Kingston House Impressions in Gympie.**

Out on a limb – arthritis care and the latest advances in robotic surgery, featuring orthopaedic surgeons Dr Navi Bali and Dr Mark Robinson, will provide an important update on joint and upper limb arthritis care, as well as advances in robotic joint replacement. More information [here](#)

## A high tea with heart

Tickets are now available for the Buderim Private Hospital Cindy Mackenzie Breast Cancer Program Mother's Day High Tea! Join us on Saturday 9 May at 9.30am at The Lakehouse Sunshine Coast for an unforgettable morning supporting those in our community affected by breast cancer. All funds raised will help support those living with breast cancer on the Sunshine Coast. Seats are limited, secure yours at [www.cindymackenzieprogram.com.au](http://www.cindymackenzieprogram.com.au)

# Dr Natalie Shaddock

Your partner in care



## ATHENA O&G

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## Hello I'm Dr Natalie Shaddock

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I'm committed to providing your patients with consistent, specialist-led obstetric care. Here's how...

### 24-Hour On-Call Availability

Dr Shaddock provides dedicated on-call care for her obstetric patients, with local availability to attend whenever required.

### Continuity of Care

Patients are reviewed by Dr Shaddock throughout pregnancy, birth and postnatal care, supporting familiarity and consistent clinical oversight.

### Time for Consultation

Longer consults as standard to allow discussion, questions, and shared decision-making, supporting patient understanding and reassurance.

### Women's Health & Fertility

Comprehensive care across obstetrics, gynaecology and fertility, supporting continuity beyond pregnancy.

### Accessible & Responsive

Timely appointments and clear communication, with correspondence via Medical Objects to support continuity.

### Advanced Imaging

Access to high-resolution ultrasound, with the latest GE 3D/4D USS equipment, supporting detailed assessment and patient engagement. Facilities for high definition early pregnancy dating USS, early anatomy, detailed morphology and 3rd trimester growth ultrasound.

### Designed for Shared Care

Strong focus on working with GPs to support ongoing patient management.

P (07) 5406 7030 F (07) 5406 7031

W [athenaog.com.au](http://athenaog.com.au)

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# PRIMARY HEALTH 2025 EDUCATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT RESULTS SUMMARY

Education is delivered by many organisations in many formats. CCQ sought feedback from local primary care professionals to pinpoint gaps, reduce duplication and tailor our education program to current regional need.



In 2025, **217 participants** across Central Queensland, Wide Bay and the Sunshine Coast shared what matters most to them through the *CCQ Primary Health Education Needs Assessment survey*.

Their feedback was clear.

The strongest education offer is clinical, practical and relevant to primary care, delivered close to home, with time to connect and learn from others.



This summary highlights who responded, what topics and formats they want, and where CCQ can improve visibility of opportunities, including scholarships and bursaries.



# TOP THREE



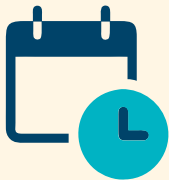
## Attendance drivers

- 1 Education topic
- 2 Proximity to home
- 3 Free vs cost



## Preferred formats all 'in-person'

- 1 Practical clinical workshop
- 2 Education seminar
- 3 Conference



## Preferred day/time\*

- 1 After work
- 2 Wednesdays
- 3 Thursdays

\*Low demand for full day events.

Respondents want to receive clear information on local services and referral pathways

Scholarships:

# 88%

were not aware of available scholarships or bursaries

ONLY

# 3%

had ever applied for an education scholarship or bursary

## CLINICAL SOCIETIES

CCQ's Clinical Societies is a flagship local education series that brings multidisciplinary health professionals together to learn, share and connect around priority issues in our region. A key goal of the 2025 education needs assessment survey was to understand how well Clinical Societies is meeting current workforce need and to identify practical improvements.

Awareness:

**60%** of respondents are aware of Clinical Societies, while...

**61%** cited lack of awareness as a barrier to attending

Key takeouts:\*



### Make it relevant

Topics need to be clearly aligned to primary care priorities and the purpose of the series.



### Maintain speaker quality

High-quality speakers and practical takeaways matter.



### Design for connection

Networking is a key reason people attend, so it needs to be intentional.

\*Some suggestions reflected uncertainty about the series purpose, highlighting a need for clearer positioning

# WHAT'S NEXT?

for CCQ primary health education and events

## Host and co-host more opportunities

Grow the range of local education across the year, alongside Clinical Societies.

## Keep quality high

Evidence-based, clinically current education with practical takeaways.

## Stay focused on what's important to local primary care

Clear general practice application and quality standards.

## Include tools that help in practice

HealthPathways, CCQ QI tools, local services and referral pathways.

## Expand expert input and partnerships

Continue featuring strong speakers and broaden partnerships with peak bodies, universities and HHS.

## Grow reach and participation

Promote education opportunities and financial support options through the events calendar and local networks.

To stay up to date on upcoming education and events, visit [c2coast.org.au/education](https://c2coast.org.au/education)  
[educationandworkforce@c2coast.org.au](mailto:educationandworkforce@c2coast.org.au) (07) 5456 8100

CCQ education activities are funded through the PHN Program and delivered in partnership with subject-matter experts from within and beyond our region. The PHN program is an Australian Government initiative.



## Student-centred learning for patient-centred care

The Griffith MD has a central focus on generalism, primary care, public health, rural and First Peoples health. We are inviting GPs to partner with us as GP Supervisors to impart their knowledge, inspire our students to choose general practice as their profession, and build workforce capacity in this critical area of need.

GP Supervisors can apply for Academic titles. Academic Titleholders are valued affiliate members of the University and enjoy access to the University's library and information technology facilities.

Visit: [griffith.edu.au/griffith-health/academic-titles](http://griffith.edu.au/griffith-health/academic-titles)

Additionally, most accredited general practices will be eligible for Teaching Practice Incentives Program through Services Australia.

Visit [servicesaustralia.gov.au/teaching-payment-for-practice-incentives-program](http://servicesaustralia.gov.au/teaching-payment-for-practice-incentives-program)

### Structure

1st and 2nd year students join a general practice team in a supported longitudinal program. 4th/final year students join a general practice team for a total of six weeks.

Students will also have opportunities for extended rural placements.

We value your expertise and ongoing support of medical education, a vital contribution to the maintenance and continuity of the medical workforce. We invite you to partner with us in training the next generation of health professionals.

### To become a GP Supervisor, contact:

#### **Associate Professor Bryan Palmer**

Associate Professor in Primary Care and Academic Lead in General Practice, Sunshine Coast  
School of Medicine and Dentistry  
[b.palmer@griffith.edu.au](mailto:b.palmer@griffith.edu.au)  
(07) 5202 0333

#### **Associate Professor Alyson Hee**

Associate Professor in Primary Care and Academic Lead in General Practice, Gold Coast  
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(07) 4638 7999





## **Train the next generation: become a GP Supervisor**

Griffith University's Doctor of Medicine equips the next generation of doctors to meet the high expectations for patient-centred care. We're committed to producing competent, compassionate graduates ready to make a successful transition to professional practice.

**Make it matter**

# 2026 OSCE EXAMINERS NEEDED!



**P: x20333**

**E: [sunshinecoastmed@griffith.edu.au](mailto:sunshinecoastmed@griffith.edu.au)**

We are seeking volunteer OSCE Examiners  
for:

**Year 4 OSCE: 10<sup>th</sup> Sep**

**Year 3 OSCE: 29<sup>th</sup> Oct**

**Year 2 OSCE – 5<sup>th</sup> Nov**

All to be held in SCHI.

## ***Eating shouldn't be stressful***

**Learn about a clinical trial for EoE.**

- 18 years or older
- Diagnosed with Eosinophilic Esophagitis
- Trouble swallowing or a tendency for choking

### ***Study Highlights:***

- Direct and compensated treatment
- No Cost to participate
- Voluntary & Confidential

**Phone 07 5408 0900**



# Research Corner

A clinical research study for people with obesity or overweight and type 2 diabetes.

GZLF is a clinical research study. It is testing if the investigational medicines (the medicines being studied) can safely help people with obesity or overweight, and type 2 diabetes reduce their body weight and manage their blood glucose (sugar) levels.

## Can I join this study?

Yes, you may be able to join the study if you:

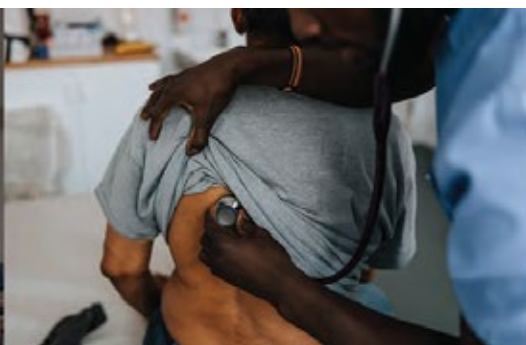
- are between 18 and 75 years of age
- have a BMI of 27 or higher
- have been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes for at least 6 months
- have received treatment with any of the following, alone or in combination, for at least 3 months:
  - diet and exercise
  - stable dose of metformin
  - SGLT2 inhibitor
- have had a stable body weight for the last 3 months

**Referrals can be made via medical objects to:** Dr Hans Selteneich at Coastal Digestive Health

BMI stands for body mass index. It is a measure that helps determine if someone has obesity or overweight. It can be used to check if a person is at risk for certain health conditions. If you do not know what your BMI is, you can ask your doctor.



CDH  
RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE





Cancer Care Noosa is the region's only comprehensive oncology centre and offers access to affordable cancer care services without a waitlist. Our multidisciplinary team of local oncology specialists offer personalised healthcare utilising advanced treatments and technologies, to ensure the best possible outcomes for patients.



**Dr. Debra Furniss**  
**Radiation Oncologist & Medical Director**

**Consults at: Noosa, Gympie, Buderim, Caboolture**

Clinical interests in breast, GI, bone, brain, spine, lung and skin cancers, haematological malignancies, palliative radiotherapy and treatment for benign conditions



**Dr Michelle Morris**  
**Medical Oncologist**

**Consults at: Noosa, Gympie, Birtinya**

Experienced in managing a wide range of solid tumour malignancies with clinical interests in breast cancer, melanoma, genealogical and urological malignancies



**Dr Harry Gasper**  
**Medical Oncologist**

**Consults at: Noosa, Birtinya**

Experienced in treating a broad range of malignancies with an interest in GI, lung, skin, prostate and brain cancer.



**Mr James Chapman**  
**Nurse Practitioner/Lymphoedema**

**Consults at: Noosa**

Accredited and experienced in the assessment of lymphoedema and lipoedema and offers affordable and patient centric treatment options

## Cancer Care Noosa provides:

- Radiation oncology
- Medical oncology
- Oncology pharmacy
- Clinical trials and research
- Pathology
- Local specialists you know and trust
- Lymphoedema nurse practitioner clinic
- Specialist consulting
- Easy access and 150 car parks
- Affordable cancer care



Cancer Care Noosa  
36-40 Hofmann Drive  
Noosaville QLD 4566



07 5293 7200



admin@cancercarenoosa.com.au





## Sunshine Coast Neurosurgery

### Specialist practice of Dr Stephen Byrne

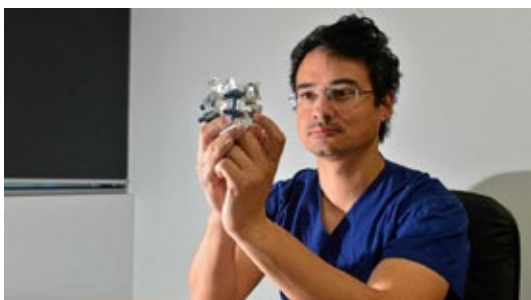
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Working on the Sunshine Coast since 2017, Dr Byrne MBChB, MRCSEd, FRACS underwent his neurosurgical training in Melbourne, Adelaide and New Zealand before gaining his Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

In fact, Stephen is the only fellowship-trained spine surgeon on the coast endorsed by both the Australian Orthopaedic Association and the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia.

At Sunshine Coast Neurosurgery all patients receive personalised care using the latest techniques to deliver world-class healthcare. We offer advice on surgical and non-surgical strategies of care.

Please feel free to call Sunshine Coast Neurosurgery to discuss any neurosurgical issue and we look forward to helping your patients along the road to recovery.



#### List of services

Sunshine Coast Neurosurgery use their extensive experience to treat many common conditions such as:

- Cervical and lumbar degenerative conditions
- Brain tumours
- Spine tumours
- Pituitary tumours
- Chiari malformations
- Radiofrequency Ablations

Plus they have a specialist interest in minimally invasive brain and spine surgery.

**P:** 07 5437 7256

**E:** [info@scneuro.com.au](mailto:info@scneuro.com.au)

**W:** [scneurosurgery.com.au](http://scneurosurgery.com.au)

Suite 104, Vitality Village,  
5 Discovery Court Birtinya Qld 4575





# Are you living with a cardiovascular condition?

If you are over 18 years of age and have been diagnosed with heart or vascular disease you may be eligible to take part in one of our research trials.

## Participants wanted

The VasoActive Research team at UniSC is currently recruiting people with Cardiovascular Disease, Peripheral Artery Disease, or other vascular diseases to participate in research trials. We have a number of current studies that are testing new rehabilitation, telehealth, and medical interventions.

## What is involved?

Interventions and treatments include:

- ✓ Supervised exercise programs
- ✓ Telehealth programs
- ✓ Medical interventions

Research studies typically involve assessments including:

- ✓ Walking tests
- ✓ Vascular function tests
- ✓ Health questionnaires

Participants will receive support to cover the costs of transport and parking for study visits.

University of the Sunshine Coast | CRICOS: 01595D | TEQSA PRV12082

## More information

To learn more or to find out whether you are eligible, please call or email a member of the VasoActive Research team:

Email: [vasoactive@usc.edu.au](mailto:vasoactive@usc.edu.au)

Tel: +617 5456 5364

Scan the QR code to register your interest



All research trials conducted by the VasoActive Research team have full ethical approval.



**Emily Ashley,**  
Physiotherapist at Team Rehab Solutions

## Preventing Falls in Older Adults: The Role of Multidisciplinary Community Allied Health

There are many risk factors and causes of falls, and often a combination of intrinsic, extrinsic and behavioural factors will be present. Because falls can have diverse and complex causes, assessment and intervention from a multidisciplinary team is essential for effective prevention.

The 2025 update of the Best Practice Guidelines for Community Care in Australia highlights the role of community allied health professionals in preventing falls among older adults.

Key recommendations supported by high-quality evidence include:

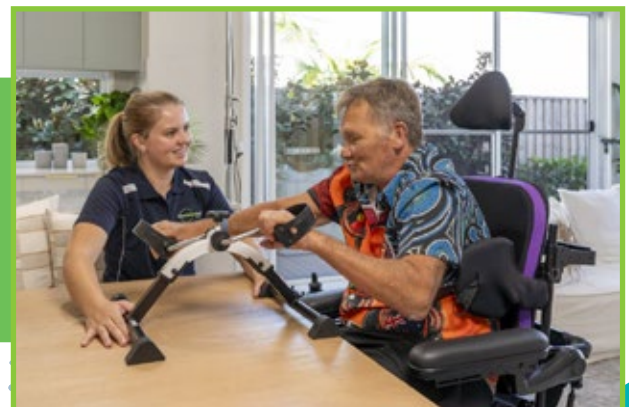
- **Exercise:** All older adults should undertake 2–3 hours of exercise per week, focusing on balance and mobility, with strength training included. Exercise should be guided by a health professional. A study by Sherrington et al. (2020) found that interventions with a dosage of 3+ hours per week, including balance and functional exercises, reduced the rate of falls by 42% compared with a control group.
- **Home safety assessments:** Older adults at increased risk of falls (one or more per year) should receive an occupational therapy assessment, with individualised home safety interventions delivered.
- **Foot care:** Older adults with foot problems or pain should have access to podiatry interventions.

Through interdisciplinary collaboration, our community-based allied health team delivers evidence-based interventions that address patients' risk factors. The ultimate goal is proactive falls prevention. Even older adults at low risk of falls (less than one per year) should engage in regular exercise and could benefit from a falls risk assessment, which helps identify the most appropriate members of our team to support them.

Our physiotherapists and exercise physiologists develop individualised exercise programs tailored to patients' risk factors and goals, while providing education to raise awareness, reduce fear of falling and enhance independence. Occupational therapists provide targeted interventions to improve in-home and community safety, such as reducing trip hazards and recommending assistive equipment. Dietitians support patients to maintain or improve muscle mass and energy intake, optimising physical capacity and combating frailty.

At Team Rehab Solutions, our mission is to raise the bar in community care. We are committed to providing patients with individualised, expert support. Our team includes physiotherapists, exercise physiologists, occupational therapists, dietitians, remedial massage therapists, speech pathologists, and podiatrists, all passionate about geriatric care and helping patients remain safely at home.

To refer or to discuss how our services can assist your patient, please contact our experienced team at Team Rehab Solutions on 1300 685 046 or visit [www.teamrehabolutions.com.au/referrers](http://www.teamrehabolutions.com.au/referrers)



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**Contact Us Today To Arrange In-Home Allied Health Support** →

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## SUNNY COAST ORTHOPAEDIC & FRACTURE CLINIC

### Dr Navi Bali Orthopaedic Surgeon - Sunshine Coast Hip, Knee, Foot & Ankle, Sports Injuries, Trauma

Dr Bali provides comprehensive orthopaedic and injury care on the Sunshine Coast, offering personalised treatment plans using both non operative and advanced surgical techniques.



Top 10 Qld Mako robotic volume '24 & '25  
Direct anterior 3D modelled hip replacement  
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Robotic partial knee replacement  
No Gap joint replacement programme

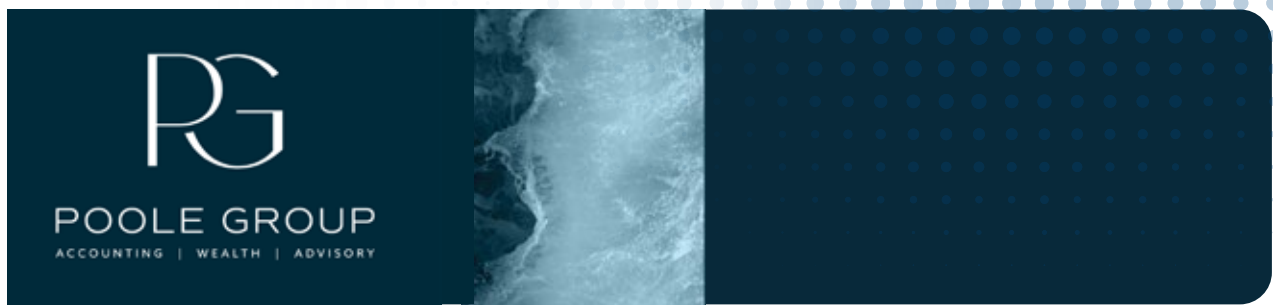
Knee and ankle arthroscopy  
Foot & ankle surgery  
Sports and ligament injuries  
Fracture management  
WorkCover cases



REFERRAL



WEBSITE



## Have you reviewed your service trust arrangements?

The Australian Taxation Office is reviewing informal service trust arrangements between related party entities, in particular where those arrangements involve common directors, to determine if those informal agreements constitute legally binding contracts, which create a liability for the payment of service fees.

The Full Court of the Federal Court of Australia handed down its decision in the recent appeal case of Commissioner of Taxation v S.N.A Group Pty Ltd [2026] FCAFC 10. This resulted in S.N.A Group Pty Ltd and related entities within the Coronis Real Estate Group losing millions of dollars in “service fees” claimed as income tax deductions for the financial years ending 30 June 2016 to 30 June 2019 (the relevant period), as its informal arrangements did not constitute legally binding contracts.

### Background

- S.N.A Group Pty Ltd operates a real estate management business – First respondent
- ATPR Pty Ltd operates a traditional real estate business – Second respondent
- CLAARS Pty Ltd as trustee for the Henry Trust, a unit trust, holds certain intellectual property
- P.A.C Realty Pty Ltd as trustee for the Emily Trust, a unit trust, is the owner of the rent roll

The assets used by the respondent taxpayers in conducting their businesses are owned by two trustee companies, which hold the assets in trust for the unitholders of the respective unit trusts. From 2005 to 2015, the taxpayers and trustees had written agreements requiring the taxpayers to pay the trustees’ fees, as specified in those agreements, for the use of the assets up to 8% of the value of the assets used by the taxpayers. In 2015, the written agreements expired; however, the

taxpayers continued to use the assets and paid certain ‘service fees’ to the trustees during the relevant period. The Full Court considered whether the primary judge was correct to conclude that the taxpayers had entered into inferred contracts with the trustees of the two trusts for the use of the assets upon payment of a fair and reasonable fee in each relevant year.

### Applicable principles of the law of contract

The Full Court emphasised that the principles of the law of contract are central to resolving the issues on appeal, especially the objective theory of contract. This involves examining how contract formation and terms are understood by reasonable persons in the parties’ position, rather than the parties’ subjective intentions. Additionally, a contract can be inferred from the conduct of the parties, whether or not words are used.

### Does the conduct infer that a contract exists?

The key consideration is whether the conduct of the respondents, when viewed in context, shows a tacit understanding or agreement. However, such conduct must be enough to prove all the essential elements of an express contract. The evidence must clearly show that both parties believed themselves to be bound by that agreement, even if the parties are companies with shared directors or a single common director. There must be an outward manifestation, through words or actions, that would objectively indicate to reasonable persons in the position of each company (as a legal entity) that there is mutual assent to a contract on specific terms.

### The Court Held

- The informal arrangements did not constitute legally binding contracts
- No objective communication of mutual assent by the taxpayers and trustees
- No direct evidence of outward manifestations or communications between common directors about payment for the use of trust assets
- No consistent evidence or conduct regarding the return of up to 8% of their value for the use of the assets
- Conduct was not consistent with a liability to pay a fair and reasonable fee up to an 8% return
- No coherent or consistent pattern with respect to the payments the taxpayers made in each relevant year
- The mere fact that the payments were made and that these were within the range of an arm's length fee for use of assets was also not sufficient evidence from which to infer the existence of a contract
- Reasonable people in the position of the abovenamed entities would not conclude that the taxpayers were subject to a liability, contractual in nature, to pay a service fee in each relevant year

If you require accounting, wealth and advisory assistance, please contact our experienced accountants and advisors at Poole Group on 07 5437 9900 or [poole@poolegroup.com.au](mailto:poole@poolegroup.com.au)

## 6B/5 Innovation Parkway, Birtinya | Medical Suite 162m Modern Medical Suite for Lease

Position your practice in the heart of the Sunshine Coast health precinct.  
Ground floor suite with a quality, ready-to-use fit-out.

### Features

- 3 consulting rooms, treatment room
- Reception and waiting area
- Staff office, kitchen, amenities storeroom

### Location

- Onsite Lake Kawana Hospital
- Near SCU Public & Private Hospitals

### Parking

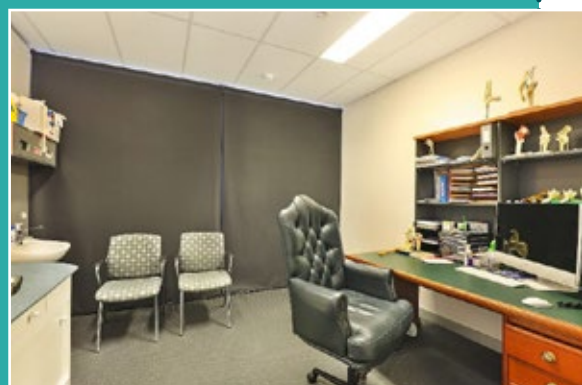
- Ample visitor parking
- 4 staff spaces

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### Contact

**Dr Janette Ritchie** M 0400 593 007  
E [janetteritchie@inet.net.au](mailto:janetteritchie@inet.net.au)

**Dr Lindy Waugh** M 0429 060 406  
E [lindynwaugh@gmail.com](mailto:lindynwaugh@gmail.com)



# An alternative treatment for osteoarthritis

- ✗ No surgery or hospital stays
- ✓ Typically 6 treatments\* over 2-3 weeks
- ✓ Around 80-90%+ of the cost is covered by Medicare



## Could Low-Dose Radiation Therapy (LDRT) help your osteoarthritis patients?

As health care professionals, you often see patients living with chronic osteoarthritis (OA) pain who are no longer experiencing pain relief from conservative therapy, but for whom surgery is not yet indicated.<sup>1</sup> Low-dose radiotherapy (LDRT) has emerged as a non-invasive alternative for pain relief and functional improvement, particularly in patients unresponsive to conservative measures.<sup>1</sup>

LDRT uses carefully controlled, low doses of radiation to help reduce inflammation in affected joints. It has been used in Europe for decades and is now emerging as a treatment option in Australia for selected patients with osteoarthritis.<sup>1</sup>

### What can your patients expect?

- Symptom relief: Some patients may experience a reduction in pain and improved mobility following treatment<sup>2-4</sup>
- Minimal acute side-effects: LDRT has been shown to have very minimal acute side effects<sup>1-4</sup>

### Patient suitability

- Age  $\geq 50$  years
- Confirmed diagnosis of osteoarthritis (Kellgren-Laurence (KL) scores 1-3)
- Upper and lower limbs
- Failure of conservative therapy  $\geq 3/12$
- Contraindications: pregnancy, rheumatoid arthritis, active connective tissue disease

### Treatment

A treatment course is typically six sessions over 2-3 weeks. Depending on outcomes, patients may require a second or third course of treatment.

Osteoarthritis affects around 8.3% of the Australian population<sup>5</sup>



**Dr Bradley Wong**  
MBBS, FRANZCR  
Radiation Oncologist



**Dr Sophie Ly**  
MBBS, FRANZCR  
Radiation Oncologist



**GenesisCare, Buderim**  
10 King Street  
Buderim QLD 4556  
Tel: (07) 5374 8100

**GenesisCare, Noosa**  
Noosa Medical and Professional Centre  
90 Goodchap Street, Noosaville, QLD 4566  
Tel: (07) 5377 2200



**Disclaimer:** \*Evidence suggests that some patients may need a second or third course. †Depending on the individual's position within Medicare Safety Nets for Medicare eligible patients.

**References:** 1. Hoveidaei A, et al. *Cur Thera Res.* 2025;102: 100777. 2. Fazilat-Panah D, et al. *Int J Radiat Biol.* 2025;101(5):541-548. 3. Makarova M.V, et al. *Rheumatol.* 2023;3(4):7. 4. Koneru B.N, et al. *Int J Rad Onco Biol Phys.* 2025;123(2):352-360. 5. Australian Government. *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare: Chronic musculoskeletal conditions: Osteoarthritis.* Available from: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/chronic-musculoskeletal-conditions/osteoarthritis> (accessed October 2025).

# Sunshine Coast's First Dedicated Cancer Care Clinic — Experienced Care Since 1998



Compassionate cancer care delivered by trusted local doctors

## Our centre is home to:

- Highly experienced team of Medical Oncologists & Clinical Haematologists
- Day infusion unit offering the latest cutting edge treatments (including chemotherapy, immunotherapy, targeted therapy, blood products, infusions and venesections)
- Accepting both private and self-insured patients
- Cold cap therapy to prevent/minimise hair loss caused by certain chemotherapy treatments
- Specialised Allied Health team
- McGrath Breast Care Nurse
- Partnering with University of the Sunshine Coast to offer international clinical trials.



## Our Team



**Dr Hong Shue**  
Medical Oncologist  
MBBS (Monash), FRACP



**Dr Brenton Seidl**  
Medical Oncologist  
MBBS, BSc, FRACP



**Dr Sorab Shavaksha**  
Clinical Haematologist  
MBChB (Leeds), FRACP,  
FRCPA (2013)



**Dr Joshua Richmond**  
Clinical Haematologist  
MBBS(Hons), FRACGP,  
FRACP, FRCPA



**Dr Alice Livings**  
Clinical Haematologist  
BSc(Hons), MBBS(Hons),  
FRACP, FRCPA



**Dr Katie Trusewicz**  
Psychologist  
B.A. (Psych.), Postgrad. Dip. App.  
Psych., D. Hlth Psych., MAAPi



**Samantha Clutton**  
Clinical Psychologist  
MPsychClin, FCCLP



**Sarah Bloomfield**  
Dietitian & Nutritionist  
APD, APN



**Jesse Goldfinch**  
Exercise Physiologist  
BClinExSc, ESSAM, AEP



**Tania Shaw**  
Massage Therapist  
DipRM, CLT, OMT



GP/Specialist Priority Line:  
**07 3054 0758**

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Dr Daevyd Rodda  
Orthopaedic Surgeon

Dr. Daevyd Rodda is a highly experienced and innovative hip and knee replacement surgeon based on the Sunshine Coast. He leads a specialised, multi-disciplinary team and regularly trains Australian and International surgeons in advanced techniques including:

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- Patient specific and Robotic knee replacement
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Helping the Sunshine Coast

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# SCLMA Newsletter Advertising Kit 2026

- **Full page ad:** \$500 + GST  
210mm x 297mm
- **Half page ad:** \$400 + GST  
210mm x 148mm
- **Quarter page ad:** \$200 + GST  
30mm x 95mm
- **Business card ad:** \$100 + GST  
90mm x 57mm
- **Advertorials:** \$400 + GST

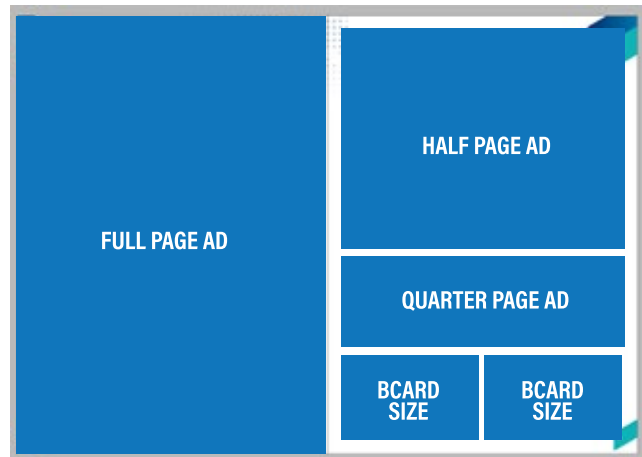
## Please note the following discounts:

- 3 months - 10% discount
- 6 months - 17% discount
- 2 months - 30% discount

\* Full payment is required prior, to be eligible for offer

## CLASSIFIEDS

- All classifieds are subject to the Editor's discretion.
- No charge to current SCLMA members.
- Non-members: \$100.
- Word count no more than 120 words.
- The Sunshine Coast Local Medical Association's Newsletter is a monthly publication.
- All newsletters are uploaded to our website: [sclma.com.au](http://sclma.com.au) and our Facebook page, both attracting strong traffic.



- The newsletter has a printed and electronic distribution to over 1,500 recipients in Sunshine Coast and areas of Qld and NSW, including specialists, GPs, hospital and retired doctors, doctors in training, allied health workers, practice managers, local councillors and politicians.
- The newsletter size varies between 20 and 40 pages. The cut-off date for advertisements and advertorials is the 1st of the month for that month's newsletter. The newsletter is distributed on the last week of each month.
- All content has to be approved by the Newsletter Editor.
- Please note that advertising guidelines apply. These are published in each newsletter.
- Contact: Lee-Anne Williams  
[admin@sclma.com.au](mailto:admin@sclma.com.au)

Pulse Oceanside 604 , furnished three consulting rooms with kitchenette, reception desk and waiting area is available for short term and long term lease . Suitable for private practicing doctor working at SCUH or SCUPH. Two car parking on site available .

**Contact: 0419953466 .**

**Email [Deepikabhat2003@yahoo.com](mailto:Deepikabhat2003@yahoo.com)**



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- While SCLMA will do all possible to ensure advertising material is reproduced as intended, the responsibility is firmly with the client / advertiser to supply advertising material according to our specifications.

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## **SCLMA Advertising Guidelines**

To comply with Section 133 of the National Law and guidelines, advertising of services must not:

- Paragraph (a) "Create or be likely to create unwarranted and unrealistic expectations about the effectiveness of the health services advertised"
- Paragraph (f) "Claim that the services provided by a particular regulated health profession are better, as safe as or safer than others"
- Paragraph (o) "Contain any claim, statement or implication that a practitioner provides superior services to those provided by other registered health practitioners"

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### **PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

The anti discrimination commission of Queensland has the following statement on job advertising:

*Discriminatory advertising is against the law. Job advertisements need to give the impression that all suitable applicants are welcome to apply.*

*References to sex, relationship status, age, race, religion etc should be avoided, as should the use of words that may indicate a preference for particular groups or may discourage others from applying, e. g. foreman, tradesman, glamorous, well-built, mature, youthful, office girl etc.*

*Publishers can be fined and be the subject of a complaint to the Commission for publishing discriminatory advertisements that show an intention to contravene the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991. Discriminatory advertisements will therefore often be refused or modified by publishers in order to avoid legal liability.*

**Photos:** Clinical Meeting with Dr Navi Bali and Dr Bob Edwards, 26 March 2026



Dr Navil Bali



Dr Bob Edwards



## NEXT SCLMA CLINICAL MEETING

**Thursday 30th April 2026**

**Venue:** Maroochydore Surf Club Function Room

**Address:** 34-36 Alexandra Parade, Maroochydore QLD 4558



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Sunshine Coast  
**ORTHOPAEDIC CARE**

## May 2026 NEWSLETTER

Content deadline:  
Monday 4 May 2026

- Our circulation reaches more than 1,500 recipients!
- We welcome new content - case studies, local news and photos.
- Would you like to comment or suggest articles to be published?
- What would you like to see in the newsletter?
- If you are a new member, please send in a short bio and a photo to introduce yourself.
- Newsletters are posted to our website

### Are you a member?

- If you are not a member please complete the application form available on the website:
- You will need two proposers to sign your application form. If this is a problem, come along to a monthly clinical meeting to introduce yourself.

### Are you listed on the Member Directory on our website?

- Are your details correct?
- Directory form available on the website

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**LOCAL MEDICAL  
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