



NSW REGIONAL CANCER
RESEARCH NETWORK

Network Update

AT A GLANCE:

- Professor Tracey O'Brien recognised at the NSW Women of the Year Awards
- Upcoming statewide seminar on AI in cancer care and research
- Publication success from an NSWRCRN PhD student
- Abstract call for the 18th National Rural Health Conference
- Webinars and sector opportunities for researchers and clinicians
- Applications open for the Rural Research Capacity Building Program

Professor Tracey O'Brien Named NSW Premier's Woman of Excellence

The NSW Regional Cancer Research Network congratulates **Professor Tracey O'Brien** on being named **NSW Premier's Woman of Excellence** at the NSW Women of the Year Awards.

Professor O'Brien, Chief Executive of the Cancer Institute NSW and Chief Cancer Officer for NSW, has been at the forefront of cancer care, research and advocacy in Australia and internationally for more than 25 years. This prestigious recognition reflects her outstanding leadership and enduring contribution to improving outcomes for people affected by cancer.

The NSW Regional Cancer Research Network warmly congratulates Professor O'Brien, along with all award winners and finalists.

[👉 Read more here](#)

NSW Cancer Research Education

Statewide Seminar Series - 2026

AI Applications in Cancer Care and Research

Sydney Cancer Partners, in collaboration with Maridulu Budyari Gumal (SPHERE) Cancer CAG NSW and the NSW Regional Cancer Research Network, is delivering the 2026 NSW Cancer Research Education Statewide Seminar Series. These online seminars are held on the third Tuesday of each month.

The next seminar will be held on **Tuesday 17 March 2026**, 12.30 –1.30pm via [Microsoft Teams](#).

Session Information:

This session will provide insights on how the field of artificial intelligence (AI) is being used in different cancer contexts. A brief introduction on AI in cancer care will be followed by presentations from the research and health services perspectives. Dr Waddington will highlight the challenges of building and robustly deploying AI in a radiation therapy environment. Mr Warner-Smith will discuss the work undertaken by the Cancer Institute NSW to evaluate and subsequently implement AI for mammography screening in BreastScreen NSW. The presentations will be followed by a Q&A time.

Speakers:

- Prof Nehmat Houssami, Professor of Public Health, Professor of Public Health and NHMRC Leadership Fellow at the University of Sydney.
- Dr David Waddington, NHMRC Emerging Leadership Fellow, Image X Institute, University of Sydney.
- Mr Matthew Warner-Smith, Manager, Business Intelligence & Information Systems, Screening and Prevention Division, Cancer Institute NSW.

[👉 For more information and to register](#)

NSWRCRN PhD Student Publishes Scoping Review



Congratulations to NSW Regional Cancer Research Network PhD student **James Brown-Miles** on the publication of his scoping review, *“Exploring the Role of Advanced MRI in Understanding Glioblastoma Biology”*, published in the journal **Cancers** as part of the Special Issue *Clinical Applications of Advanced MRI Technologies for Cancers*.

The review examines how advanced MRI techniques can provide deeper insights into glioblastoma biology, supporting improved tumour characterisation and potentially informing more precise diagnosis and treatment strategies.

[👉 Read the full article](#)

NOW OPEN: 2026 Rural Research Capacity Building Program

Applications are now open for the **2026 Rural Research Capacity Building Program (RRCBP)**, delivered by the **NSW Health Education and Training Institute**.

The program aims to build research capability across rural NSW and supports health staff with limited research experience to develop and undertake workplace-based research projects.

Open to eligible staff working in participating rural and regional NSW Health Local Health Districts and services, the two-year experiential program includes training, mentoring and dedicated research time.



Applications close **Friday 1 May 2026**.

👉 [Further details and the application form](#)

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS | 18th National Rural Health Conference | **Closes 19 March**



18th National Rural Health Conference

14 –16 September 2026

Adelaide Convention Centre

Researchers and health professionals interested in presenting at the conference are invited to submit an abstract. The National Rural Health Conference is a major Australian event focused on rural and remote health and wellbeing.

The 2026 theme is **“Equity & Transformation: Shaping rural health, disability & ageing.”**
Abstract submissions close **Thursday 19 March 2026**.

👉 [For a copy of the guidelines or to submit](#)

EMCR WEBINAR | Supporting Women Researchers

Researchers may be interested in the upcoming webinar **“How I Got Here: Career Stories from EMCRs,”** which features researchers sharing experiences from different career stages.

Speakers will discuss career transitions, funding pathways, collaboration experiences and lessons learned along the way.



Speakers:

- Dr Zoe Szewczyk: Health Economics Lead, Sydney Health Partners Implementation Science Academy; Conjoint Research Fellow, Western Sydney LHD; health economic evaluation in population and health services interventions
- Dr Brooke Nickel: NHMRC Emerging Leader Research Fellow, The University of Sydney; healthcare communication in cancer, women’s health and social media
- A/Prof Tess Reynolds: NHMRC Emerging Leadership & Robinson Fellow; Deputy Director of the Image X Institute, The University of Sydney; biomedical imaging

This online session will be held on:

Thursday 26 March 2026
1.00pm (AEDT)

👉 [To register](#)

WEBINAR | eviQ

Cancer clinicians and health professionals may be interested in an upcoming webinar introducing **eviQ**, an online resource supporting evidence-based cancer care.

Three virtual information sessions will be held during **2026**, providing an opportunity to hear directly from the eviQ team and learn how the platform can support clinical practice.

The first session will be held on:

Tuesday 31 March 2026
2:00–2:30 pm (AEDT)

 [Register for the first session here](#)

CONNECT WITH US:



We acknowledge the many Traditional Custodians of Country throughout regional, rural and remote NSW and honour their Elders, families and descendants, past and present. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs, and deep and continuing relationship with the land and waterways. We acknowledge that they are the proud survivors of more than two hundred years of dispossession.

The NSW Regional Cancer Research Network is funded by the [Cancer Institute NSW](#) through a [Translational Cancer Research Capacity Building Grant](#) and established through [NSW Regional Health Partners](#).