BRIGHT MINDS, BOLD MOVES
EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND WORKFORCE IN CRITICAL CARE

ACCCN ANNUAL EDUCATION MEETING
26-27 MARCH 2026
VOCO BRISBANE

Free Paper Abstract Submission Information

General Information

The Australian College of Critical Care Nurses encourages experienced, new talent and first-time presenters to submit an abstract at next year's Annual Education Meeting (AEM).

The theme of the AEM 2026 is "Bright Minds: Bold Moves: Education, Research and Workforce in Critical Care". We invite critical care nurses, educators, managers, or teams to consider the theme and to share their innovations in critical care education, research, workforce or clinical practice:

- **Education -** Inspire us with new educational programs or learning approaches that you have implemented in your workplace
- **Research -** Present insights gained from your critical care postgraduate or higher degree by research project
- **Workforce -** Showcase workforce initiatives and ideas that have helped shape your team & their practice (e.g. new staffing models or wellbeing initiatives)
- **Clinical Practice -** Share quality improvement initiatives which have positively impacted patient outcomes and/or nursing practice in your unit.

All abstract submissions must be completed by 1159 hours AEST, Friday 10 October 2025 to be considered for review.

Points to consider when submitting your abstract:

- Will the information provided in your presentation be generalisable to other critical care units?
- Is the project in line with best practice principles (where applicable)?
- Have appropriate permissions been sought and granted? E.g. ethics approval where relevant.
- How do you know the innovation or project has made a difference?
- What can conference attendees learn from your presentation?
- How can conference attendees apply what they have learned in their own units?
- How have you addressed any safety concerns in your project?
- Has the project, or any aspect of the project, been presented or published elsewhere? If so, please see Declaration of Consent to view the terms of submission.
- Are there any conflicts of interest?

Ensure your abstract 'sells your idea'. Persuade us that telling the story of your project is worthy of a 15-20 minute oral presentation at the 2026 AEM.

Abstract Submission Guidelines

- The abstract must be submitted online using the submission portal by 1159 hours AEST, Friday 10 October 2025. Late submissions or submissions via any other mode will not be accepted.
- All details must be completed (online form). *Online form to include:*
  - *First Author's name, title, qualifications, employer and affiliations*
  - *Co-Author names, titles, qualifications, employer and affiliations*
- The first author will be the corresponding author who will receive all correspondence from the College.
- The first author, and any potential substitute presenting co-authors, must be members of ACCCN.
- Indicate whether you would agree to have your presentation moved to an invited speaker timeslot if nominated (Note: you would then not be eligible for any award).
- Indicate which category the submission is against (education, research, workforce, or clinical practice) ensuring its relevance to the theme of the conference.
- Authors of submissions with sufficient merit that do not adhere to the specifications outlined below will be given feedback and a further opportunity to revise their submission within a given timeframe. If the revised abstract does not meet publication standards or is not received by the specified date, it will be declined.
- All authors must agree to the Declaration of Consent.

Abstract specifications

The abstract must be structured and clearly articulate your idea/findings in a logical and concise manner, as well as falling into one or more of the four categories: Education, Research, Workforce and Clinical Practice. Please note the following:

Abstract title:	Limit of 25 words
Abstract text:	Limit of 300 words with ideas succinctly and clearly presented
Background:	Reason for the innovation or study
Aim:	Detail the specific aim and objectives of the innovation/study
Methods:	Describe the methods used
Results:	Outline the outcome or impact including any associated changes in practice
Conclusions:	Identify the implications for practice

- The content of the abstract must plainly reflect/link to the title.
- The abstract must be submitted as a Word document and be text only – no images, graphs or photos will be accepted.
- No abbreviations are to be used.
- All abstracts must be submitted in English language.

Declaration of consent

To submit your abstract, the author must agree to the following terms and conditions:

- As the primary author I agree that I will register for ACCCN's Annual Education Meeting 2026 and pay for the registration fee. It is understood that I must pay my own travel and accommodation costs.
- I confirm that the contact details provided are that of the corresponding author. I agree to be the contact for the conference organisers to distribute presentation information and confirmation.
- I confirm that I and any substitute author/presenters, are current financial members of ACCCN.
- Co-authors and I consent to publication of the abstract (e.g. on the program, website and other conference promotional materials).
- I agree that publication of the abstract does not infringe any copyright, intellectual property or third-party rights.
- I agree to supply a profile picture and short biography (maximum 100 words) for use by conference organisers and session chair if my abstract is accepted to present.
- It is understood that if my abstract is chosen for an oral presentation the time of the presentation will be allocated within the program at the discretion of the conference organising committee.
- Should I be unable to present due to unforeseen circumstances, I may nominate another abstract author to present in my place. The substitute presenter must also agree to the abstract presentation terms and conditions and sign a declaration of consent.
- Requests for more than one author to present will be considered on a case-by-case basis following acceptance of an oral presentation offer. Any decision on co-presenting is at the discretion of the AEM Organising Committee.
- The conference organisers reserve the right to remove any reference to or publication of an abstract if these terms are not met.

Successful Abstracts

Selection Process and Notification

- All submitted abstracts will be blind peer-reviewed by the AEM Free Paper Abstract Review committee.
- Abstracts will be reviewed according to their relevance to the conference theme and category criteria.
- Notification of outcome is anticipated to occur via email by the end of November 2025.

Review Committee Guidelines

Evaluation criteria and weightings have been developed in a point system for each criterion so there is a fair selection process.