

Call for abstracts

Abstracts for conference papers and posters are invited from:

- IHM Bachelor of Social Work students
- Social work students and academics from other universities
- IHM faculty and research team
- Industry practitioners and agency leaders

Submission formats

- Oral presentation — 15 minutes plus 5 for questions
- Poster — displayed both days, staffed session

Submit an abstract for either format. Abstracts are reviewed by the Scientific Committee, and selected authors are invited to present.

What is a poster?

A poster is a single printed display of your work — prepared on computer and printed for display — setting out your research, practice initiative or project on one page. Posters are displayed across both days with a staffed session and require an abstract in the same way as an oral presentation. They suit work in progress and are the most accessible starting point for a first presentation.

Publication

A conference proceeding will be published after the conference. Publication is optional.

Guidelines

Abstract guidelines, word limits and the submission link will be circulated when the call opens on Monday 14 September 2026. Contact the Scientific Committee Coordinator for early enquiries.

Save the date

16 and 17 November 2026

The call for abstracts opens Monday 14 September 2026. Register your interest now to receive it directly.

Key dates

Call for abstracts opens	Mon 14 Sep 2026
Abstracts close	Fri 9 Oct 2026
Notification of acceptance	Fri 16 Oct 2026
Presenter registration closes	Fri 23 Oct 2026
Program published	Fri 30 Oct 2026
Early-bird registration closes	Fri 6 Nov 2026
Conference	16–17 Nov 2026

Enquiries and expressions of interest

Conference Convenor

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About the organiser

The Institute of Health & Management (IHM Australia) is an Australian higher education provider registered with the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (PRV14040, CRICOS 03407G). The conference is convened by IHM's School of Social Work.

IHM acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we meet and pays respect to Elders past and present.

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MELBOURNE • 16–17 NOVEMBER 2026

IHM Inaugural Social Work Conference 2026

Social Work: Connecting Education, Practice and Innovation

Innovation • Practice • Education • Research

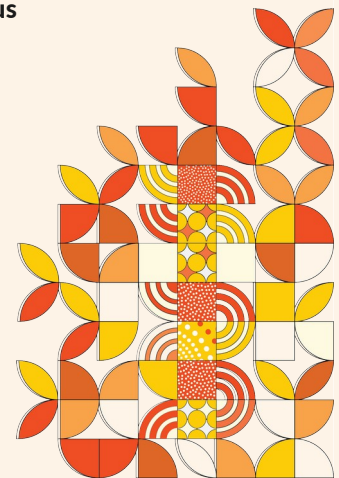
DATES

Monday 16 – Tuesday 17 November 2026

VENUE

IHM North Melbourne Campus

Two days of keynotes, plenary sessions, parallel sessions and posters.



Organised by IHM Australia

Abstracts open 14 September 2026

About the conference

Social work in an emerging world. The conference brings together practitioners, educators, researchers, students and people with lived experience of services to examine how social work is changing, and what must not change.

Across two days on the IHM North Melbourne Campus, the program spans practice, education, research and innovation — with deliberate space for students and early-career practitioners.

What to expect

- A keynote address on each day
- Skills-based plenary sessions
- Parallel sessions across ten practice and research streams
- Posters displayed across both days, with staffed sessions
- Question and answer sessions
- Conference proceedings published after the event

Who should attend

Practitioners, team leaders and managers · field educators and supervisors · academics and researchers · social work students · agency and industry leaders · Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners and organisations · people with lived experience · IHM faculty, research team, leadership and Board.

Why present

- Peer review by two reviewers, with written feedback
- Presentation to an audience of practitioners, educators and students
- Optional inclusion in the conference proceedings
- Direct contact with agencies, employers and placement providers

Day 1 — Monday 16 November

Program at a glance — subject to confirmation

08:30	Registration and arrival coffee; poster display opens
09:15	Welcome to Country; official opening
09:45	Keynote address 1
10:45	Morning tea and poster viewing
11:15	Plenary session 1
12:45	Lunch; poster session
13:45	Parallel sessions A to E
15:15	Afternoon tea
15:45	Question and answer session
16:15	Close of Day 1
16:30	Networking reception

Registration

IHM students and staff attend complimentary. A registration fee applies to all other participants and will be announced with the program. Early-bird rates close Friday 6 November 2026.

Partner with us

Sponsorship and exhibition opportunities are available. Contact the organising committee to discuss.

Access and inclusion

Certificates of attendance issued to all delegates. Step-free access, a quiet room, and dietary requirements catered as standard. Tell us your access requirements when you register.

Day 2 — Tuesday 17 November

09:00	Arrival coffee
09:15	Keynote address 2
10:15	Morning tea and poster viewing
10:45	Plenary session 2
12:15	Lunch; poster session
13:15	Parallel sessions F to J
14:45	Afternoon tea
15:15	Question and answer session
15:45	Closing plenary
16:15	Conference closes

Parallel session streams

A	Mental health and wellbeing
B	Family, domestic and sexual violence
C	Disability, access and the NDIS
D	Cultural diversity, migration and settlement
E	First Nations self-determination and cultural safety
F	Evidence for practice: research and translation
G	Professional identity, supervision and field education
H	Technology, AI and documentation in social work practice
I	Ethics in practice
J	International students and social work education

Sessions A to E run on Day 1 and F to J on Day 2. Streams are allocated according to the abstracts received.

Venue

IHM North Melbourne Campus

Full venue, transport and parking details will be circulated with the program on Friday 30 October 2026.