

Caring for Country Kids

Abstract Guidelines for General Presentations and Posters

Children's Healthcare Australasia (CHA) and the National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) are joining forces to jointly host a conference on quality healthcare for children and young people living in rural, regional and remote communities across Australia. If you would like to be on the program for the *Caring for Country Kids* Conference, providing an abstract is the first step.

Authors may submit abstracts for more than one presentation. Assistance with the presentation of an abstract is available, particularly to first-time presenters.

Presentation options

General presentations: Allocated in 20 minute time slots on the Conference program.

Poster presentations: Poster size is A0 / Portrait.

Author(s) should be available during poster sessions to discuss the poster's content with delegates at the Conference.

The list of **potential topics** and **abstract categories** are provided to illustrate the breadth of interest of the Conference and some of the current priority areas that abstracts might cover. Abstract **topics** and **categories** will be considered by the Abstract Review Committee when ranking abstracts.

Potential topics

The Alice Springs Conference will focus on:

- placing children and their families at the centre of care
- keeping rural and remote kids healthy
- enhancing the patient journey from primary through secondary to tertiary care – and back again
- improving access to the right care, in the right place, at the right time
- building the capacity of rural, regional and remote health workforce teams to care for children locally
- improving healthcare outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people

- caring for kids from rural and remote areas who have chronic and/or complex health needs
- providing emergency care to rural and remote kids
- mental health care for children in rural and remote communities
- care of rural and remote children and adolescents with traumatic physical or mental injury

Abstract categories

Abstracts are sought in the following categories:

Research	Research reports, using quantitative and/or qualitative methods that contributes to the evidence base on best practice paediatric care.
Service review	Practical reports of projects on the ground and models of successful service delivery.
Policy	Analysis of public policies, including but not necessarily exclusively in the health sector, that impact on children's health in rural and remote areas.
Arts	Arts and health activities that relate to the wellbeing of kids in a rural and remote area.

Abstract selection criteria

The criteria used by the Abstract Review Committee will be as follows:

Conference theme and topics: it will offer something significant or unique relating to one or more of the Conference themes.

Current and relevant: the presentation will have an emphasis on and/or relevance to current health issues relating to country children.

Analytical: the presentation will provide more than a description of a program or service; it will draw out insights, what was learned, recommend new policies and/or actions.

New knowledge: it will provide new ideas or develop further what we already know or have shared previously (ie it is new news, not old).

Broadening health: it may promote understanding of the range of factors and disciplines that impact on the health and wellbeing of rural and remote children.

Quality: it is of high quality scientifically and/or in other ways.

Multidisciplinary: abstracts written from a health consumer standpoint, or with a multidisciplinary focus will be particularly welcome.

Program allocation

The Conference provides the opportunity for 20 minute presentations in concurrent sessions as well as poster presentations. All submissions will be reviewed by an Abstract Review Committee. Abstracts will be selected to provide a program that offers a comprehensive and diverse focus on issues relating to the Conference topics.

Guided by the views of the expert panel, the Conference Program Committee will then determine the number of concurrent sessions, the mix of presentations and posters, and the themes to be covered. All speakers are required to produce a one-page written summary of their presentation for inclusion in the Conference Proceedings.

Following a blind review process by the Abstract Review Committee, authors will be contacted about the status of their abstract. The Program Committee will then manage the placement of successful abstracts on the program.

Format of abstracts

An abstract should summarise the important points of the proposed presentation and highlight the content to be communicated. It needs to be concise yet informative, and contain an outline of the aims, methods, relevance, results and conclusions of the work undertaken.

- Abstracts should be **no longer than 400 words**
- Abstract titles should be **no more than 12 words** and the file name of the uploaded document should be the **same** as the title of your abstract.
- Abstracts **should not include author details**. The blind review process requires the abstracts to be anonymous. However, as part of the online submission process, you will be asked to provide author details separately.
- Abstracts **should not include tables, figures or references**.

Successful abstracts terms and conditions

Authors of successful abstracts will be offered a place on the Conference program and will be required to:

- confirm your acceptance of a place on the Conference program in writing;
- provide a 200 word biography for inclusion in the Conference Program;
- register at the discounted speaker rate; and
- provide a one-page presentation summary for inclusion in the Conference Proceedings.

Submission methods

Abstracts should be submitted online via www.countrykids.org.au

Questions about the abstract process may be directed to speakers@ruralhealth.org.au or by phoning 02 6285 4660.

Key dates

1 August 2015	Call for abstracts opens
31 October 2015	Call for abstracts closes
15 December 2015	Notification of outcome of abstract – successful, waitlisted or unsuccessful
31 January 2016	Confirm acceptance and provide 200-word presenter’s biography
28 February 2016	Submission of one-page presentation summary
17-19 April 2016	Caring for Country Kids Conference