

The Sanctuary Symposium

17-19 July 2026 | QLD ACE Meeting

InterContinental
Sanctuary Cove Resort

Convenors' welcome

In anaesthesia, we are often called upon to provide sanctuary at times when our patients feel most vulnerable. Whether in the operating theatre, labour ward, emergency setting or perioperative clinic, our role extends beyond technical expertise alone – providing calm, safety, trust and reassurance in environments that can otherwise feel uncertain or overwhelming. This year's meeting, "The Sanctuary Symposium", is built around that idea: a space to pause, reconnect with colleagues, reflect on our practice, and explore the evolving future of our specialty together.

Set within the relaxed surroundings of the InterContinental Sanctuary Cove Resort, we hope this meeting offers delegates a genuine sense of sanctuary – an opportunity to step back from the pace of clinical life and to exchange ideas and engage in meaningful professional development in a collegial and welcoming environment. We are delighted to begin the symposium with Friday evening drinks at the beach bar, bringing our anaesthesia community together in one of Queensland's most iconic coastal settings.

Our Saturday plenary program focuses on several of the defining themes shaping contemporary anaesthesia practice. Artificial intelligence is rapidly moving from theory into everyday clinical workflows, with growing implications for perioperative assessment, patient safety, monitoring, documentation, decision support and healthcare systems more broadly. As anaesthetists, we are uniquely positioned at the intersection of technology, physiology and critical decision-making, and this meeting provides an opportunity to thoughtfully examine how AI may enhance – and challenge – the future of our specialty.

Alongside this, we will explore advances in perioperative medicine and the ever-important field of obstetric anaesthesia, areas that both demand not only clinical excellence, but also communication, adaptability and compassionate care.

On Sunday, the focus shifts to practical skills and emergency preparedness through workshops in gastric ultrasound, anaphylaxis, paediatric can't intubate can't oxygenate (CICO), and acute severe behavioural disturbance. These sessions are designed to strengthen confidence and capability in high-stakes clinical moments where anaesthetists are often called upon to provide leadership, clarity and calm.

As always, the program has been designed to support meaningful continuing professional development while encouraging collaboration, discussion and reflection among colleagues from across Queensland and beyond.

We look forward to welcoming you to "The Sanctuary Symposium" – a meeting designed to inform, challenge and inspire, while celebrating the unique role anaesthetists play in creating sanctuary for patients, colleagues and each other.

Dr Benjamin Cahill and Dr Thar Nyan Lwin
Queensland ACE Committee Co-chairs

PROGRAM – SATURDAY 18 JULY 2026

8.30–8.45am	Welcome (MacArthurs Ballroom)	
	Chair's welcome	Dr Benjamin Cahill and Dr Thar Nyan Lwin
	ASA welcome	Dr Vida Viliunas
8.45–10.15am	Session one (MacArthurs Ballroom) – PeriOp	
	Perioperative assessment and management of cardiac devices	Dr Jovita Dwivedi
	Perioperative assessment and management of sleep-related breathing disorders	Dr Jonathan Banks
	Perioperative assessment and management of diabetes	Dr Katherine Wyld
	Panel	
10.15–10.45am	Morning tea	
10.45am–12.15pm	Session two (MacArthurs Ballroom) – Obstetrics	
	Neurosurgical conditions in the pregnant patient (neuraxial safety and contraindications)	Dr Paul Nichols
	Placenta accreta spectrum disorder	Dr Alyce Burgess
	Obstetric and Neonatal Haematology	Dr Lydia Pitcher
	Panel	
12.15–1.15pm	Lunch (Woolshed Pre-Function Area)	
	Trainee Research – Tess Crammond Prize Session (Boardroom)	
1.15–2.45pm	Session three (MacArthurs Ballroom) – AI in Anaesthesia	
	Clinical applications of AI, governance, privacy and medico legal considerations	Dr Stanley Tay
	How AI actually works and using AI for clinical documentation and consult summarisation	Dr Raffy Halim
	MSH AI Scribe implementation	Dr Julian Wong
	Panel	
2.45–3.15pm	Afternoon tea	
3.15–4.45pm	Session four (MacArthurs Ballroom) – Case Discussions	
	Septic knee washouts in severely cardiac-compromised patients	Dr Kate Engelke
	Mediastinal Mass: Paediatric considerations for a combined multidisciplinary resection	Dr Anirudh Bhardwaj
	Laparoscopic hysterectomy in a patient with a Fontan palliation for pulmonary atresia	Dr Michael Toon
4.45pm	Close	

PROGRAM – SUNDAY 19 JULY 2026

9-10.30am	Workshops	
Breakout 1 (Merino)	Gastric ultrasound	Dr Fraser Morton
Breakout 2 (Leicester)	Infant CICO/eFONA Workshop	Dr Anita Flynn
Breakout 3 (Romney)	Acute Severe Behavioural Disturbance ER	Dr Vida Viliunas
10.30-11am	Morning tea	
11am-12.30pm	Workshops	
Breakout 1 (Merino)	Gastric ultrasound	Dr Fraser Morton
Breakout 2 (Leicester)	Infant CICO/eFONA Workshop	Dr Anita Flynn
Breakout 3 (Romney)	Anaphylaxis ER	Dr Elizabeth Robinson Dr Christine Lowe
12.30pm-1pm	Lunch	