



## 2024 PANDDA Conference

Monday 14 & Tuesday 15 October 2024  
Novotel Parramatta

### Conference Invitation

Dear Esteemed Colleagues and Friends,

The Professional Association of Nurses in Developmental Disability Australia (PANDDA) is delighted to extend our warm invitation to nurses, people with lived experience, care workers and other health professionals to join us, at the 35th Annual National PANDDA Conference and Annual General Meeting. This two-day event, on Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 October 2024, will take place at the Novotel Hotel in Sydney, Parramatta. Conference Theme: THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS... Wisdom, Reflection, Experience... 10 years on.

Reflecting on the theme of our 2014 conference, 'Through the Looking Glass', this year's event offers a unique opportunity to examine the progress and challenges encountered over the past decade. We encourage you to participate actively in discussions, debates, and presentations that will enhance our collective understanding and expertise in intellectual developmental disability nursing, caring and support.

As experienced nurses, care workers and health professionals dedicated to supporting individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities, we understand the importance of continuous learning and collaboration in our field. Our aim is to celebrate the dedication and contributions of nurses, people with lived experience, care workers and health professionals like yourself, who play a pivotal role in supporting individuals, their families, and our profession. Through sharing stories, experiences, and insights, we can further our commitment to providing quality care, support and advocacy.

Some thoughts below on 'Through the Looking-Glass' with the hope that this will inspire you to attend or indeed consider presenting at the 35th PANDDA Conference.

In Lewis Carroll's timeless tale, 'Through the Looking-Glass', Alice embarks on a journey not only through space but also through time, encountering a world where reality blurs with imagination. As Alice navigates this whimsical realm, she is compelled to confront her own identity and grapple with the complexities of her past. Through her adventures, she learns the profound lesson that while the past cannot be altered, it serves as a powerful teacher, offering invaluable lessons for the future.

The looking glass, a recurring symbol throughout the narrative, serves as a metaphor for consciousness – a mirror reflecting not only external realities but also the inner depths of one's soul. It becomes a tool for introspection, prompting Alice to contemplate her place in the world and the interconnectedness of life's dualities.

As we draw inspiration from Alice's journey, let us embrace the spirit of self-reflection, awareness, acceptance and embrace the yin and yang of our profession – the challenges and the triumphs, the complexities and the joys. Through our dedication and commitment, may we continue to illuminate the path forward, guiding those in our care toward a brighter, more inclusive future.

We encourage you to mark your calendar for the 35th PANDDA Conference and Annual General Meeting and to spread the word among your colleagues. Your presence and participation will contribute to the success of this event and the advancement of our profession.

We eagerly anticipate welcoming you to Sydney (Parramatta) on the 14 and 15 October 2024, for what promises to be a memorable and rewarding conference experience.

Warm regards,  
Bob Weaver OAM, Conference Convener  
Sharon Paley Conference Co-Convenor



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### Conference Highlights

**As we commemorate the 35th anniversary of PANDDA as a formal organisation, we will reflect on our journey and achievements, while looking ahead to the future of nursing, support and health care for people with intellectual developmental disability in Australia.**

**The Call for Abstracts** is now open, providing an opportunity for all nurses to contribute to the dialogue and be considered for a PANDDA Award.

**This year, we are thrilled to introduce the My Story PANDDA Award**, acknowledging the valuable perspectives of individuals with lived experience in intellectual developmental disability make in improving nursing/health care. This annual Award is presented jointly from Dr Virginia Howie and her daughter Tessa Howie and PANDDA.

**Hear from keynote speakers**, including experts in the field and individuals with lived experience, who will inspire and enlighten us with their insights.

**Engage in concurrent sessions** covering a wide range of topics relevant to intellectual developmental disability and to nursing, health care, support and advocacy.

**Network with colleagues**, both familiar faces, and new connections, and explore opportunities for collaboration and professional development.

**Discover the latest developments** in intellectual disability healthcare, including presentations on the work of the National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health.

**Enjoy performances and presentations** from Playback Theatre and other speakers and family members with lived experience.

**Our sponsors are willing participants again** this year and the opportunity to visit trade displays throughout the conference, more information on Sponsors and Trade displays later.

**Hear about the extensive work undertaken by PANDDA this year** that will be presented by PANDDA President, Gail Tomsic.

**The Annual General Meeting** will be conducted by the PANDDA Vice President Sharon Paley.

**PANDDA will Launch “The History of Intellectual Disability Nursing in Australia”**, a project between UWS and PANDDA, and of course a nod to PANDDA 35 years.

**The Annual PANDDA Conference** aims to provide nurses, care workers, students, health and other professionals with new opportunities and knowledge.

**The Conference will also provide** nurses and other Health professionals with the opportunity to address their obligations under AHPRA annual continuing professional education requirements.

**Registration Fees** will be released soon with Early Bird Registration available until 14 September 2024.



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