

Southeast Queensland Health Disaster Readiness Alliance Symposium 2026

Preparedness 360

Navigating Crisis Before it Strikes

PROGRAM



DAY 1		
0730-0830	Registration and Welcome	Tea, coffee, networking
0830-0835	Acknowledgement of Country	
0835-0850	Opening address	Dr David Rosengren , <i>Director General Queensland Health</i>
0850-0900	Event welcome	Dr Liz Rushbrook & Prof Michael Schuetz
0900-1030	Plenary 1: Mass Casualty Preparedness and Response Chairs: Anthony Holley & Diane Bretherton	
0900-0930	Setting the Scene - Christchurch Mosque Mass Casualty Event	Dr James McKay , <i>Consultant Surgeon, Christchurch</i>
0930-0950	The People Behind the Tragedy: the Bondi Beach Attack	Mr Elon Zizer ,
0950-1030	Panel discussion: How would we respond?	Panel members: Dr Marianne Gale , <i>Chief Health Officer Queensland.</i> Rear Admiral Sonya Bennett AM , <i>Surgeon General Australian Defence Force.</i> Acting Chief Superintendent Douglas McDonald , <i>Queensland Police Service.</i> TBC , <i>Queensland Ambulance Service.</i> Dr Mark Armstrong , <i>Chief Officer, Queensland State Emergency Service.</i>
1030-1100	Morning Tea	
1100-1240	Plenary 2: Frontline Strategic Leadership in Disaster Response Chairs: Liz Rushbrook & Michael Muller	
1100-1120	Care in the Warm Zone – A QAS perspective	Matthew Meister , <i>Officer in Charge – Kedron Park Station</i>
1120-1140	Technical Response and rescue	Acting Superintendent Mark Crowe , <i>Executive Manager – Technical Response Branch, QLD Fire and Rescue.</i>
1140-1200	When the System Breaks: Some strategic lessons from international earthquake responses	Dr Hector Fuentes , <i>Emergency Physician</i>
1200-1220	Gold Coast Public Health Unit Planning and Response to the 2018 Commonwealth Games and Key Learnings	Sharon Jurd , <i>Director Public Health, Gold Coast</i>
1220-1240	Lessons from AUSMAT deployments	Angie Jackson , <i>Emergency Nurse Practitioner & Nurse Leader Australian Medical Assistance Team</i>

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1240-1315	Lunch	
1315-1515	Plenary 3: Surge Capacity in High Pressure Scenarios Chairs: Michael Schuetz & Jenny Luke	
1315-1335	CBRN and mass gatherings: discussing the unimaginable	Dr Mark Little , <i>Emergency Physician & Clinical Toxicologist Cairns</i>
1335-1355	Surge Capacity and Planning for Mass Trauma Critical Care	Dr Shane Townsend , <i>Director Intensive Care Services, RBWH</i>
1355-1415	Trauma surge capacity	Dr Carl Lisec , <i>Director RBWH Trauma Service</i>
1415-1435	Paediatrics in a mass casualty setting	Prof Roy Kimble , <i>Director Burns, Trauma & Paediatric Surgery, QCH</i>
1435-1455	Beyond Decontamination and Good Supportive Care: Identifying the Mass Poisoning Exposures That Need More	A/Prof Katherine Isoardi , <i>Medical Director of the Queensland Poisons Information Centre and the Princess Alexandra Hospital Clinical Toxicology Unit</i>
1455-1515	The Research Behind Surge Capacity in Regional Settings	Dr Andrew Amos, Dr Matan Ben David, Breeanna Spring , <i>Townsville Hospital</i>
1515-1535	Afternoon Tea	
1535-1700	Plenary 4: Resilience, Wellbeing and Support in a Disaster Response Chairs: Roy Kimble & Denise Johnson	
1535-1600	Response and insights to the Bondi Beach attack	Dr Mark Nicholls , <i>Consultant Intensivist, Sydney</i>
1600-1615	Registration of Displaced People During Mass Disruption	Collin Sivalingum , <i>Director, Queensland & Northern Territory, Emergency Services Stakeholder Engagement & Partnerships, Red Cross</i>
1615-1630	Welcome to Birdie's Tree: Building Resilience Before, During and After Disaster	Sophie Stone and Wendy-Kaye Rodgers , <i>Advanced Mental Health Clinician Birdie's Tree</i>
1630-1645	Forensic Profiling in a mass casualty event	Dr Katrina Chiu , <i>CFOS Clinical Director</i>
1645-1655	South-East Queensland Health Disaster Readiness Alliance	Dr Liz Rushbrook , <i>Senior Medical Officer</i>
1655-1700	Q&A	
1700-1715	Acknowledgements and close of event	
1715-1815	Networking + drinks, RBWH Education Centre Foyer	