This meeting brings together researchers, practitioners, policy makers, advocates and community members in the area of women’s and gender diverse people’s reproductive health.

The organisers, researchers in the history and sociology of fertility, pregnancy, miscarriage, mothering, and menopause, seek to initiate multi-disciplinary conversations around knowledge sharing, access to care and empowerment across a person’s full reproductive life, from menarche to menopause.

Across three panels, speakers will address issues including educating for abortion delivery; access to fertility treatment for minority groups; cultural safety and histories of Aboriginal nursing and midwifery; and workplace laws relating to reproductive health.

We believe that medical–humanities collaborations can increase our understanding of health and illness experiences within the social context of people’s lives. In encouraging conversation across the entire spectrum of women’s and gender diverse people’s reproductive health research from historical, sociological and medical perspectives, we hope this meeting can address and suggest solutions to the structural issues that negatively impact reproductive experiences.

MEETING THEMES

- Cross-disciplinary approaches to understanding and improving reproductive life experiences
- Agency, knowledge, and access to treatment/healthcare across the reproductive lifecycle:
  - Menarche and becoming sexually active
  - Pregnancy, childbirth, and motherhood
  - Contraception and abortion
  - Infertility, miscarriage and reproductive ill health
  - Menopause
- Across time and place: incorporating historical and environmental/place-based perspectives
- Gender, race, and socio-economic background: structural impediments to equitable access to appropriate health care
**Access to Care**

Access to Care examines how different groups of people access and experience reproductive care in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, as well as the barriers they encounter. The session brings together experts who work across healthcare, social work organisations, universities, and community projects. Their collective work addresses forms of reproductive care that range from abortion to fertility treatment, via pregnancy loss, family violence, and childbirth. Together, the panel considers barriers and access to reproductive care among diverse communities that include queer people, people with disabilities, Māori women and their whānau, and people seeking infertility care in resource-constrained settings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jax Jacki Brown</strong> (they/them), LGBTIQA+ Disability Rights Educator</td>
<td>Screening for disabilities in the Assisted Reproductive Treatment industry</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Brooke Calo</strong> (she/her), Counsellor, Fertility South Australia, South Australia Health</td>
<td>Abortion access: The importance of public health provision</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Karin Hammarberg</strong>, Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Authority and Monash University</td>
<td>Barriers to access to ART and what’s needed to remove them</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Naomi Simmonds</strong> (Raukawa, Ngāti Huri), Co-director of Tūānuku Ltd</td>
<td>Decolonising care for Māori women and whānau: Returning to ancestral ways of birthing in Aotearoa</td>
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**Morning Tea**

30 min

**Session 2**

11:15–12:30: **Sharing knowledge: Researcher–practitioner–community**

Chair: **Kirsten Black** (she/her), Professor of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Neonatology, The Sydney University Central Clinical School, University of Sydney

Education on the reproductive healthcare needs of groups such as First Nations, migrant and refugee women and gender diverse people presumed female at birth is particularly sparse. It is estimated up to a third of cisgender girls and women and trans and gender diverse people presumed female at birth will experience serious reproductive health symptoms over their lifetime. Yet education about this area of health – whether aimed at health professionals, people experiencing reproductive health conditions or the general community – is hampered by a lack of research (reflecting medicine’s historical focus on the male body) and stigma associated with topics such as menstruation, abortion, miscarriage and menopause.  

cont.
In this session, experts who work in translating reproductive health research into practice, fertility care for transgender and non-binary people, histories of Indigenous healthcare and cultural safety training, and abortion education for primary care providers share their perspectives on strategies for strengthening reproductive health education and identify priority areas.

**Odette Best** (she/her), Professor of Nursing, School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Southern Queensland
- Culturally safe birthing practices: Histories of Indigenous nursing and midwifery

**Damien W. Riggs** (he/him), Professor and ARC Future Fellow, College of Education, Psychology and Social Work, Flinders University
- Educating healthcare providers about working with transgender people in relation to fertility preservation

**Mridula Shankar** (she/her), Research Fellow (CRE-SPHERE), Department of General Practice, Monash University
- Enhancing delivery of contraception and early medical abortion through primary care and online professional networks: The ORIENT and AusCAPPs projects (SPHERE)

**Helena Teede** (she/her), Director, Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, Monash University; Executive Director, Monash Partners
- Parallel consumer, community and health professional education and shared decision making in reproductive health: The case of PCOS

**Lunch**
1 hour

**Session 3**

1:30–2:45: **Empowering women through policy reform**
Chair: **Fiona Kelly** (she/her), La Trobe University

This session explores reform agendas, past and present, that have sought to address the issues that arise when the structural contexts of work, education and care are in tension with the experiences of pregnancy, childbirth and the sexual and reproductive body. The session brings together researchers with expertise in the political economy of gendered labour, social and legal responses to menstruation, the historical sociology of childbirth, maternity and household, and cultures of gender and sexuality among young people. Through these various lenses the panel will illuminate structural inequalities that are felt most acutely through experiences of embodied reproductive labour, care work and negotiating sexual cultures.
**Session 3 cont.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Elizabeth Hill</strong> (she/her), University of Sydney</td>
<td>Recognising the body at work and care: Policy settings to enhance capabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beth Goldblatt (she/her) and <strong>Linda Steele</strong> (she/her), University of Technology Sydney</td>
<td>Menstruation and the rights of people with disability – advancing reproductive justice</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kerreen Reiger</strong>, La Trobe University</td>
<td>The challenge of changing childbirth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monique Mulholland</strong> (she/her), Flinders University</td>
<td>Cultural diversity and sex education: Thinking through difference and normativity</td>
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2:45–3:15
Concluding discussion: Where to from here?