



HEMICON 2025

PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

FRIDAY 16th MAY 2024

9.00am	WELCOME AND FAMILY INTRODUCTIONS Join the HFA team and Kelly Wilton, President of the Hemispherectomy Foundation Australia, as we kick off the day with warm welcomes and family introductions.
10.00am	KIDS CLUB COMMENCES PSYCHOSOCIAL CARE OF HEMISPHERECTOMY FAMILIES Preparing, adapting and thriving together Join our keynote speaker, Audrey Vernick, Director of Patient and Family Advocacy at the Paediatric Epilepsy Surgery Alliance, PESA from USA, who will share valuable insights on supporting families through this journey.
11.00am	MORNING TEA
11.15am	MAKING THE MOST OF NDIS PARTICIPATION Rollie Pontigon, Social Inclusion Advocate from The Social Inclusion Team, and Jenny McIntosh, NDIS Support Coordinator and proud hemi mum, will help you to understand the NDIS and maximise its benefits.
12.15pm	BEHAVIOURAL CHALLENGES AFTER HEMISPHERECTOMY Owen Lloyd, neuropsychologist from Queensland Children's Hospital will explore challenges including increased impulsivity, emotional dysregulation, attention difficulties, and social interaction challenges, together with strategies on how to support these.
1.15- 2.15pm	LUNCH AND CONFERENCE PHOTO Enjoy lunch then join in the 2025 HemiCon commemorative family photo

<p>2.15pm</p>	<p>HEMISPHERECTOMY AND SIBLING IMPACTS - CREATING HEALTHY SIBLING RELATIONSHIPS</p> <p>Natalie Kerkman from Siblings Australia will help us better understand the experience of siblings of children with disability. She will provide information and strategies to support strong sibling relationships and how we can better help the siblings of our hemi heroes manage the challenges of having a sibling with disability.</p>
<p>3.15pm</p>	<p>AFTERNOON TEA</p>
<p>3.30pm</p>	<p>ENDOCRINE ISSUES AND HEMISPHERECTOMY CHILDREN Supporting healthy growth and development</p> <p>Join Joel Vanderniet, Paediatric Endocrinologist from Sydney Children's Hospital, explore how hemispherectomy surgery can affect the endocrine system, which regulates growth, metabolism, and hormones.</p>
<p>4.30pm</p>	<p>CLOSE DAY ONE</p>
<p>6.00pm</p>	<p>HEMICON 2025 FAMILY DINNER</p> <p>HemiCon 2025 Family BBQ at The Boatshed, SeaWorld: Join us for great food, family connections and waterfront fun!</p>



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SATURDAY 17TH MAY 2024

9.30am	KIDS' CLUB COMMENCES UNDERSTANDING MEDICAL TRAUMA AND HEMISPHERECTOMY FAMILIES Join Audrey Vernick, Director of Patient and Family Advocacy at the Paediatric Epilepsy Surgery Alliance, PESA, as she explores the impact of medical trauma on families who have navigated the hemispherectomy journey.
10.15am	POST HEMISPHERECTOMY BRAIN CARE Dr. Mark Dexter, Neurosurgeon from Westmead Children's Hospital in Sydney, will guide us through essential care tips for post-surgery brain health.
11.15am	MORNING TEA
11.30am	NEUROPHYSIOTHERAPY FOR HEMISPHERECTOMY CHILDREN – SHORT AND LONG-TERM HEALTH GOALS Denny Giguere, Physiotherapist Educator and Neurophysiotherapist from the University of Queensland, will discuss effective health goals for children after hemispherectomy.
12.30pm	HEMI ASSISTIVE AIDS AND TECHNOLOGY SHARING SESSION A fun and interactive session where hemi families can share their favourite tips, gadgets and helpers for making the activities of daily life easier for their hemi heroes. Facilitated by hemi dad, Anthony Fleming, AKA "gadget man".
1.15pm	LUNCH
2.15pm	THE PAEDIATRIC EPILEPSY SURGERY ALLIANCE REGISTRY HEMISPHERECTOMY OUTCOMES Monika Jones, Founder and Executive Director of the Pediatric Epilepsy Surgery Alliance, PESA, will share important insights on the outcomes of hemispherectomy through the registry.

3.15pm	AFTERNOON TEA
3.30pm	“ASK ME ANYTHING” PANEL Join our inspiring panel of young people and adults who have undergone hemispherectomy! They’re here to answer your questions and share their experiences about topics such as work, moving out of home, friendships and relationships. It’s a great opportunity for our younger hemi heroes to learn from our older ones.
4.15pm	HEMI HERO ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CONFERENCE CLOSE Let’s celebrate our amazing Hemi Heroes and wrap up this fantastic conference together!

