

Hemispherectomy Foundation Australia HEMICON 2025



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

REGISTRATION -THURSDAY 15 MAY 2025

6.00-8.00pm	REGISTRATION AND MEET AND GREET Finger food provided
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DAY ONE – FRIDAY 16 MAY 2025

9.00am	WELCOME AND FAMILY INTRODUCTIONS Join our MC, Nick Marshall, Gold Coast Councillor, OAM and founder of The Albatross Inclusive Surf Life Saving Nipper Program 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 will help you to understand the NDIS and maximise its benefits.
12.15pm	BEHAVIOURAL CHALLENGES AFTER HEMISPHERECTOMY Tania Malouf, Senior Clinical 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.

1.15pm	LUNCH AND CONFERENCE PHOTO Enjoy lunch and join the 2025 HemiCon commemorative family photograph
2.15pm	HEMISPHERECTOMY AND SIBLING IMPACTS Creating healthy sibling relationships Dr Shannon Schedlich, Chief Executive of 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.
3.15pm	Afternoon tea
3.30pm	ENDOCRINE ISSUES AND HEMISPHERECTOMY CHILDREN Supporting healthy growth and development Join Dr Joel Vanderniet, Paediatric Endocrinologist from Sydney Children's Hospital, explore how hemispherectomy surgery can affect the endocrine system, which regulates growth, metabolism, and hormones.
4.30pm	Close Day One
6.00pm	HEMICON 2025 FAMILY DINNER HemiCon 2025 Family BBQ at The Boatshed, SeaWorld: Join us for great food, family connections and waterfront fun!



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DAY TWO – SATURDAY 17 MAY 2025

7.30am	SHARK BAY EXPERIENCE For our early risers, join the sharks and hear all about the ocean's top predators. There is incredible viewing both topside and underwater as sharks glide past.
9.30am	KIDS' CLUB COMMENCES Join our MC for Day Two, Faharna Dossaji from Uniting Care, Early Years and Family Community Services who will introduce our first speaker for the morning, our keynote Audrey Vernick 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 <p>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.</p>
3.15pm	Afternoon tea
3.30pm	“ASK ME ANYTHING” PANEL <p>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.</p>
4.15pm	HEMI HERO ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CONFERENCE CLOSE <p>Let’s celebrate our amazing Hemi Heroes and wrap up this fantastic conference together (with some help from our special guests)!</p>

HEMICON 2025 SUPPORTERS

HemiCon fundraisers

Leister, McIntosh, Travers and Wilton families

AND

