

# Hemispherectomy Foundation Australia HEMICON 2025



## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

### DAY ONE – FRIDAY 16 MAY 2025

<b>9.00am</b>	<b>WELCOME AND FAMILY INTRODUCTIONS</b>  Join our Day One morning MC, Gold Coast Councillor, Nick Marshall OAM and Kelly Wilton, President of the Hemispherectomy Foundation Australia, as we kick off the day with warm welcomes and family introductions.
<b>10.00am</b>	<b>KIDS CLUB COMMENCES</b> <b>PSYCHOSOCIAL CARE OF HEMISPHERECTOMY FAMILIES</b> <b>Preparing, adapting and thriving together</b>  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.
<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Morning tea</b>
<b>11.15am</b>	<b>MAKING THE MOST OF NDIS PARTICIPATION</b>  Rollie Pontigon, Social Inclusion Advocate from The Social Inclusion Team will help you to understand the NDIS and maximise its benefits.
<b>12.15pm</b>	<b>PROMOTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOURAL OUTCOMES FOLLOWING HEMISPHERECTOMY</b>  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.

<b>1.15pm</b>	<b>Lunch and group photograph</b>
<b>2.15pm</b>	<b>HEMISPHERECTOMY AND SIBLING IMPACTS</b> <b>Creating healthy sibling relationships</b>  <p>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.</p>
<b>3.15pm</b>	<b>Afternoon tea</b>
<b>3.30pm</b>	<b>ENDOCRINE ISSUES AND HEMISPHERECTOMY CHILDREN</b> <b>Supporting healthy growth and development</b>  <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>
<b>4.30pm</b>	<b>Close Day One</b>
<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>HEMICON 2025 FAMILY DINNER</b>  <p>HemiCon 2025 Family BBQ at The Boatshed, SeaWorld: Join us for great food, family connections and waterfront fun!</p>



# PROGRAM SCHEDULE

## DAY TWO – SATURDAY 17 MAY 2025

9.30am	<b>KIDS' CLUB COMMENCES</b> Our MC for Day 2 Kelly Wilton, will introduce our first speaker for the morning, our keynote Audrey Vernick  <b>UNDERSTANDING MEDICAL TRAUMA AND HEMISPHERECTOMY FAMILIES</b> 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	<b>POST HEMISPHERECTOMY BRAIN CARE</b>  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	<b>Morning tea</b>
11.30am	<b>NEUROPHYSIOTHERAPY FOR HEMISPHERECTOMY CHILDREN – SHORT AND LONG-TERM HEALTH GOALS</b>  Denny Giguere, Physiotherapist Educator and Neurophysiotherapist from the University of Queensland, will discuss effective health goals for children after hemispherectomy.
12.30pm	<b>HEMI ASSISTIVE AIDS AND TECHNOLOGY SHARING SESSION</b>  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	<b>LUNCH</b>
2.15pm	<b>THE PAEDIATRIC EPILEPSY SURGERY ALLIANCE REGISTRY HEMISPHERECTOMY OUTCOMES</b>  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	<b>Afternoon tea</b>
3.30pm	<b>"ASK ME ANYTHING" PANEL</b>

	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	<b>HEMI HERO ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CONFERENCE CLOSE</b> Let's celebrate our amazing Hemi Heroes and wrap up this fantastic conference together!

## HEMICON 2025 SUPPORTERS

HemiCon fundraisers

Leister, McIntosh, Travers and Wilton families

AND

