Outback Infront:  
20 years of rural and remote health research

This exciting program weaves together past research activity in rural and remote health with the work of a new wave of researchers who are taking the sector to the next level.

The program

The 6th Rural and Remote Health Scientific Symposium will offer something for everyone with high quality keynote speakers; interactive Rogano sessions for researchers wanting feedback on projects; a series of short Lightning Talk presentations from emerging and active researchers; as well as general presentations.

With its sights fixed on the future, the Symposium program will reflect the breadth and depth of current research being undertaken in the rural and remote health sector today.

The recently appointed Rural Health Commissioner, Emeritus Professor Paul Worley, will address delegates on his first six months in the job and plans for the future.

How did we get here?

Twenty years since the first Infront Outback Conference, rural and remote health research has much to celebrate. Whether it is evolving geographic classifications, practical clinical innovations, more sustainable workforces, overcoming the challenges of providing health systems that work in the bush, or the many other insights into the challenges of rural and remote health, this is the time to take stock of the many milestones and achievements that provide the foundations of current and future practice.

Emeritus Professor Lesley Barclay will anchor a panel of senior researchers to lead an informal review of key research that has shaped direction and growth in the rural and remote health sector. Look for 20 years of rural and remote health research: the story and the legacy in the Symposium program.

In a complementary session, The rural and remote health impasse: why hasn’t research evidence generated policies to improve rural and remote health services? Emeritus Professor John Humphreys and Professor John Wakerman will lead a session that brings together representatives from organisations and services to present case studies of service developments which have been shaped by research in rural and remote health.
Speakers include:

- **Professor Tom Calma**, Chairman, Ninti One Limited and Chancellor, University of Canberra on Aboriginal Community Researchers informing policy and practice in remote and rural health
- **Professor Alan Cass**, Director, Menzies School of Health Research on Chronic disease research
- **Louise Gates**, Director, Health Section, Australian Bureau of Statistics on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People: Smoking Trends, Australia, 1994 to 2014-15
- **Dr Judith Katzenellenbogen**, Heart Foundation Future Leader Fellow, University of Western Australia on Cardiovascular disease in Aboriginal Western Australians; findings from a decade of research and current initiatives
- **Professor Leonie Segal**, Professor Health Economics, School of Population Health, University of South Australia on The role of economics in studies of rural and remote health: casting, outputs, outcomes, efficiency, funding, access and equity
- **Melbourne Laureate Professor Hugh Taylor**, Harold Mitchell Professor of Indigenous Eye Health, University of Melbourne on Eye care for Indigenous Australians
- **Claire Sparke**, Population Health Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare on Local level reporting on the health of Australians and their services: patterns across regional areas
- **Adjunct Professor Debra Thoms**, Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Department of Health; **Professor Jenny May**, Director, Department of Rural Health, University of Newcastle in a panel on research and the future rural health workforce