Call for abstracts

The VRCN conference is organised around the theme of ‘Innovation, Collaboration and Sustainability’.

This one-day conference will include a number of concurrent sessions, with presentations focussing on these key themes.

**Abstract submission is now open**

We are now inviting abstracts of **up to 400 words** that address the key conference themes. Abstracts can be submitted on the attached form.

**Key dates**

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<th>Abstract deadlines dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for receipt of abstracts</td>
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<td>Authors notified of acceptance</td>
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**Key themes**

Presentations may include topics such as:

- Clinical best practice
- Early detection and prevention
- Renal replacement therapy
- Renal supportive care
- Chronic kidney disease
- Education / communication
- Rehabilitation / prehabilitation
- Workforce models – medical, nursing, allied health
- Quality and safety
- Clinical outcomes, patient safety and patient experience

Some ideas to focus your thoughts are included below.

**Innovation**

- Great ideas…innovation in healthcare delivery
- Translating information into innovation
- Making a difference
• Innovation, research & creative practice
• From clinical trials to clinical practice
• Reducing variation whilst encouraging innovation
• Technology / telehealth

Collaboration
• Lessons from other industries / healthcare sectors
• Reducing variation and improving quality
• Enabling technology
• Active collaboration (e.g. across organisations, between clinical disciplines, between primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare organisations)
• Empowering patients and their families and carers
• Partnerships in care
• Better together: clinicians, patients, cares as partners in care

Sustainability
• Capability and capacity building in healthcare improvement
• Improving quality and safety
• Environmental sustainability to improve patient outcomes and health service efficiency
• Embedding and sustaining change
• The challenges in translating evidence into clinical practice
• Achieving real and lasting outcomes

Oral presentation
Time allocated will be 15 minutes and 3 minutes question and answer time. Times will be strictly adhered to.

Submission guidelines
You are required to read the following guidelines and instructions before submitting your abstract:
• All submissions are to be lodged via email to the VRCN. A valid email address is required.
• There will be no hard copy submissions.
• There is no fee for submitting an abstract.
• Multiple abstract submissions are welcome.
• All abstracts will be reviewed by the VRCN Management Team and invited evaluators.
• Abstracts are to be submitted no later than Friday 24th June 2016.
• Authors will receive an email notification from the Conference Managers informing about the status of their submission by Friday 22nd July 2016.
• Presenters whose abstracts are accepted within the Conference Program must confirm the offer to present their paper by registering for the Conference.
• Presenting authors must attend the Conference to deliver the presentation otherwise the paper will be withdrawn.
• Presenters are responsible for their own travel, accommodation and incidentals in respect to attending the Conference.
• Successful abstracts will have ONE nominated presenter and only in exceptional circumstances will there be more than ONE PRESENTER approved for each presentation.
abstract must be presented by the specified presenting author. Proxies will not be permitted except in an emergency such as illness.

- The submitting author should be the presenting author. The person lodging the abstract will be the main point of contact for any correspondence regarding the presentation he/she has submitted.
- The presenter's name only will be included in the program.
- Should co-authors require a confirmation email regarding their paper being presented, they can request a letter from the Conference Managers.
- By submission of an abstract, the author(s) transfers copyright ownership to the Conference Managers for publication by the VRCN in Network publications such as newsletters, website or other media.
- No full papers are required.
- All oral presentations must be in English.
- The VRCN Management Team reserves the right to accept or refuse any abstract.
- The VRCN Management Team reserves the right to allocate a session time or a presentation type.
Format for Abstract submission

Please ensure your abstract adheres to the following font and style structure:

• **Your abstract submission should be no more than 250 words.** The word limit excludes the abstract title, and author details (e.g., names, positions, organisation and qualifications).
• Submissions not meeting this requirement will not be accepted.
• Abstract Template is available at Attachment 1

**Layout**

• The title should be in **bold** and written in sentence case in Arial 11 point. e.g.: **Building sustainability in a renal supportive care program**. The abstract title should not exceed two lines.
• Font for body text should be Arial 10pt.
• The abstract may contain a table or graphic, but must not exceed one A4 page in total.
• Do not include footnotes in your abstract other than references.
• The abstract template provides details of the required format for submissions.

**What happens once you have submitted an abstract?**

1. You will receive notification of your abstract results via email by **29 June 2016**.
2. If you have not received notification of your abstract results by the due date, please contact the VRCN, by email at renal.clinicalnetwork@dhhs.vic.gov.au.
3. Further instructions on presentation requirements will be provided in future correspondence.

**The selection process**

1. All abstracts will go through the following process:
2. Review by a panel made up of members of the VRCN Management Team, plus invited independent evaluators.
3. Acceptance of an abstract will be based on relative merit and the degree to which the abstract meets the aims of the conference.
4. The criteria for evaluating abstracts includes, but is not limited to, the following:
   • relevance to the conference theme
   • importance of presentation
   • relevance of content to audience
5. The person submitting an abstract should also be its presenter as the person lodging the paper will be the designated contact person and will receive all presentation correspondence.
6. Authors will be notified of their acceptance by **29 July 2016**.
7. The acceptance of an abstract does not imply funding by the VRCN for travel or other costs related to attending the conference. Presenting authors must attend the conference to deliver the presentation; otherwise the paper will be withdrawn. Presenting authors are required to register to attend the conference.