

PROGRAM

Wednesday, 25 November 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER(S)/CHAIR
8:00am-9:00am	Registration	
9:00am-9:05am	Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country	George Pampacos <i>Chair, MS Australia</i>
SESSION 1	REFLECTING ON 30 YEARS OF PROGRESS	SESSION CHAIR: GEORGE PAMPACOS
9:05am-9:15am	Setting the scene: 30 years of progress and what comes next	Rohan Greenland <i>CEO, MS Australia</i>
9:15am -9:25am	Video Address	The Hon. Mark Butler MP <i>Minister for Health and Ageing, Minister for Disability and the NDIS</i>
9:25am-9:45am	Assessing the value of 30 years of disease-modifying therapies for multiple sclerosis in Australia This session marks the launch of a new report on the value of 30 years of disease-modifying therapies in Australia. It will present key findings on clinical, social and system-level impacts, and consider their implications for future care, access and policy.	Dr Tennille Luker <i>Head of Research, MS Australia</i>
9:45am-10:15am	Lived experience address	Rowena Auchterlonie <i>Person living with MS, Lived Experience Expert Panel member</i>
SESSION 2	EVOLVING MS TREATMENT AND DECISION-MAKING	SESSION CHAIR: LIZ DE SOMER
10:15am-11:00am	AUSTRALIAN KEYNOTE: What has changed over 30 years of MS therapies and why it matters This talk will explore how MS treatment and care have evolved over the past three decades, including changes in effectiveness, safety, expectations and long-term outcomes. It will connect scientific progress with clinical practice and lived experience, highlighting why these changes matter for people with MS today and into the future.	Professor Helmut Butzkueven <i>Monash University & Bayside Health</i>
11:00am-11:30am	Morning Tea	

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SESSION 2 CTD	EVOLVING MS TREATMENT AND DECISION-MAKING	SESSION CHAIR: LIZ DE SOMER
11:30am-12:30pm	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION: How treatment decisions are made today</p> <p>This panel will explore how MS treatment decisions are made in real-world practice today, and how this has changed over time. Discussion will consider how advances in therapies have reshaped the way benefits and risks are weighed, how decisions around starting, switching or stopping treatment evolve across life stages, and how shared decision-making with people living with MS has become central to care. The panel will bring together perspectives from clinicians, researchers and people with MS.</p>	<p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connie Janiszewski; <i>Person living with MS; Lived Experience Expert Panel member</i> • Kate Casey; <i>Person living with MS; Lived Experience Expert Panel member</i> • Rebecca Small; <i>Carer of person living with MS; Lived Experience Expert Panel Member</i> • Professor Richard MacDonell; <i>Neurologist, Austin Health, VIC.</i> • Belinda Bardsley; <i>MS Nurse Specialist, Austin Health, VIC</i>
12:30pm-1:30pm	Lunch	
SESSION 3	UNDERSTANDING MS PROGRESSION AND ITS IMPACT	SESSION CHAIR: TOMAS KALINCIK
1:30pm-2:30pm	<p>INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE: Why progression still occurs despite treatment</p> <p>This session will examine why many people continue to experience disease progression despite modern treatments. It will explore current understanding of the biological drivers of progression, what helps in practice today, and how research is shifting toward better preventing and treating disability.</p>	<p>Professor Anna Williams <i>The University of Edinburgh</i></p>
2:30pm-3:00pm	<p>Real-world impact of progression</p> <p>This talk will focus on the everyday impact of progression beyond clinical measures. It will explore effects on work, independence, mental health and identity, and highlight the importance of patient-reported outcomes and lived experience as essential measures of impact for research, care and policy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Anneke van der Walt <i>Monash University and Bayside Health</i> • Jo Beard <i>Lived Experience Expert Panel member</i>
3:00pm-3:30pm	Afternoon Tea	
SESSION 4	LOOKING AHEAD	SESSION CHAIR: RICHARD MACDONELL
3:30pm-4:15pm	<p>Emerging therapies and treatment strategies</p> <p>This talk will look ahead to emerging treatment approaches, including new therapeutic strategies aimed at addressing progression and disability. It will discuss what is promising, what remains uncertain, and what evidence is still needed to translate innovation into meaningful benefit.</p>	<p>Professor Trevor Kilpatrick <i>Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health & Royal Melbourne Hospital</i></p>
4:15pm-4:30pm	Symposium close	<p>Rohan Greenland <i>CEO, MS Australia</i></p>