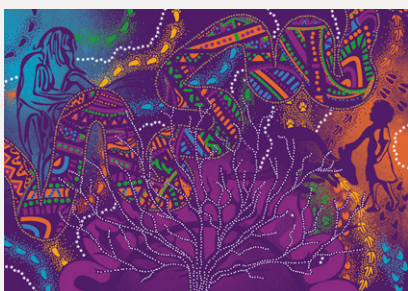


Brain Builders Summit 2025

**VENUE: QUEENSLAND BRAIN INSTITUTE,
THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND**

DATE: 11 NOV 2025





Acknowledgement of Country

The University of Queensland (UQ) acknowledges the Traditional Owners and their custodianship of the lands on which we meet. We pay respects to their Ancestors and their descendants, who continue cultural and spiritual connections to Country. We recognise their valuable contributions to Australian and global society.

Artwork: *A Guidance Through Time* by Quandamooka artists, Casey Coolwell and Kyra Mancktelow

Agenda

Mobilising, Embedding and Sustaining Neuro-Informed Practice for lasting change

- 9.00am Welcome**
Norman Swan, ARACY Board
- 9.10am Acknowledgement of country**
Sheryl Batchelor, Yiliyapinya Indigenous Corporation
- 9.15am Video**
- 9.25am Keynote speaker “Building Connections”**
Louise Butler
- 9.50am Brain Builders – Journey so far**
Michael Hogan, TQKP
Sally Staton, Queensland Brain Institute, UQ
- 10.10am Showcasing Brain Building in Queensland: Logan Together**
Jodie Booth, Logan Together
- 10.20am Showcasing Brain Building in Queensland: Brain Healthy Schools**
Bianca McLeish, Diocese of Rockhampton
- 10.30am Morning Tea**
- 10.50am Showcasing Brain Building in Queensland: Activating public libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Centres**
Louise Doonan, State Library of Queensland
- 11.00am Showcasing Brain Building in Queensland: Yiliyapinya**
Sheryl Batchelor, Yiliyapinya Indigenous Corporation
- 11.10am Showcasing Brain Building in Queensland: Curriculum reviews**
Debbie Long, School of Nursing, Queensland University of Technology
Beverley Charnley, TAFE Queensland
Jeanine Young, School of Health, University of Sunshine Coast
- 11.25am Panel: Q & A in response to BB Showcasing Brain Building in Queensland**
Jodie Booth, Logan Together
Bianca McLeish, Diocese of Rockhampton
Louise Doonan, State Library of Queensland
Sheryl Batchelor, Yiliyapinya Indigenous Corporation
Debbie Long, Queensland University of Technology
- 12.15pm Lunch & Networking: “Where to Next”**
- 1.00pm TQKP Phase 3**
Michael Hogan, TQKP
- 1.10pm First 10,000 Wellbeing Network**
Craig Munns, Child Health Research Centre, UQ
- 1.20pm Brain Builders: Next Steps**
Sally Staton, QBI, UQ
- 1.30pm Wrap up**
Norman Swan
- 2pm Close**

Speaker's Bios

Sheryl Batchelor

Yiliyapinya Indigenous Corporation, Founder/CEO

Sheryl is an Aboriginal woman with ancestral connections to Kunja. With over 30 years of teaching, training, and leadership experience in various educational, community and health settings. She has been involved in projects that have measurably improved the memory, attention, brain speed and social skills of the most vulnerable children, youth and adults with severe learning and behavioural challenges arising from adverse life experiences. She is the Founder and CEO of Yiliyapinya Indigenous Corporation and an Adjunct Professor at QUT in the School of Justice.

Jodie Booth

Logan Together, Inclusion and Equity Lead

Jodie is an allied health professional committed to systems change and improving outcomes for children and families. As Inclusion and Equity Lead at *Logan Together*—a community-led Collective Impact initiative for children aged 0–8—she collaborates with local partners to co-create a shared understanding and language for brain building in Logan. With experience across health, education, and research, Jodie values community expertise in shaping solutions that meet local needs.

Dr Louise Butler

Developmental Paediatrician/SMO, Child Development Program, Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service

Louise graduated with an MBBS (hons) from The University of Queensland in 1998, FRACP in 2010, and subsequently with MPH in 2011. Louise is a community paediatrician in Brisbane. She is involved in multidisciplinary clinical care, clinical and professional supervision, education and research within the Child Development Program, and the Child and Youth Mental Health Service, Children's Health QLD. Her interests include trajectories of development, strengths-based practice; supervision and training; and public health and integrated approaches to care of children.

Dr Carina Capra

Senior Program Manager, Brain Builders Initiative, Queensland Brain Institute at The University of Queensland

Carina is the academic lead of the Brain Builders initiative, with a clinical background in occupational therapy and a doctorate in psychology. She is an advanced practitioner with over two decades of experience in child, adolescent, and youth psychiatry across public and private sectors. Carina is recognised for implementing and leading innovative service models, including specialised child and youth teams and integrated school-based programs. Her work bridges science, policy, and practice to improve outcomes for children, with a strong focus on translating research into clinical care and community developmental and mental health. She currently leads several collaborative projects focused on implementing policy into practice and enhancing outcomes for children, adolescents, and families.

Beverley Charnley

Community Services Product Lead, TAFE Queensland

Beverley has worked across several areas of education in a range of roles including as a registered teacher, program manager, in research projects primarily around inclusive education and in other leadership roles. She has worked at TAFE Queensland for several years and is the Product (Curriculum) Lead across the state-wide Community Services Portfolio. As such she enjoys close working relationships with educators, teachers and relevant sector entities.

Louise Denoon

State Library of Queensland, Executive Director

Louise leads the partnership between State Library and local government for the delivery of library services across Queensland. This partnership includes First 5 Forever now in its tenth year that leverages the library network to empower families through brain building resources, environments and experiences.

Michael Hogan

Thriving Qld Kids Partnership, ARACY,
Executive Convenor

Michael is the Executive Convenor of TQKP. Michael has worked in government and not-for-profits for over 40 years. He is an Industry Fellow at QBI, and also a member of the Qld Library Foundation Council, the Board of the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service, and a Director of the Torres Health Indigenous Corporation.

Professor Debbie Long

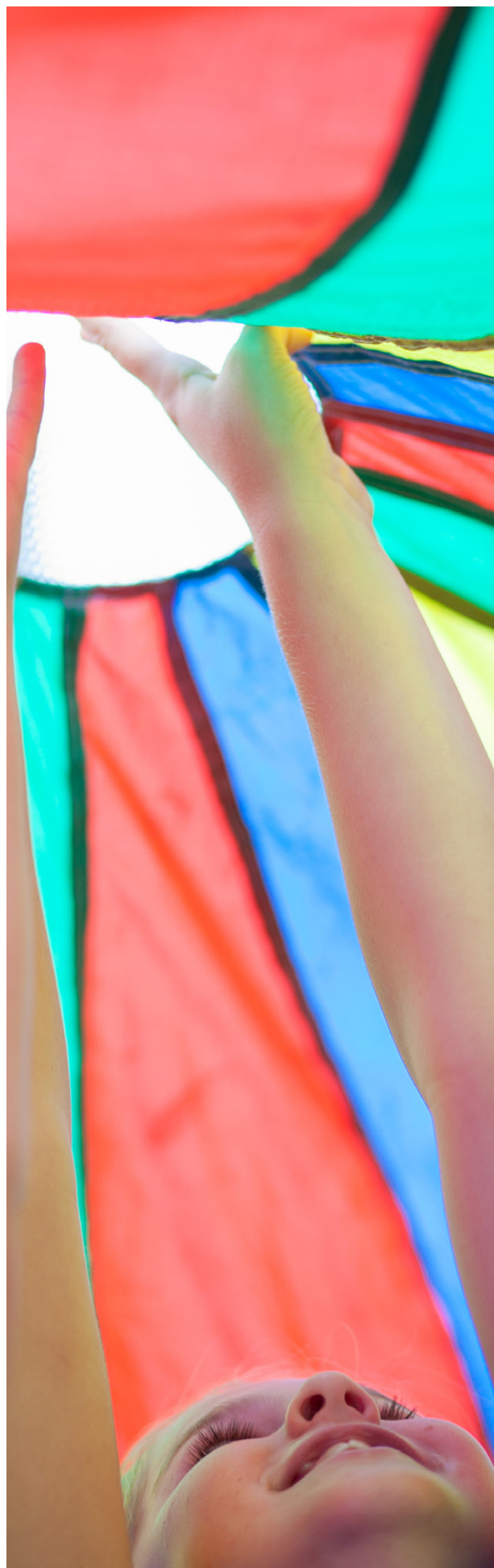
Queensland University of Technology (QUT),
Professor

Professor Debbie Long is a paediatric nursing academic at QUT whose work bridges clinical research and educational innovation. As a leader in paediatric intensive care, she leads the PICOLO Network, which reimagines healing environments for families and staff in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit through design-led co-creation. Her research focuses on improving outcomes for children and family's post-critical illness. In her teaching role, Debbie is reshaping how childhood and brain development are understood and taught, embedding neuro-informed principles into undergraduate and postgraduate nursing curricula. Her work aims to influence policy and practice by equipping future clinicians with a deeper understanding of the developing brain and its implications for care and health.

Bianca McLeish

Catholic Education Diocese Of Rockhampton,
Student Wellbeing Coordinator

Bianca is a teacher with over 20 years of experience in primary education across Education Queensland. Her deep interest in student wellbeing led her to complete a Master of Education in Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing, which inspired a shift into her current role as Student Wellbeing Coordinator with the Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton. Bianca is passionate about promoting mental health, resilience, and inclusive practices that support the holistic development of students. She is also a published author of *Teacher Wellbeing Transformed: Break Free from Survival Mode Before Burnout*, a practical guide for educators seeking sustainable wellbeing in their professional lives.



Professor Craig Munns,

The University of Queensland, Convenor, the First 10,000 Days Wellbeing Network

Craig is the Convenor of the First 10,000 Days Wellbeing Network, Director of the Child Health Research Centre and Head of the Mayne Academy of Paediatrics at The University of Queensland. He is also a Senior Medical Officer Department of Endocrinology at Queensland Children's Hospital. Prof Munns has worked with university, health and community partners to establish First 10,000 Days Wellbeing Network with the aim to ensure that every child, young person and family can flourish. The Network will achieve this by turning knowledge into action, embedding systems thinking, enabling real-world collaboration and developing future-focused leadership.

Associate Professor Sally Staton

Queensland Brain Institute at The University of Queensland

Sally is a developmental scientist and Australian Research Council Fellow at the Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland (UQ). Her research is guided by a commitment to improving life outcomes for all children by understanding how early life experiences shape developmental trajectories. Dr Staton investigates the dynamic interplay between early environments and children's social-emotional, cognitive, and physical development. With more than 170 publications and a strong record in research translation, Dr Staton's work bridges science, policy, and practice to enhance outcomes for all children. She leads the Thriving Kids Brain Builders Initiative at UQ and is deeply committed to research translation and community engagement. Her contributions have been recognised through several prestigious awards, including the Queensland Young Tall Poppy Scientist Award and the Research Partnerships Excellence Award.

Professor Jeanine Young

University of the Sunshine Coast (USC), Professor of Nursing

As Professor of Nursing, School of Health, University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) Jeanine's academic research focuses on strategies to reduce health inequities, with a particular emphasis on the First 2000 Days. My research program encompasses the development of innovative, evidence-based, culturally appropriate and practical strategies and educational resources to assist health professionals and community workers in supporting families with young infants and children to achieve optimal health and developmental outcomes. A central theme to my work is the recognition and advocacy of biologically normal infant sleep. I promote approaches that aim to help parents form realistic expectations of infant sleep patterns and developmental trajectories. By aligning public health messaging with biologic norms and cultural context, my research seeks to empower families and alleviate stress through neuroinformed, compassionate care.



How to Get Involved

We invite you and your organisation to stay in touch and engage in the Brain Builders Collaborative, be a Brain Builders Champion and/or share your Brain Building story.

Thriving Kids Brain Builders Initiative website

qbi.uq.edu.au/brain-builders



Join the Brain Building
Community of Practice
through the Project
ECHO platform



Join the **Brain Builders**
event and mailing list



Get engaged with
**Thriving Queensland
Kids Partnership**



