CSRH Tackling Stigma in Health Care Conference 2026

Care protocol

In setting up the Tackling Stigma Conference, we have been guided by a community advisory group of people with a range of lived and living experiences related to identities or health or social conditions that are stigmatised and we thank them for generously giving their time and expertise. One of the recommendations of this group was to develop this care protocol to support a safe and inclusive environment for all attendees of the conference.

Value statement

The Tackling Stigma Conference is guided by the following shared values:

- We aim to be a safe and inclusive space.
- We listen and learn from the experiences and expertise of others.
- We approach one another with generosity, sensitivity, and care and seek to promote connectedness across our diverse expertise and experiences.
- We recognise that discussions about stigma bring both opportunities and challenges.
- We take an evidence- and rights-based approach to discussing stigma.
- We respect people's confidentiality and privacy.
- We acknowledge that some people and practices are subject to criminalisation, which reinforces stigma.

We hope, with your help, to deliver an exciting and inspiring two days – and to do this with care and sensitivity, so that we can strive for a supportive and inclusive conference for all.

To achieve this, we ask that you familiarise yourselves with the following information ahead of the conference. This includes guidance regarding our expectations for engaging in the Tackling Stigma Conference with respect and care.

Respecting diverse experiences and perspectives

We recognise that this conference brings together people with a range of experiences and views. This may include diverging perspectives on what constitutes appropriate and harmful language and practices. We ask all attendees to approach discussions with generosity and respect for the diverse experiences that inform these perspectives. We expect attendees to make a genuine effort to use non-stigmatising language and to be sensitive to the potential effects of their words on others, while acknowledging there may be differing views about the most appropriate language in some contexts. We trust that all attendees will engage in discussions in good faith and with a shared goal of addressing stigma, even if approaches differ.

If you are concerned that any discussions at the conference are not respectful or appropriate, including anything not addressed in a session, please contact the registration desk. You can also raise concerns by emailing stigmaconference@unsw.edu.au.

We also acknowledge that some of the topics discussed may be concerning or distressing. We encourage attendees to exercise self-care and to take breaks from the sessions where they feel they need to.

Language and images

Words and images matter. Please take care with the language you use when presenting and the images you use in your presentations at the Tackling Stigma Conference. Language and images can perpetuate negative attitudes and stereotypes, reinforcing stigma towards communities. The way we talk or present images about stigma and the conditions, identities, and practices that are the target of stigma is therefore important and can play a role in addressing this issue.

We encourage the use of person-centred language that focuses on the person. We have included a range of language guides on our conference website to support the use of appropriate and inclusive language. We also encourage careful use of images in presentations at the conference to ensure that they are not distressing or stigmatising to others.

Sharing personal experiences during the conference

We recognise that you may have lived and living experience of stigma and of health conditions, identities, or practices that are stigmatised. Some attendees highly value sharing lived and living experiences and may find it empowering to share their stories and connect with others who have similar experiences. You might want to think in advance about what you want to share about your personal experiences – including thinking through the consequences of sharing information about yourself. Please also respect the privacy of others who share their experiences. You're welcome to draw on what you hear at the conference, including personal stories, but please don't share anything in a way that could identify who said it or who it's about, without permission from that person.

You may also hear about other attendees' experiences and some topics might be triggering. It may be helpful to think in advance about what support or strategies may assist you if that happens.

Taking images of presentations, presenters, and other attendees

We welcome sharing of the conference themes on social media. You can use the hashtag #TacklingStigma2026. We also want all conference attendees to respect the wishes of attendees and presenters who do not want their image shared on social media. Please do not photograph or film other attendees without their permission, and

do not share Q&A contributions or conversations in ways that could identify who said them. Presenters can indicate at the beginning of their presentation whether they are comfortable with photographs being taken or shared of themselves or their presentation slides. If you would like to share an image and are not sure, please ask the person for their permission.

Self-care during the conference

Please pace yourself when attending the Tackling Stigma Conference. You may wish to take breaks, sit outside the venue, or go for a walk on the campus. You may wish to try breathing exercises, which may help reduce feelings of stress. You can access a guide here.

We have a Lifeline responder and a social worker available to assist at the conference. Please contact the registration desk to access their support. We also have naloxone at the registration desk.

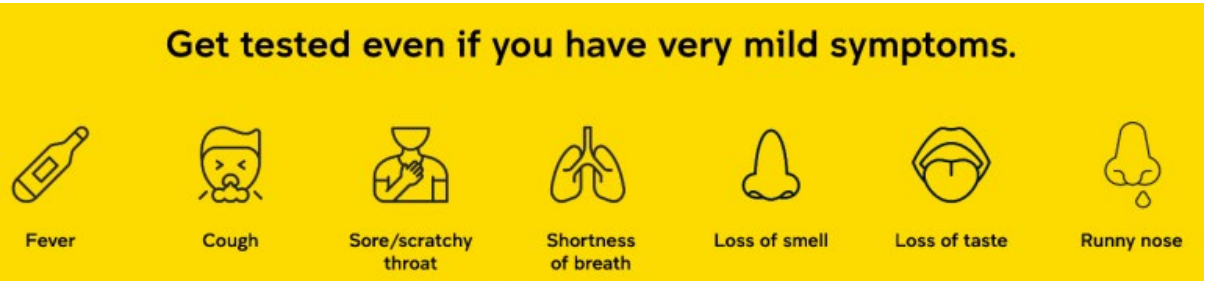
You can also email us at stigmaconference@unsw.edu.au if you have any questions or concerns or would like referrals to additional support services.

Here are some additional resources that you might find helpful:

- Beyond Blue Wellbeing Action Tool: https://www.beyondblue.org.au/mental-health/wellbeing-action-tool
- Lifeline Self-Care: https://toolkit.lifeline.org.au/articles/techniques/self-care-for-mental-health-and-wellbeing

Health and wellbeing

When attending the conference, we encourage you to take precautions to keep everyone safe.



- Please stay at home if you are unwell, have any respiratory symptoms or have tested positive for COVID, influenza, or RSV
- You may choose to wear a face mask while attending the conference
- Clean your hands by washing them often and thoroughly
- Sanitise your hands as needed/required
- Sneeze into your elbow or cover your face with a tissue when you cough or sneeze
- During the breaks, please feel free to go outside the venue to get some fresh air

Accessibility

The Colombo venue is wheelchair accessible, and an accessible toilet is available. The venue is adjacent to High Street and has vehicular access. If you are being dropped off at the venue, such as by taxi or rideshare, you can tell the driver to drop you off at Gate 4 High St (entrance on Fig Tree Lane).

Public transport is available via light rail and bus. For public transport route and payment options, see: https://transportnsw.info/trip#/trip

For information about parking on campus, please see: https://www.estate.unsw.edu.au/getting-here/parking-campus

Hearing loops are available in the lecture theatres (Theatres A, B, and C).

Site information

To connect to the WiFi, navigate to your WiFi settings and select the 'UNSW Guest' network. You can then follow the prompts to join the network. There are step-by-step instructions on how to join the Guest Network here.

Gender neutral and wheelchair accessible toilets are available at the venue and on campus.

You can find out about UNSW prayer, meditation, and reflection spaces here.

UNSW Kensington Campus has a free syringe dispensing machine that operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The machine is located to the left of the Patricia O'Shane Building (formerly known as Central Lecture Block) which is E19 on the UNSW campus map, located here. The following equipment is dispensed at the machine: 1mL combined N/S, cotton, spoons, swabs, water, sharps disposal containers. There is also a needle disposal bin at this site. You can also find other NSP locations in Sydney here. Please note that there is no disposal bin at the conference venue, so please ensure that you dispose of equipment at the machine located to the left of the Patricia O'Shane Building. There is also a free syringe dispensing machine and disposal bin at the Barker Street entrance of the Prince of Wales Hospital emergency department.

UNSW is a smoke-free campus, which includes all forms of tobacco smoking, including cigarettes, cigars, e-cigarettes (vaping), and water pipe tobacco smoking. Please note that there are no longer designated smoking areas on campus. If you wish to smoke, you can do so on High Street. We ask that you place your cigarette butts in the large ashtray at the top of Fig Tree Lane (opposite the venue).

Safety and security

UNSW Protective Services has a comprehensive 24-hour security presence on campus and maintains security monitoring services for the University.

For general enquiries, phone 02 9385 6000
For emergencies, phone: 02 9385 6666

Any questions?
If you have any questions in the lead up to the conference, please do not hesitate to reach out to our team at stigmaconference@unsw.edu.au. If you have any questions while attending the conference, please visit our registration desk or speak with one of our team, who will be introduced on the day.