



# CONFERENCE SPEAKERS FOR A CAUSE

## Navigating Adversity and Cultivating Resilience

Partner with Australia's leading brain cancer support charity. Applications are now open to secure an inspirational speaker for your next conference or event.\*



\*No speakers fee. Travel and accommodation costs are payable by conference host, speaker is subject to availability.





Enhance your conference program with real stories of **courage, resilience, and leadership** through challenge.

Peace of Mind Foundation invites you to apply for a speaker representing our charity for your next business event. Make a real change to impact brain cancer survivorship while inspiring your delegates.

Peace of Mind Foundation is Australia's leading brain cancer support charity and supports over 800 families every year facing a brain cancer diagnosis.



Brain cancer kills more people under 40 than any other cancer.<sup>†</sup>

<sup>†</sup> [www.wehi.edu.au/research/diseases/brain-cancer/](http://www.wehi.edu.au/research/diseases/brain-cancer/)

### Conference Speakers for a Cause – What's On Offer?

- Engage a Peace of Mind Foundation Ambassador or Leader to speak at your next conference
- Select from a range of inspiring speakers to address your conference with no speakers fee (pay only travel costs)
- Invite delegates to donate to Peace of Mind Foundation at the event and post-event
- Allow Peace of Mind Foundation to promote merchandise onsite (optional)



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON

# KAREN BOLINGER

**STRATEGIC ADVISOR AND VISITOR ECONOMY EXPERT AT KAREN BOLINGER CONSULTING**

Families faced with a brain cancer diagnosis need help navigating the complex road from the point of diagnosis to bereavement. Peace of Mind Foundation delivers supportive care services and is the only not-for-profit charity in Australia directly assisting those impacted by brain cancer.

Peace of Mind Foundation's Conference Speakers for a Cause is a wonderful initiative to enhance your next event or conference program with a compelling and inspiring speaker, while at the same time, inviting delegates to give back to a charity doing so much to help those diagnosed with brain cancer.

As someone who has had firsthand experience with a loved one facing brain cancer and has seen the work of the Peace of Mind Foundation in action, I'd invite you to consider this program for your next business event.



# PEACE OF MIND FOUNDATION SPEAKERS

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Peace of Mind Foundation Ambassadors and Leaders are available to speak at conferences\* Australia-wide. Subject to availability, speakers may be engaged at no cost, with the host organisation required only to pay travel and accommodation (if required) expenses.

\*The program is limited to 12 speaking engagements per calendar year with conference hosts invited to apply for a selected speaker who will be confirmed upon approval by Peace of Mind Foundation conference committee.

# CANDICE WYATT

Candice Wyatt has 20 years experience in the media and is currently a News Presenter and Senior Journalist for 10 News First in Melbourne. She has reported on large domestic and international stories including the Beaconsfield mine disaster, the disappearance of flight MH370, the Rio Olympics, Schapelle Corby's release from prison and unrest in the Middle East. She's also appeared on The Project.

In October 2013, her super fit and adventurous Mum Karyn died from a brain tumour at just 56 after a confronting and devastating six month battle. Candice is now a fierce advocate for research and support for brain cancer patients and their families. In 2020 she hiked the Nepalese Himalayas in memory of Karyn and raised \$40K for research in the process. Candice is a well-known keynote speaker at various brain cancer functions, events and fundraisers.

**THEMES: Giving back to community, building a career in a competitive media environment, hiking the Himalayas, navigating mother loss, disability, and fundraising.**



# KAREN BOLINGER

An innovative and outcome-driven C Suite Executive in the Visitor Economy sector who brings over 30 years of experience across various government, commercial, public-private partnership and not-for-profit membership-based businesses.

Karen has worked at C Suite level in Destination Marketing Organisations and Convention Bureau in Gold Coast, Melbourne and Sydney, in hotels, and venues and worked for and developed some of Australia's largest major events and trade shows. Karen is an inclusive thinker, with an unparalleled understanding of the Visitor Economy and Business Events ecosystem, and the opportunities and challenges it faces in the new economy.

An experienced strategist who influences change and transforms business in highly contested markets in extremely complex stakeholder environments within multiple cultural and geographic locations. Karen has written game-changing Business Event strategies for Sydney, Melbourne, Ireland, Cleveland, Copenhagen and Best Cities which have transformed how they approach business events with huge success.

Most recently Karen has been appointed by the Australian Federal Government to the long-term visitor economy strategy – THRIVE 2030 – Tourism Industry Advisory Group.

**THEMES: Connecting the visitor economy and business events ecosystem to create local legacies and social impact. Bringing stakeholders on the visitor economy/business events journey - unlocking potential. Business events and sustainability the reality.**



# REBECCA MALLETT

Rebecca (Bec) Mallett is the Founder and CEO of Australia's largest nationwide brain cancer support charity, Peace of Mind Foundation. The Foundation was created in honour of Bec's sister-in-law, Caroline Matthews, who passed away from a brain tumour on her 32nd birthday (29th December 2011).

Recognising the vital need to provide supportive care to patients and their loved ones upon the diagnosis of this dire disease, Bec, along with her brother (and Caroline's husband) Clint, founded Peace of Mind Foundation. The organisation, which started from humble beginnings without any funding now employs ten staff and supports over 800 families annually in Australia to navigate the challenge of a brain cancer diagnosis.



Bec is a driven patient advocate and has extensive experience working with families impacted by brain cancer. Bec met brain cancer patient Matt through Peace of Mind Foundation. Despite Matt's serious health battle, they married in 2021 and with support from Bec, he continues to battle the odds. With a professional background in event management and leadership, and over 15 years of experience working and volunteering in the not-for-profit sector, Bec has used these skills to build an organisation from the ground up.

**THEMES: Motivational, inspirational, transformational leadership**



## KATE DARBY

Geelong Cats footballer Kate Darby is used to challenges, having fought her way back to the top of her game after a number of obstacles and following the arrival of her daughter. Along the way, she also helped forge a pathway for women returning to the AFLW after pregnancy.

Giving back to the local community is something that comes naturally for Kate who last year was the joint recipient of the Carter Family Community Champion award for her outstanding efforts to support the Cats community initiatives. [READ MORE](#)

**THEMES: Sporting success, community engagement, inspirational**

## ANNABELLE WILSON

Annabelle Wilson is the Community Services Executive Manager at Melbourne Legacy.

With an Applied Science degree, a Research Australia Award, and working toward a Master's degree in Social Impact, Annabelle's history is rich in providing support and care to people in challenging situations. Her career highlights include extensive experience as a clinician at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, a community advocate in the brain cancer space at the Cure Brain Cancer Foundation, and now supporting the families of veterans at Melbourne Legacy.

Annabelle has a deep personal connection to brain cancer. In 2017, her husband Josh Chalmers passed away from an Astrocytoma, two and a half months before the birth of their baby daughter Primrose. Annabelle is passionate about giving back to the communities which helped her so much in her journey.

**THEMES: Motivational, advocacy, stakeholder engagement, transformational leadership**





## ALLISON COOKE

Mum to three beautiful children, Allison's world was turned upside down with her daughter Emily's brain cancer diagnosis at the age of five in 2018. Since then, she has worked tirelessly to support her in the challenges that arise from a serious diagnosis, while also caring for her other family members. Coping with a journey of highs and lows, as well as studying and volunteering in the Geelong community, Allison's story is one of hope and courage. [WATCH HER VIDEO HERE.](#)

**THEMES: Navigating life with a sick child, inspiring and uplifting courage, community spirit**

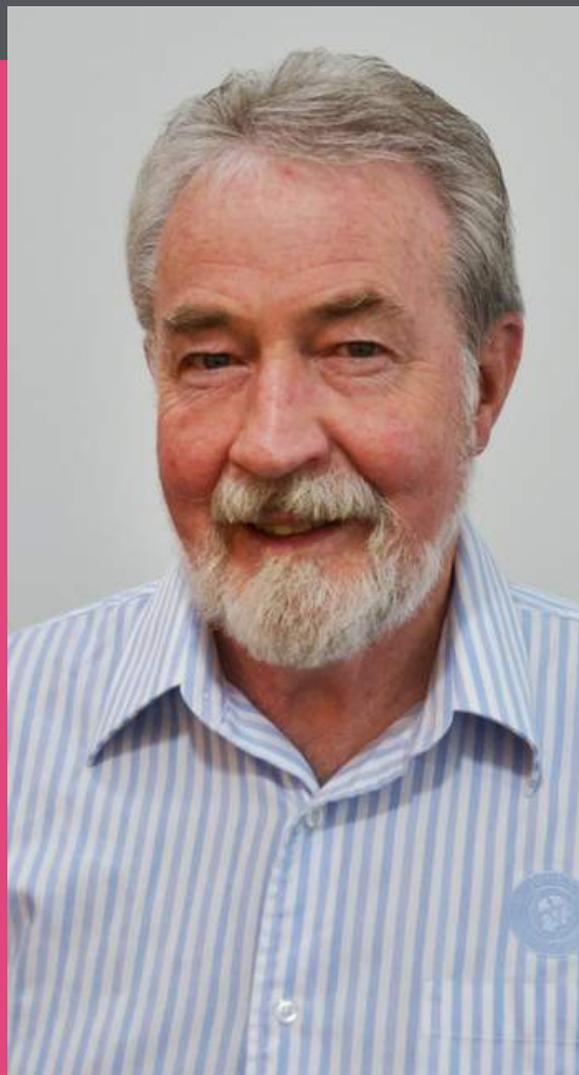
## KEVIN LARKINS

Peace of Mind's Community Engagement Manager Kevin Larkins has extensive experience in the health and welfare field across Australia. Prior to joining Peace of Mind, Kevin was running his own consultancy service specialising in leadership, team development and executive coaching. Kevin has led organisations in both the government and the not-for-profit sector. He is a highly skilled facilitator and has had extensive experience in public speaking.

Outside of Peace of Mind, Kevin is heavily committed to Surf Life Saving, is Deputy Chair of Life Boat Geelong and Deputy President of the Geelong Regional Conference of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society.

His expertise includes Community Health, Family Welfare, Addictions Community Development, Aboriginal Health and Health Policy.

**THEMES: Leadership and team building, overcoming adversity, resilience, inspiring hope.**



# JENNIFER FREIND

Jennifer is a highly motivated individual who has extensive experience in strategic communications. Her work history in both the Education sector and within the Australian Government has refined her capabilities as a successful corporate networker and government relations expert.

Jennifer has a long history of volunteering for various community-driven organisations where she has developed skills in leadership and governance.

Locally, Jennifer was a Commissioner for Geelong United Basketball when it was formally known as Basketball Geelong Inc., where her focus was strengthening and building business partnerships through their business luncheon initiative. At present, she volunteers as a Senior Youth Leader for Kardinia Church, supporting young people and their families.

Jennifer is a qualified teacher and is currently completing a law degree. She also has experience in public speaking, event management and fundraising.

Jennifer chose to join the POMF Board because her late mother battled several brain tumours. She believes her lived experience has enabled her to make a valuable contribution to the work of the Foundation.

**THEMES: Courage and resilience in adversity, inspiring and determined stories, achieving the impossible.**



# JONATHAN MULLER

Palliative care nurse Jonathan Muller has touched the lives of many in the brain cancer community, as the first Community Brain Cancer Navigator in Australia. Jonathan's role to deliver support to brain cancer patients comes with the knowledge and experience of a health professional but with the willingness of a friendly neighbour and ally to patients and their loved ones. Jonathan's role is one where no two days are ever the same, with a focus on connection and an emphasis on empathy rather than interventions, with the goal of bringing lightness and joy in the midst of a crisis.

**THEMES: Facing bereavement with peace and joy, connections in crisis, patient stories.**

# TRACEY JOHNSON



Tracey has had a long and successful 20 year career in the highly competitive racing industry. She has worked for high profile trainers, holding a picnic jockey's licence. After taking a break with a young family she returned to racing in 2021 and says her proudest moment was after winning a 3000-metre race with both of her daughters there for the winning photo.

Her daughter Chelsea was diagnosed with brain cancer at six years of age and has endured surgery, chemotherapy and radiation. As a single parent, Tracey has had to navigate the challenges of a very sick child with a serious health condition, turning life completely upside down.

Chelsea is now in remission from medulloblastoma, returning to school and tap class, doing well with some extra help. Tracey has returned to competing as a jockey and has worked hard to raise money for brain cancer research and support. In her words, despite the challenges, "nothing has held us back and we are truly living life to the fullest."

**THEMES: Navigating adversity, resilience, racing success.**

## OLIVER AND BROOKE LONG - PARENTS OF BABY HUGO

Brain cancer can strike at any age and sadly in the case of baby Hugo, his diagnosis was discovered at just 11 weeks old. Incredibly, he had a rare and aggressive brain tumour that had limited treatment options and a dire prognosis. For parents Brooke and Ollie, what started as an uncomplicated and happy start to life with a little one, very quickly turned into a nightmare.

Hugo has a grade 4 atypical teratoid rhabdoid tumour (ATRT) which is inoperable and cannot be treated by radiation due to Hugo's age. [READ MORE](#)

**THEMES: Challenge and adversity, inspiring hope.**



# Our Vision, Our Impact



Every year, over 2000 Australian's are diagnosed with brain cancer. Sadly, brain cancer kills more people under 40 than any other cancer. The five year survival rate for brain cancer is only 22.3 percent and families faced with diagnosis need help navigating the complex road to treatment, financial support and practical assistance. Peace of Mind Foundation is the only organisation of its kind in Australia, helping brain cancer patients with one on one personal support, here and now.

Here are just a few of the impactful achievements since Peace of Mind Foundation began in 2013...

## WHO ARE WE?

Australia's largest nationwide brain cancer support charity. Supporting over 800 families every year.

## OUR VISION

Every family in Australia impacted by brain cancer will get the support they need.

Support to access financial assistance through government and non-government programs

Counselling and Advocacy Services



Community Brain Cancer Navigators

Retreats and Community Events



## OUR IMPACT

**100**

Patients provided with one-off financial assistance annually



**550**

Families supported to access Government and non-Government funded programs



**\$55 M**

Funds accessed to support families through Government funded programs



**2500**

Copies of The Survivorship Diary distributed to brain cancer patients



**1500**

Patients and families have attended Peace of Mind funded retreats and community events



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Peace of Mind Foundation Australia

# Get In Touch

To apply for a speaker for your next event, please get in touch with Amanda Turner at Peace of Mind Foundation, using the details below.

**Email:** [amanda@peaceofmindfoundation.org.au](mailto:amanda@peaceofmindfoundation.org.au)

**Phone:** 0467 157 002

**Website:** [www.peaceofmindfoundation.org.au](http://www.peaceofmindfoundation.org.au)



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Peace of Mind Foundation Australia

