Tuesday 13th October 2026

Venue: *Fiji National University, Bonunaqwele Campus (aka Namaka Campus), Queens Rd, Namaka, Fiji*

Transport to Fiji National University

7:45AM - 8:00AM

Meet at Sofitel Resort & Spa (Lobby) at 7:30am for departure at 7:45am

11:45AM - 12:00PM

Meet at Sofitel Resort & Spa (Lobby) at 11:45am for departure at 12:00pm)

For those attending afternoon workshops only

Registrations

8:00AM - 8:30AM & 12:30PM-1:00PM

Workshops

8:30AM – 4:30PM

Sponsored by Yardhura Walani | Australian National University

Room	Morning (8:30am–12:30pm)	Afternoon (1:00pm–4:30pm)
Room 001, Block C2	**Workshop 1: Building epidemiological and public health capacity: A Design Thinking Approach to Advance Action in the Pacific** *8:30am–4:30pm (full day)*	*Workshop 1 continues*
Room 102, Block C2	**Workshop 2: Introduction to R and RStudio** *8:30am–12:30pm*	**Workshop 3: From Data to Decolonisation: Strengthening Epidemiology through Indigenous and Pacific Leadership** *1:00pm–4:30pm*
Room 101, Block C2	**Workshop 4: Introduction to Stata for Epidemiological Research** *8:30am–12:30pm*	**Workshop 5: From Protocol to Practice: Conducting large-scale field research for the RISE trial** *1:00pm–4:30pm*

See workshops description page 2-4

Transport to Sofitel Resort & Spa

4:45PM - 5:00PM

Meet at Fiji National University at 4:30pm for departure at 4:45pm to Sofitel Resort & Spa

1:15PM - 1:30PM

Meet at Sofitel Resort & Spa (Lobby) at 1:00pm for departure at 1:15pm

For those attending morning workshops only

Welcome Reception

6:00PM - 8:00PM

Venue: Sofitel Resort & Spa (Beachfront Cabana)

WORKSHOP 1

Building epidemiological and public health capacity: A Design Thinking Approach to Advance Action in the Pacific

8:30AM - 4:30PM – ROOM 001, Block C2

Presenters: Lisa Hall, Andrew Lau, Davoud Pourmarzi, Yukiko Ezure, Daniel Exeter, Eunice Okyere

Increasing epidemiological and public health capacity is a complex challenge that no single discipline can solve alone. This interactive workshop introduces design thinking as a practical approach for tackling this issue. Through short case studies and hands-on group activities, participants will work through the five phases of design thinking — empathise, define, ideate, prototype and test — using a toolkit being developed by SAAFE CRC with UNEP.

Participants will:

- Strengthen their understanding of regional progress, gaps and opportunities to improve epidemiological and public health capacity
- Learn about the new CAPHIA competency framework and consider implications for workforce and educational curriculum
- Learn how to use human-centred design thinking in their work
- Foster collaboration and a commitment to strengthen strategies to improve epidemiological and public health capacity.
- Develop a roadmap for implementation of strategies/ next steps

This workshop is s*upported by the CAPHIA Competency Renewal project and the CAPHIA-AEA Network for Designing Learning in Epidemiology (CANDLE)*

Workshop facilitators

Facilitation team has expertise in epidemiology and public health teaching, design thinking and curriculum development.

- Prof Lisa Hall (University of Queensland and CAPHIA Board member)
- Assistant Professor Eunice Okyere (Fiji National University)
- Professor Daniel Exeter (University of Auckland)
- Dr Yukiko Ezure (University of Queensland)

WORKSHOP 2

Introduction to R and RStudio

8:30AM - 12:30PM – ROOM 102, Block C2

Presenter: Benjamin Harrap

This workshop is for anyone looking to learn the basics of using R. We'll cover the fundamentals of the R language and the RStudio software, providing practical skills and resources to help people get started on their R journey. At the end of the workshop, we'll briefly cover data analysis and visualisation to give attendees an idea what's possible and where to look for further learning.

Approximate schedule:

- Getting to know R: RStudio, packages, environment (15min)
- R Basics: assignment, pipes, documentation (15min)
- Break (10min)
- Data wrangling fundamentals (45min)
- Break (20min)
- Data analysis (30min)
- Data visualisation (30min)
- Wrap-up and final questions (15min)

WORKSHOP 3

From Data to Decolonisation: Strengthening Epidemiology through Indigenous and Pacific Leadership

1:00PM - 4:30PM – ROOM 102, Block C2

Presenters: Raglan Maddox, El-Shadan (Dan) Tautolo, Abbey Diaz, Lisa J Whop

Across the Pacific and globally, epidemiology has played a critical role in documenting patterns of disease and inequity. However, epidemiology has also often operated within systems that frame Indigenous peoples through deficit narratives, while insufficiently accounting for the impacts of colonisation, racism, and the commercial determinants of health.

This interactive workshop explores how epidemiology can move beyond deficit and extractive approaches through Indigenous and Pacific leadership, governance, reciprocity, and community-driven public health action. Drawing on Indigenous-led work in tobacco control, cancer control, implementation science, and commercial determinants of health research, participants will critically examine how epidemiological methods, language, framing, and partnerships influence research practice and health outcomes.

The workshop will incorporate practical examples, including youth-led movements such as Voices of Resistance, Warraay Puthu, and community-driven cancer control initiatives that centre Indigenous governance, leadership, and systems transformation. Through practical activities and discussion, participants will explore strengths-based quantitative approaches, reciprocal research partnerships, and strategies to help ensure epidemiological evidence is meaningful for community priorities and policy action.

Aligned with the conference theme "One Ocean, One Health," this workshop positions epidemiology as both a scientific and relational practice grounded in Indigenous sovereignty, reciprocity, and solidarity.

WORKSHOP 4

Introduction to Stata for Epidemiological Research

8:30AM - 12:30PM – ROOM 101, Block C2

Presenters: Amanda Eng

This hands-on workshop introduces Stata for epidemiological research and public health practice. Designed for beginners and those with limited experience, it covers the fundamentals of navigating the Stata environment, managing data, generating descriptive statistics, and conducting basic epidemiological analyses.

Practical skills are developed through guided exercises using an epidemiological dataset. By the end of the session, participants will be able to write and run basic Stata commands, perform common data management tasks, summarise data, and undertake simple epidemiological analyses.

Prerequisites: No prior experience with Stata is required. Familiarity with basic epidemiological concepts is recommended.

WORKSHOP 5

From Protocol to Practice: Conducting large-scale field research for the RISE trial

1:00PM - 4:30PM – ROOM 101, Block C2

Presenters: Professor Karin Leder, Dr Fiona Barker and Autiko Tela

Large-scale field studies rarely unfold exactly as planned, and published protocols do not capture the practical realities of implementing complex epidemiological research in the field. Using the Revitalising Informal Settlements and their Environments (RISE) trial as a case study, this interactive workshop will provide practical insights into the conduct of a large-scale, transdisciplinary field trial across 12 informal settlement communities in Fiji. We will share lessons learned from nearly a decade of field implementation, covering study design, community engagement, household recruitment, biological and environmental sampling, field and lab logistics, quality assurance and data management. We will outline how we approached cross-country operations as well as local community and government partnerships. We will also highlight challenges faced and practical strategies used to overcome them.

The workshop is designed to encourage discussion, providing participants with practical tools, lessons, and strategies that can be applied to future ambitious field studies.

Wednesday 14th October 2026

Venue: *Sofitel Resort & Spa*

Speaker prep desk opening hours
7:30AM – 3:00PM

Ocean view foyer

Registrations
8:00AM - 8:30AM

Ocean view foyer

Plenary session - Opening remarks
8:30AM - 9:00AM

Ballroom 2

Plenary session - Health Issues
Sponsored by THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

What We Count Shapes What Becomes Possible: Epidemiology, Power and Nicotine-Free Futures

Lessons from Indigenous-led tobacco control across Oceania
9:00AM - 10:00AM

Ballroom 2

A/Prof. Raglan Maddox
Australian National University
Associate Professor Raglan Maddox is from the Bagumani (Modewa) Clan in Papua New Guinea and leads the Tobacco Free Program at Yardhura Walani – National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Wellbeing Research at the Australian National University.

His work sits at the intersection of Indigenous health and wellbeing, tobacco control, commercial determinants of health, and public policy. His research examines how systems, structures and commercial environments produce and sustain preventable tobacco- and nicotine-related harms, and how these systems can be challenged and transformed through Indigenous leadership, structural reform and public policy.

Raglan works with Indigenous communities, young people, health services, researchers and the Tackling Indigenous Smoking program. His research spans epidemiology, evaluation, policy, health promotion, commercial determinants and knowledge translation, with a strong focus on the systems and commercial actors that shape health and wellbeing.

Morning tea
10:00AM - 10:30AM

Ocean view foyer

Oral presentations

10:30AM - 12:15PM

Session 1

(Refer to https://aea-asm-2026.m.tas.currinda.com/ for detailed speakers and abstracts information)

Ballroom 1	Advancing Epidemiological Methods 1
Ballroom 2	Communicable disease epidemiology and action
Ballroom 3	Strengthening system responsiveness to health crises
Ballroom 4	Climate, environment and human health 1
Ballroom 5	Health and wellbeing (general)

Lunch

12:15PM - 1:30PM

Bazaar Kitchen Restaurant

Poster presentation

12:15PM - 1:30PM

Ballroom 2

AEA AGM

12:45PM - 1:30PM

Ballroom 3

Plenary session - Ian Prior Oration

1:30PM - 2:30PM

Ballroom 2

Sponsored by THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Prof Neil Pearce

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

International comparisons and causal inference: the legacy of Ian Prior

Ian Prior was one of the founders of epidemiology in Australasia and the Pacific. He is rightly best known for the Tokelau Island Migrant study, which produced striking findings on the health effects of migration, and paved the way for many subsequent discoveries about the causes of chronic disease.

In the 21st century, there is much that we can still learn from the pioneering work of Ian Prior. In particular, it is important that we (re)consider the importance of international comparisons and collaborations. When conducted together with studies at the individual and molecular levels, these comparisons can tell us much more than can be learned from single studies in single countries.

There are at least five reasons why such population-level comparisons are important:

(i) most of our good ideas (i.e. hypothesis generation) have come from population comparisons;

(ii) lack of variation of exposure within high income countries;

(iii) lack of generalisability between high income and low income countries;

(iv) lack of exposure in high income countries; and

(v) the importance of addressing the most important public health problems on a global basis.

International comparisons, despite all their methodological difficulties, will therefore remain a key part of the process of epidemiological research and causal inference in the 21st century. These issues are illustrated with

my ongoing research into the global causes of asthma, and of Chronic Kidney Disease of unknown cause (CKDu).

Afternoon tea

2:30PM - 3:00PM

Ocean view foyer

Oral presentations

3:00PM - 4:30PM

Session 2

(Refer to https://aea-asm-2026.m.tas.currinda.com/ for detailed speakers and abstracts information)

Ballroom 1	Conversation starters - Communicable diseases
Ballroom 2	Indigenous and community-led and governed data collection, measurement and reporting
Ballroom 3	Injury, self-harm and interpersonal violence
Ballroom 4	Conversations starters - population health & wellbeing
Ballroom 5	Conversation starter - Health across the life course

Plenary session - Health Systems

Sponsored by THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

4:30PM - 5:30PM

Ballroom 2

Dr. Corina Grey
NZ Director of Public Health

Dr Grey will speak on the central role of epidemiology in supporting strong and resilient health systems. As health threats become more complex, epidemiology will become even more critical for early warning, system resilience and reducing health inequities.

Free time

5:30PM - 6:00PM

Gala Dinner and Awards

6:00PM - 10:00PM

Sofitel Resort & Spa, Meke Lawn

Thursday 15th October 2026

Venue: *Sofitel Resort & Spa*

Speaker prep desk opening hours

7:30AM – 3:00PM

Ocean view foyer

Registrations

8:00AM - 8:30AM

Ocean view foyer

Plenary session - Skill Development

Sponsored by THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

9:00AM - 10:00AM

Ballroom 2

Prof Karin Leder
Director of Research, RISE and Director of Health and Climate Initiative, Monash University

Opportunities and challenges of assessing health impacts of complex interventions: Lessons from the RISE RCT

This keynote will examine how the Revitalising Informal Settlements and their Environments (RISE) trial has challenged traditional approaches of capturing complex interactions between environmental change, infrastructure, human behaviour, and health. RISE is a large randomised controlled trial (RCT) evaluating climate-resilient urban upgrading across informal settlements in Fiji and Indonesia. By describing the evolution of the RISE program, key innovations in measuring complex exposure pathways, and complexities in integrating environmental and human health data, this presentation will address implications for the design and evaluation of future transdisciplinary public health interventions.

Morning tea

10:00AM - 10:30AM

Ocean view foyer

Oral presentations
10:30AM - 12:00PM

Session 3
(Refer to https://aea-asm-2026.m.tas.currinda.com/ for detailed speakers and abstracts information)

Ballroom 1	Strengthening the future epidemiological workforce across the region
Ballroom 2	Maternal and child health
Ballroom 3	Climate, environment and human health 2
Ballroom 4	Equity in cancer
Ballroom 5	Innovations in health data collection and measurement for equity and action

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Lunch
12:00PM - 1:00PM
Bazaar Kitchen Restaurant

Poster presentation
12:00PM - 1:00PM
Ballroom 2

IEA Meeting
12:15PM - 1:00PM
Ballroom 5

AEA Social Epidemiology SIG networking
12:15PM - 12:45PM
Mountain view foyer

Oral presentations
1:00PM - 2:30PM

Session 4
(Refer to https://aea-asm-2026.m.tas.currinda.com/ for detailed speakers and abstracts information)

Ballroom 1	Advancing Epidemiological Methods 2
Ballroom 2	Measuring cancer risk and outcomes
Ballroom 3	Unlocking the potential of existing health sources
Ballroom 4	Structural, commercial and social determinants of health
Ballroom 5	Cancer causes and control

Afternoon tea
2:30PM - 3:00PM
Ocean view foyer

Plenary session - Data to improve health services and decision making
3:00PM - 4:00PM
Ballroom 2

Sponsored by THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Prof Marion Saville
Executive Director Australian Centre for the Prevention of Cervical Cancer

Mr Peter Ellis
Director, Statistics for Development Division (Noumea) The Pacific Community

This session will discuss data required by decision makers to answer important health related questions in Pacific Island countries and territories. Sources of data to help answer these questions include census, surveys, surveillance, clinical/hospital, birth/death registers and administrative systems. The strengths and weaknesses of the health data eco-system in the Pacific, and where are the opportunities to improve coverage and quality will also be discussed.

With a focus on the expanding cervical screening program in Pacific Island countries, the role and importance of population health platforms to support population wide initiatives will consider the value of platforms to assist individual clinical management and inform program performance and improvement through continuous improvement. Data sovereignty, governance and security and the importance of integration into the country's wider health ecosystem will also be discussed

Oral presentations

4:00PM - 5:00PM

Session 5

(Refer to https://aea-asm-2026.m.tas.currinda.com/ for detailed speakers and abstracts information)

Ballroom 1	Designing, monitoring and evaluating health policy and programs
Ballroom 2	Vaccinations and immunisation coverage
Ballroom 3	Climate and healthcare access and use
Ballroom 4	ECR Presentations
Ballroom 5	Disability

Plenary session - Closing remarks

5:00PM - 5:15PM

Ballroom 2

We gratefully acknowledge the support of our sponsors, whose generosity makes the AEA 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting possible. We extend our sincere thanks for their ongoing partnership and investment in the AEA community.