

# MEDIA RELEASE



24 September 2018

## Continence experts meet in Hobart

National Conference on Incontinence, Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart, 24-27<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

**The Continence Foundation of Australia, the national peak body for bladder, bowel and pelvic floor health, is showcasing the latest in incontinence research and practice at the 27<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Incontinence.**

The program features leading international and Australian experts including keynote speakers Professor Karel Everaert (Belgium) and Professor Anton Emmanuel (UK).

Prof Everaert has been a Professor in Neurology since 2001 and is driving the continence clinic and the sacral neuromodulation centre at Ghent University in Belgium. He will be presenting on lower urinary tract symptoms and dysfunction.

Prof Emmanuel is a Professor of Neuro-Gastroenterology at University College London and director of the Gastro Intestinal Physiology Clinic at University College Hospital. He will be presenting on opioid pain relief and the bowel, the brain/gut axis, and pelvic pain.

Scientific Committee Co-Chair Dr Margaret Sherburn said the four-day conference also includes sessions on topical issues ranging from sexual health to gastroenterology, technology, disability, pregnancy as well as pelvic health and translational research.

“This annual meeting has a broad ranging program with something in it for clinicians working in all areas of continence care – from aged care to paediatrics, from tertiary hospital care, the disability sector, to community care. It is a truly exciting program,” Dr Sherburn said.

Attendees will have access to contemporary research and technology, hands-on workshops, a hot-button hypothetical session, social program and networking. The trade exhibition, with product manufacturers all under one roof, is an exciting opportunity for industry seeking to showcase to professionals in the continence sector.

The *2018 Carer of the Year*, *Barry Cahill Travel Scholarship Award* for Best Scientific Paper and *Best Poster Award* will be announced at the Conference Gala Dinner on Friday. The Conference will also launch the ground-breaking new website *Incontinence in Confidence*, a new online tool for teens with bladder and bowel concerns. <https://www.inconfidence.org.au/>

For adults affected by bladder and bowel issues, their carers, family and friends, a free Community Forum on Continence will provide the opportunity for Tasmanians to learn about pelvic floor muscle health, continence and related issues.

[ncoi.org.au](http://ncoi.org.au)

#ncoi2018

*For media enquiries, interviews or to request high res images, please contact:*

Jodie Harrison - 0425 754 370 [j.harrison@continence.org.au](mailto:j.harrison@continence.org.au)

Kasia Kosidlo - 0479 100 718 [k.kosidlo@continence.org.au](mailto:k.kosidlo@continence.org.au)

***Available for interview:***

- Prof Karel Everaert, international keynote speaker
- Prof Anton Emmanuel, international keynote speaker
- Mrs Rowan Cockerell, CEO of the Continence Foundation of Australia
- Dr Margaret Sherburn, Co-Chair 2018 National Conference on Incontinence
- Anja Christoffersen, 20-yr-old Brisbane model & spokesperson for Incontinence in Confidence

***Continence fast facts***

- Over 5 million Australians – 1 in 4 people aged 15 years or over – are incontinent
- The majority of incontinence cases can be better treated, better managed or even cured
- 70% of incontinent people do not seek help
- 80% of people who report they are living with incontinence are women
- Half of those women are aged under 50 years.
- 1 in 3 women who have ever had a baby wet themselves.
- 25% of men say they are, or were, incontinent.
- 20,000-60,000 Australian teenagers live with incontinence.
- Incontinence impacts self-esteem, motivation, dignity and independence
- In 2010, the total economic cost of incontinence was estimated to be \$66.7 billion and rising

***About the Continence Foundation of Australia***

The Continence Foundation of Australia is a not-for-profit health organisation and the national peak body for incontinence awareness, management, education and advocacy. The Foundation is supported by funding by the Australian Government under the National Continence Program and operates the free National Continence Helpline 1800 33 00 66.

[continence.org.au](http://continence.org.au)