ACWA Fams International Conference 2027

Abstract Submission Guidelines

The ACWA Fams International Conference 2027 invites abstracts for presentation in the Conference Program, to be held in Sydney, New South Wales, from 30 June to 2 July 2027.

Abstracts can only be submitted through the online submission portal linked on the ACWA Fams International Conference website, using the supplied abstract template. Please read these guidelines in full before submitting.

KEY DATES

MILESTONE	DATE
Abstract submissions open	October 2026
Abstract submissions close	Tuesday 12 January 2027
Notification of outcome (emailed to the submitting author)	Tuesday 23 February 2027
Presenting author registration deadline	Friday 30 April 2027
ACWA Fams international Conference 2027	30 June – 2 July 2027

PRESENTATION TYPES

Abstracts may be submitted for oral, poster, workshop or symposium/panel presentation. Word limits apply to the abstract body only and exclude the title, authors and affiliations.

FORMAT	WORD LIMIT	FORMAT
Oral Presentation	250 – 300	Relevance to the chosen key principle; background and objectives, including the research, policy, practice intervention or program initiative presented; methods or components (design, data and analysis for research or evaluation; elements, implementation and target service users for a policy or program); key results or outcomes; implications for practice, policy, programs or future research.
Workshop	350 – 400	Relevance to the chosen key principle; central focus, objectives and target audience; content, mode of delivery and learning outcomes.
Panel	450 – 500	Relevance to the chosen key principle; an overview of the session, including the central issue and objectives; each participant's involvement.

Panels may include up to four panellists in addition to the chair. If a panel presentation is accepted, biographies of the additional participants will be requested.

Preferences selected at submission are **not guaranteed**. The Conference Program Committee will determine the final presentation format and key principle allocation.

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KEY PRINCIPLES

Early Intervention and Prevention

We are excited to welcome practitioners, researchers, leaders, policy makers and people with lived experience to share your innovative ideas, evidence informed practice and emerging research that strengthen outcomes for children, families and communities. Examples may include:

- Emerging public health opportunities and challenges
- Infant and child mental health
- Advocacy or Policy initiatives that prioritise early supports
- Research and evidence demonstrating the impacts of intervening early
- Early Intervention approaches tailored for First Nations and/or Culturally and Linguistically Diverse populations

Child Protection and Out-Of-Home Care

We warmly invite practitioners, carers, researchers, sector leaders, policy makers, and people with lived experience to share their insights about children and young people in the Child Protection and Out-of-Home Care systems. We want to hear about new approaches, ideas that improve outcomes for children and families, practice that genuinely values connection to culture, and presentations that invite conversations about the future of our sector. This may include:

- Family preservation approaches that strengthen safety and help prevent children entering care
- Effective restoration and reunification practices
- Reform of Statutory child protection systems
- Strengths-based and dignity-driven approaches to child protection practice
- Implementing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle and keeping children connected to family, culture and Country
- Therapeutic and residential care models tailored for intensive support needs
- Examples of promising models of care from other jurisdictions or countries
- Leaving care and aftercare- what works, innovative models and or practice

Workforce

We would love to hear from you about your work, research and initiatives that support, strengthen and sustain our workforce to continue to be future ready for children and families. Examples may include:

- Workforce, wellbeing and sustainability
- Learning and development for contemporary practice
- Relational and Effective Leadership
- Governance
- Supervision approaches

Practice Innovation

We invite practitioners, researchers, leaders, policy makers and people with lived experience to share your innovative ideas, evidence informed practice, emerging research that strengthens practice children, families and communities. Examples may include:

- Data and Outcomes that enhance practice
- Evidence based/ Evidence informed practice
- Relational care approaches

- Future ready possibilities in practice and embracing innovation
- Innovation in intensive family support, out-of-home care and restoration practice

Systems Change

In recognition that the work we do in the sector is strongly influenced by broader political and societal systems, we invite the submission of abstracts that relate to these systemic issues, especially as they relate to the best interests of the child. This may include:

- Advocacy initiatives
- Thriving through change
- Aboriginal-led planning and Commissioning
- International approaches to strengthening child and family systems
- Whole-of-government approaches
- Preparing for and supporting families and communities impacted by environmental, economic and societal change

Collaboration

We know that one of our sector's strengths is in the ability to build strong, effective relationships. We would value the inclusion of any abstracts that will inspire delegates to reflect on how they can grow relationships that amplify the impact of our sector. This may include:

- Successful partnerships or consortiums
- Sector transformation or transition to ACCO-led services
- Co-design and creating collective impact
- Whole of family approach
- Interagency collaboration/ collective momentum

Lived Experience

We are really interested in the different ways lived experience is embedded and integrated within your organisation, including how it influences organisational culture, decision-making, service delivery, and practice. We would welcome lived experience perspectives of children, young people, parents, families, kin, community members, and carers.

- Challenging stigma and bias
- Removing barriers to family preservation and restoration
- Lived Experience roles and leadership
- Peer support and advocacy
- Shifting Organisational Culture
- Challenging Established Practices and Influencing Policy

Technology

We encourage the submission of abstracts relating to the use of technology within the child, family and community services sectors. We welcome submissions that explore the role technology plays in innovation.

- AI use and ethical adoption
- Cybersecurity
- Technologically assisted practice and assessment
- Telepractice with children and families
- E-Safety and parenting in a digital world

Intersectionality

We recognise when working with children, young people and families, an intersectional approach is essential. We welcome submissions exploring how intersectionality can inform practice, policy and service design.

- Inclusive service delivery through an intersectional approach
- Intersectionality in practice/ navigating overlapping experiences
- Inclusivity of identities (e.g. LQBTQIA+, disability, culture) in practice and our workforce
- Gendered-based and gender aware practice especially in the context of Domestic and Family Violence

ABSTRACT TEMPLATE AND FORMATTING

All abstracts must be prepared using the ACWA Fams 2027 abstract template. Abstracts not submitted in the template will not be accepted or published.

The abstract body must:

- not include paragraph headings (such as aims, methods or results), tables, graphics or references
- be complete without the presentation, and only refer to results or conclusions stated in the text
- be free of typographical and grammatical errors
- use standard abbreviations for common terms only, written in full at first use with the abbreviation in brackets. Abbreviations may appear in the title if written in full in the body.

Formatting such as italics, bold, underlining, superscript and subscript is preserved, and symbols (e.g. ±, µ, ß) may be used.

PRESENTER CONDITIONS

Presenting authors must register for at least one day of the Conference (the day of their presentation) by **30 April 2027**. Presentations without a registered presenting author by this date will be removed from the final program.

The invitation to submit an abstract is not an offer to cover travel, accommodation or registration costs.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Submission is a two-step process. Please follow the instructions carefully so your abstract uploads correctly.

Step 1: Create an account and contact profile

1. On the portal landing page, under New Account, click Create New Account, then enter your email address and create a password.
2. Sign in to the portal.
3. Click the Contact Information tab in the top menu, then select Create Contact at the bottom of the page and complete the short form. This step is required before you can submit an abstract.

Step 2: Submit your abstract

Select Submit Abstract from the top menu and follow the instructions throughout the process. You will need:

- the abstract title and your preferred presentation format
- the most relevant key principle for your abstract
- the name, organisation, position and affiliation of all presenting authors and co-authors
- the presenting author's headshot and biography (maximum 200 words)
- your completed abstract template

LANGUAGE

Please note that the official ACWA Fams International Conference language is English. All presentations must be made in English.

PUBLICATION AND DISCLAIMER

Accepted abstracts will be published in the Conference App. Submitting an abstract confirms consent to its publication.

The Conference Managers are not responsible for abstracts not received through the online submission portal, or for submission errors caused by internet outages, hardware or software delays, power outages or other unforeseen events.

If you require further assistance, please contact the ACWA Fams International Conference Managers **Arinex Pty Ltd** at acwaconference@arinexgroup.com