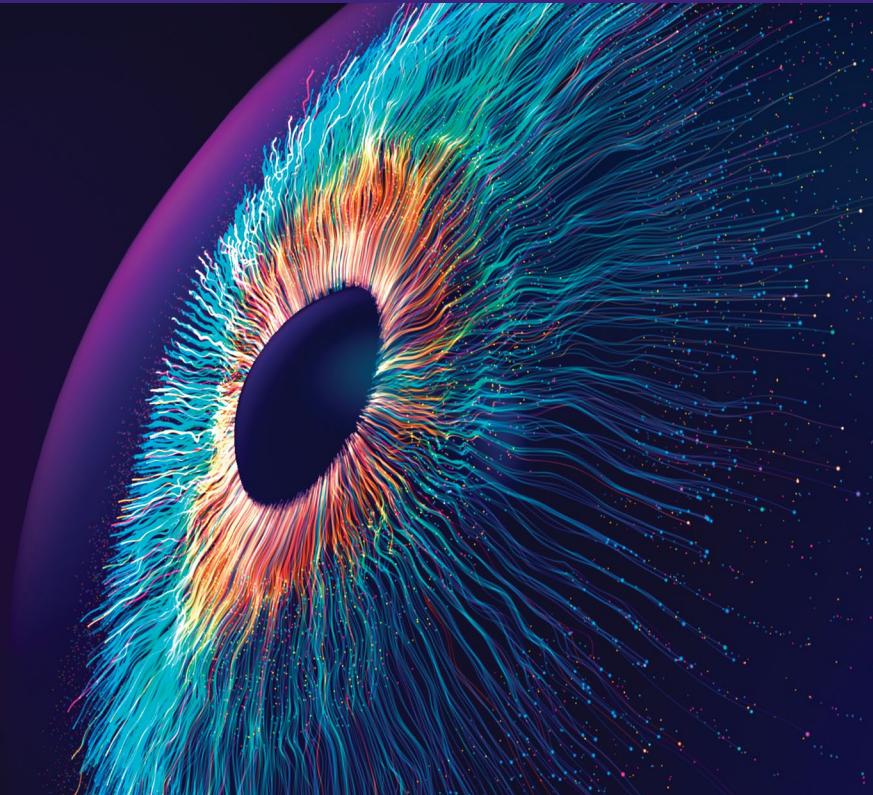


Program



Future Health Symposium 2025

Powered by the Future Health Worldbuilding Competition

health.nsw.gov.au/futurehealthcomp

Produced by Future Workforce Unit

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SHPN (WPTD) 250945
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October 2025

Program

12:00pm	Registration, Futures Exploration and Lunch	
<i>Level 5, Westmead Innovation Centre</i>		
1:00pm	Symposium Begins	
	Welcome to Country	Aunty Cynthia
	Welcome	Summer Howarth, Master of Ceremonies (MC)
1:15pm	Keynote: Making your dream health future come to life	Peter Susanto
1:25pm	Year 7 / 8 Future Visions	
2:05pm	Afternoon tea	
2:20pm	Year 9 / 10 Future Visions	
3:20pm	AWARD PRESENTATIONS	
	Year 7 / 8 Award Presentations	
	Individual	Anuj Sharma, Director, on behalf of Pro-Identity & Jesse Waller
	Team	Tom Marsic, Portfolio General Manager, on behalf of Novotel Sydney Parramatta & Jason Miezis
	Year 9 / 10 Award Presentations	
	Individual	Ruzika Soldo, Head of Impact and Engagement, on behalf of UNICEF & Peter Susanto
	Team	Clive Truman, Account Director for NSW Health, on behalf of Amazon Web Services & Zoë Robinson
	People's Choice Award	Vi Girgis, Industry Theme Lead -Western Sydney Office of the Vice-President, External Engagement, on behalf of University of Sydney & Susan Pearce
3:50pm	Closing Remarks	NSW Health Secretary, Susan Pearce
4:00pm	Close	Summer Howarth

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About the Symposium

The NSW Health Future Health Symposium celebrates the innovative, insightful and creative ideas of New South Wales young people. We are thrilled to bring together students, educators, parents, health leaders, and community members for the culminating event of the **Future Health Worldbuilding Competition**.

This Symposium marks the final stage of an exciting journey in which students from Years 7-10 across New South Wales have been invited to imagine what our health care system could look like in the year **2040**.

Using *Futures Thinking* methodology, students have explored the big questions facing our future: How might climate, technology, population change, and social values reshape health care?

What challenges could we face - and what opportunities might we create? In teams or as individuals, they've crafted bold, creative, and thoughtful visions for the future of health, supported by deep research and imagination.

Today's presentations are more than just ideas. They're deeply considered creative futures that ask us - as educators, parents, policymakers, and professionals - to think beyond today's solutions and imagine a more equitable, sustainable, and human-centred future for all.

Thank you for being part of this important conversation. We hope you leave inspired by the potential of these young worldbuilders and the futures they are helping us to see.

Acknowledgement of Country



Leona McGrath, Aboriginal Artist and Midwife

The NSW Ministry of Health acknowledges Aboriginal people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters of NSW and pays respect to Elders past, present and future.

NSW Health acknowledges the Burramattagal people, a clan of the Dharug, the Traditional Owners of the land and waters upon which today's celebration is held on.

"This painting is called "Interconnectedness" it is a representation of the Future Workforce Unit and the work they do to ensure there is a resilient sustainable workforce. A workforce that is patient focused, digitally enabled and prepared for the future."

"Understanding how Aboriginal people lived harmoniously, carried ancient traditions and ceremonies and cared for Country for millennia, the Future Workforce Unit display the same principles in their work in striving to build a resilient sustainable workforce."

Foreword



Susan Pearce AM
Secretary NSW
Health B App Sci
(Nursing), Dip Law,
Grad Dip Legal
Practice

Welcome to the Future Health Symposium—an inspiring celebration of imagination, innovation, and the incredible potential of our next generation of health leaders. Today's showcase marks the culmination of the Future Health Worldbuilding Competition, a NSW Health initiative that invites students across the state to explore what health could look like in the year 2040. More than a competition, this program is a platform for young people to engage meaningfully with the challenges and opportunities ahead, and to help shape a health system that is inclusive, resilient and ready for tomorrow.

With hundreds of diverse roles across the health sector—from clinical care to research, digital innovation, policy and community engagement—there are countless ways to make a difference to the health and wellbeing of people of NSW. Through this initiative, students have explored bold ideas and visionary futures, drawing inspiration from the NSW Health-Beyond Tomorrow Megatrends Report, which outlines the transformative forces reshaping our system. Their work reflects deep curiosity, critical thinking, and a commitment to imagining a better future for all.

To the 250 students who made a competition submission, we extend our heartfelt thanks for their creativity and courage, to the parents for their unwavering support and to the teachers who have guided and inspired their students throughout this journey. Your collective engagement has made this initiative a success. We are proud to showcase ideas from our 41 student finalists today and are excited by the meaningful conversations they will spark across our health system. Together, we are building a future workforce that is not only prepared—but inspired!



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“I surprised myself when I thought of the depths of healthcare.”

“Next time, I’ll be braver about my thoughts and ideas.”

“A method or trick I’ll use again is mind maps and brain dumps.”

“Interacting with everyone and brainstorming our ideas or sharing our opinions really helped.”

Master of Ceremonies



Summer Howarth grew up in New South Wales and once competed as a figure skater, learning to blend precision, energy, and performance. Today she brings that same spark(le) to education, partnering with schools and systems across the world to elevate students as partners and strengthen the work of educators. Splitting her time between Melbourne and Darwin, she is widely sought after as a dynamic facilitator and MC who creates high-trust, high-energy environments for learning and leadership.

Summer is a twice Australian Good Design Gold Award winner, a global Good Design Award recipient, and an ACEL National Fellow, recognised for her impact on learning design and educational transformation

“Something I'd change in my process is doing more research on citizen views of the matter as well as any financial problems the project might cause.”



Charles Sturt
University



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Judges



**Susan Pearce AM
Secretary NSW Health**

B App Sci (Nursing), Dip Law,
Grad Dip Legal Practice

Susan Pearce AM is Secretary of NSW Health, with 180,000+ FTE and a \$37 billion budget delivering world-class, patient-centred care to the people of NSW.

In her prior role as Deputy Secretary, she was also State Health Emergency Operations Centre Controller, leading the NSW Health pandemic operational response and the NSW vaccine rollout, establishing 40+ vaccination clinics across the state.

Susan began her career as a registered nurse in Broken Hill and has continually worked to serve the communities of NSW, including as NSW Chief Nurse. Susan was admitted to the Supreme Court of NSW as a solicitor in 2019.



Peter Susanto
UNICEF Australia Young Ambassador, 2024
Northern Territory Young Australian of the Year

In 2022 Peter commenced university at age 15, and has since completed a Bachelor of Clinical Sciences. He is also a dedicated community contributor, for which he has been acknowledged as 2024 NT Young Australian of the Year and 2025 Darwin Young Citizen of the Year. Peter has been the Australian neuroscience champion and medalled for Australia in the International Brain Bee Olympiad. With a passion for health advocacy, in 2024 he successfully advocated for every NT resident aged 18 years and under to have access to free oral health services.



Jesse Waller
CEO & Co-Founder of InnerSteps

Jesse is the co-founder of InnerSteps, a mental health startup dedicated to empowering children through personalised storytelling. At just 23, Jesse has already made significant strides in the tech and mental health sectors. InnerSteps supports children aged 3-12 in understanding and managing their emotions using clinical strategies and engaging narratives. This innovative approach earned him the 2024 Australian award for Social Impact and recognition in Forbes Australia's 30 Under 30 list. Jesse's journey reflects his commitment to leveraging technology for social good, aiming to make mental health resources accessible and engaging for young audiences.



Jason Miezin
Acting Executive Director,
Teaching and Learning Support

Jason Miezin is the Acting Executive Director, Teaching and Learning Support, stepping into the role on 29 September 2025. Previously Director, Educational Leadership for the Eastern Creek Network, he championed quality teaching, equity, and student wellbeing across 21 schools. A values-driven leader, Jason is known for his authenticity, collaboration, and humour, building strong teams focused on improving student outcomes and ensuring every learner is known, valued, and cared for.



Zoë Robinson
NSW Advocate for children
and young people

Zoë Robinson is dedicated to ensuring that children and young people have meaningful opportunities to participate in decisions that impact their lives. With a strong background in law and human rights, she focuses on empowering students to engage actively in shaping educational and community outcomes. Zoë is committed to amplifying youth voices and fostering inclusive environments where young people can contribute to positive change.

Year 7/8 – Individuals

The slide features a poster for Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS) on the left and a presentation title on the right.

Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS) Awareness Poster:

- What Is PWS?** Prader-Willi Syndrome is a rare genetic condition that is associated with obesity, low muscle tone, and developmental delay. People affected by PWS have low metabolism, risk of obesity, behavioral problems and other medical complications. People with PWS also experience hypogonadism, which means they don't feel full.
- A NEW BEGINNING TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE**
- CURE GENETIC CONDITIONS (PWS)**
- HOW CAN WE CURE IT?** Cure PWS can cure the genetic condition of Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS) by introducing the missing gene into the body. There are two other types of genetic therapies that can cure PWS. One is to remove the chromosome 15 and replace it with a normal one to prevent the disorder.
- Genetic Therapies**

The genetic therapies developed so far, PWS patients are not yet available. These therapies are still in the research phase. The first genetic therapy for PWS is SMCHD1 protein.
- SMCHD1 Protein**

The SMCHD1 protein is a protein that is missing in PWS patients. This protein is produced by the SMCHD1 gene on chromosome 15. The SMCHD1 protein is involved in the regulation of gene expression.

STATISTICS:

Category	Value
CHILDREN WITH PWS	1 in 10,000 to 30,000 births
LIFE EXPECTANCY	30 years
OBESITY	800 pounds
INFERTILITY	340 MILLION
DEATHS	50 deaths

WORLD NAME:
A new beginning for a brighter future

NAME:
Evie B

WORLD NAME:

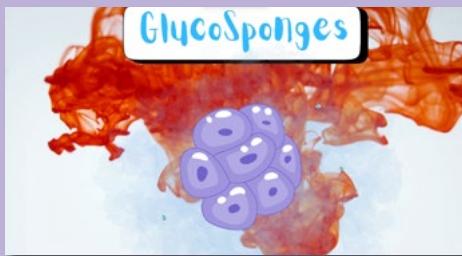
NAME:

CONCLUSION

My 2040 healthcare vision responds to the mental health crisis, ageing population, and sustainability needs by using AI, VR, and renewable technologies to create a system that is accessible, affordable, and emotionally supportive. It centers around values like dignity, trust, and empathy, while partnering with governments to deliver equity-driven policies and tools. By 2040, we don't just treat illness we build systems of care for every human being.

WORLD NAME:
SoakingTheSugar

NAME:
Vaishnavi R



Change is Possible

- One Connected Health Record
- Free internet access for health services at home
- Telehealth in the home
- AI supported diagnosis
- Innovative funding models

WORLD NAME:
UHealth

NAME:
Lejla S

“In the future I’ll do less doubting my ideas and more trusting my imagination and instinct.”

Year 7/8 – Team



WORLD NAME:

Vitalia

NAMES:

Bethan K

Zoë S

Felicity J

WORLD NAME:

Gene Alrmour

NAMES:

Jai S C

Henry M

Oliver C



WORLD NAME:
Healtheye Topia

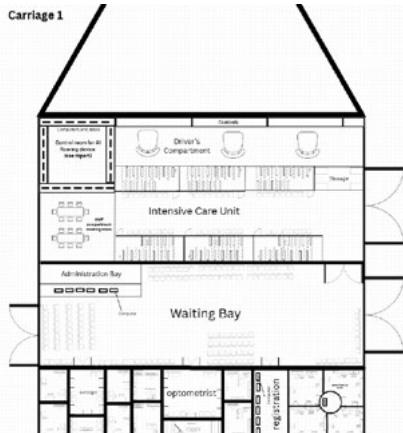
NAMES:
Serena K
Alexa G
Ivy L



WORLD NAME:
Lungrove

NAMES:
Lakshmi G
Charlotte P
Jennifer T

Year 7/8 – Team



WORLD NAME:

Vision of 2040

NAMES:

Maya

Mai

Tiana

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Year 9/10 – Individuals

Short Story Submission: 'A Day in CareCore World; More Than Just a Hospital' (Page 1/2)

The sun pealed over the horizon, casting sunlight across CareCore World. The rooftops sparkled and glass panels that seemed to be translucent to solar panels powering the homes below. The streets smelled fresh, lined with gardens where anyone could pick fruits, vegetables or herbs. This wasn't just a city, it was a community built around care.

Maya stretched her arms and glanced at the small band on her wrist. It gently buzzed, alerting her to check her heart, oxygen levels and blood pressure. She had come to CareCore Hub to see a doctor and checked. She didn't feel scared though, not one bit. In CareCore, healthcare wasn't cold or intimidating; it was part of everyday life designed to make people safe.

The Hub stood at the centre of the community. From the outside, it looked nothing like the hospitals Maya had seen in the news. It was a large, modern building with a glass front. There were open courtyards with gardens, laughter and colourful murals painted by Aboriginal and local artists. Families relaxed on benches, kids ran between the fountains, and friendly volunteers were always on hand to answer questions.

Inside, the Hub felt alive. The air smelled of plants growing along the walls and soft sounds of rainforest birds drifted through the speakers. Maya saw an older man supported by an exoskeleton frame taking care of a dog, a teenager chattering with a holographic counsellor and a woman with a baby smiling at her. The Hub was a place where everyone was welcome, no one was judged, everyone was welcome, and they were enjoying being in the moment.

Before Maya had even sat down, her hand had already synced with the Hub's AI system. It suggested a treatment plan, but that wasn't exactly the final answer. A nurse, Leila, walked over, smiling warmly. "Hello, you aren't stiff and clinical; it was soft, embodied with a symbol of human traced in a circle."



WORLD NAME: CareCore World

NAME: Ariba O

Short Story



WORLD NAME: Hospital Hub 2040

NAME: Priya S

Short Story



Hospital Hub 2040

She took long and steady breaths as the glass doors slid open. The air inside smelled faintly sterile, with a hint of eucalyptus drifting from the plants at the entrance which she knew from then on, the hospital felt more welcoming. Her palms were damp. She counted each inhale, each exhale. You're not here as a patient, she reminded herself. You're here to work.

Her body didn't seem to know the difference though. Her pulse was fast and uneven; she could feel the old edge of dread rising in her chest. She had forgotten to eat breakfast, but it was too late because she had a tour before she started her first day of work.

"Hi, I'm Maya, isn't it?" the lady at the front desk asked. "I'm Katherine."

Maya tried to smile as she accepted the name badge Katherine offered her and followed her down the hallway. The hospital was small and only had one ward but that was enough for the small town that had previously not had any hospital at all. It was constructed by the local Aboriginal Community and the hospital was run entirely by Elders and clinicians together ensuring that first nations self-determination was at the centre of care. Incorporating Aboriginal knowledge and values, it also offers playgrounds, allied health services, and a gym. It has a helpline for patients, deciding whether patients should be sent to the ward in emergency cases, GP clinics for urgent or stable cases, and non-urgent or follow-up to telehealth or preventative health programs.

Maya shivered remembering the nightmarish hour-long drives to the hospital when she was younger, walking in the middle of the night in pain so intense she couldn't stand.

"Throughout the day you will stay at the front desk directing visitors, people coming into Emergency and patients here for allied health and GP appointments, but you should know your way around the rest of the hospital," Katherine said as she led her into the ward.

She was shown the x-ray room and operating theatre where teleurgery was performed remotely by a surgeon in the city who had all the machines that were gleaming under the light. There were also virtual reality rooms where patients could be seen by specialists while assisted by a nurse and the ward where patients received in-person care. It made her stomach churn thinking about all the time she had spent in one of those rooms, staring at a white ceiling while she was in excruciating pain, that doctors didn't believe as quickly as they arrive as they are directed toward the appropriate



WORLD NAME:
Symbiotica

NAME:
Sarah J

Artwork



WORLD NAME:
SymbioFuture

NAME:
Diya R



“I’ll be braver about sharing unconventional ideas, even if they seem too futuristic.”

“Turns out starting with emotional well-being as a focus really helped.”



WORLD NAME:

NgurraCare

NAME:

Phoebe J

Newspaper



Light Years In Front

The wind howled around me as I fought my way to the pharmacy lab. I slowly opened the door before I was pushed in and the door was slammed shut. I tried to convince myself that it was normal, these weather events happened almost every week around here, but I still couldn't shake the feeling that something was off. I just didn't know what.

As I placed my lunch in the fridge, I checked my phone to see if there were any updates. The severe storm may affect roads and other infrastructure, the alert read. That was their way of saying we didn't know. Out here we could do what we wanted regardless of the alert, and hope it never came.

Hours later I heard a crash, then darkness. I turned my battery powered lamp on, looking around the lab as my eyes slowly adjusted to the darkness. I waited five minutes, then 10, then 20. What was happening?

We'd never lost power for this long. I picked my head out the door, looking around. Outside I could hear the wind screaming at the top of its lungs, then more crashes as more trees went down. The storm was still going, and it was going to come.

This was not a normal storm.

By mid-morning, most of the storm had passed, but more rain had fallen in those two hours than what had fallen in the past year. Della flinched the roads and as I looked destruction reigned everywhere. I could see the storm had come from the west and was heading straight for the building. The door opened before a red shirt with a blue band climbed out.

A Cobalt.

Although sent to help, he wouldn't know anything about these labs.

"Uh, right?" he asked me.

"Sure" I responded before walking back to the lab.

He assessed the damage, taking in the broken generators, paper charts, and the torches we had resorted to using with visible shock. "You're not going to tell me that?" he asked, his voice light with sarcasm. "I'm not going to tell you that you're not going to tell me what I'm allowed to snap at." "Yes," I said, shrugging. "It got us through the storm just fine."

His eyes flicked over to the steadily growing patient queue, then to me, and for a moment he shock faced into something else, respect. "I... wasn't expecting that," he admitted slowly. "I

WORLD NAME:

Light Years In Front

NAME:

Rosie H

Short Story



Year 9/10 – Team

Script:
2025.
It is 2025 and Jimmy, 54 years old works as a farmer. He lives in Murray and he grows tomatoes and radishes. He lives with his wife who is also 54 years old. They have 2 children living 3 to 3.5 hours far from the. Both of their children go to Sydney university. Jimmy loves spending time with his family and one of his huge interests is to have dinner nights with his family. He needs extra support with workload but doesn't want to ask for help. Jimmy is worried about his children's education and wants to make sure his children to be able to receive the proper educational support and go to the schools they prefer.

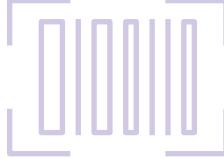
Even though he is not feeling well, he feels enough strong and dedicated to continue working. He is very stubborn minded and believes that the healthcare is for the weak. On one sunny warm day, when he feels well enough he says goodbye to his wife and goes to work. Midday he starts feeling dizzy and feels like he can't work anymore so he sits in the middle of his field to take a break that he suddenly gets runover by a tractor.

Acres/ rooms:
The rooms will have the equipment that can have multiple purposes such as a fold up bed or table and all equipment will be kept in storage cupboards and rooms. The aircraft will be able to turn into any type of room. For example first its an aircraft and depending on what the patient needs the room can turn into it. For multiple injuries the room can turn into a health-checkup/ first aid area, it can turn into an operating room for those in need of the situation. The room can basically shape-shift.

Product

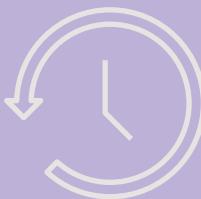
WORLD NAME:
Aviation Operation Service

NAMES:
Abygail M
Illicia K
Sama R



WORLD NAME:
Brochacho

NAMES:
Jack H
Felson J
Chloe O



Timeline

Vision Statement
To create a healthcare system that is preventive, equitable, culturally grounded, and environmentally sustainable, where all voices human care and communities share responsibility for thriving well-being.

Core Principles
Prevention First - shift from reactive sick care to proactive health promotion.
Equity and Access - no barriers due to geography, income, or background.
Cultural Integration - embed First Nations knowledge and holistic practices in every level of care.
Sustainable - healthcare systems aligned with climate resilience and renewable energy.

Guiding Principles
1. Community Health Hubs (CHHs)
• Role: First point of care. Provide prevention, primary care, mental health, cultural services, and health education.
• Examples: mobile clinics, telemedicine, community gardens.
• Walk-in access with no cost barrier.
• Staffed by multi-disciplinary teams (CPs, nurses, community health workers, cultural healers).
• On-site renewable energy and community gardens.
2. Remote Care Networks (DCNs)
• Role: Deliver healthcare beyond fixed sites—homes, workplaces, schools, and mobile units.
• Examples: mobile clinics dispatched to rural/remote communities.
• Remote monitoring via wearables and AI dashboards.
• Community members certified as "Wellbeing Facilitators" to provide first-line care.

Wellbeing Brochacho

Medicine of the Future Podcast
EPISODE 1 CYBERTERRA:
the doctor of the future



WORLD NAME:
Cyberterra

NAMES:
Iraa P
Isabella C
Tajhar S



Podcast

WORLD NAME:
Isothera

NAMES:
Jennifer X
Anvi S
Alynnna B



Website and video

Explore the Future of Healthcare

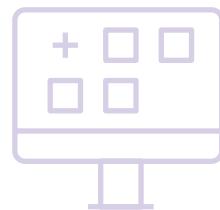
CAREBOTS



WORLD NAME:
Mediverse

NAME:
Charlotte S
Jasmine T
Jasmine B

App



“A method or trick I’ll use again is not giving up when you are stuck.”

Thank You.

This event simply wouldn't have been possible without the imagination and commitment from the young people involved with the Future Health Worldbuilding Competition. Your ideas inspire us all to think boldly about what comes next.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the parents, teachers and mentors who supported our students along the way, and to the health and education staff whose dedication continues to guide the next generation of thinkers and leaders. We also gratefully acknowledge our sponsors and partners, whose support makes this important initiative possible.

This experience highlights the importance of coming together, exploring diverse perspectives, sharing ideas openly and enabling young people to contribute meaningfully to our future health system.

Future Health Symposium 2025

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