The 13th Gestalt Australia & New Zealand (GANZ) Conference

In Our Bodies, Of The Field

25-27 June 2027 | The University of Queensland, St Lucia Campus, Brisbane QLD

Celebrating 30 years of GANZ

Conference Submission Information and Guidelines

Submissions Close: Friday 11th December 2026

About the Conference

We arrive in the world in bodies.

Bodies already in relationship. Bodies met by gaze, touch, rhythm and expectation. Bodies shaped by culture, history, power, difference and the fields we inhabit.

And we spend our lives becoming, changing, adapting, resisting, desiring, ageing and dying in those bodies.

What happens when we bring all of that into the room?

For the 13th GANZ Conference, *In Our Bodies, Of The Field*, we are inviting contributions that explore embodiment and somatic Gestalt in ways that are thoughtful, experiential, provocative, clinically grounded and alive.

We welcome submissions from students, emerging practitioners, researchers and experienced clinicians. We value lived experience, clinical wisdom, embodied knowledge, creativity and community knowledge alongside academic and theoretical expertise.

We don't just want to hear what you know.

Tell us what you're wondering about. Show us what you've discovered. Invite us into what you do.

Contribution Formats

We are seeking submissions in three formats:

1. Experiential Workshops

Don't just tell us about embodiment - let us experience it.

Experiential workshops invite participants to engage with ideas through practice, exploration, and experience.

Your workshop might combine theoretical or clinical material with movement, creative practice, sensory awareness, relational experiments, breath, voice, space or other embodied approaches.

We are particularly interested in workshops that bring the thinking into the room, rather than simply presenting information.

In your submission, tell us:

- What will you introduce, teach or explore?
- What will participants experience or engage with?
- What are you inviting participants to notice, question or discover?
- What Gestalt, clinical, theoretical, research-based or embodied thinking informs the workshop?

2. Clinical Conversations

Clinical Conversations invite us to slow down around clinical work and think together about relationship, contact, embodiment, and field.

This might be:

- a case study or case presentation
- a clinical dilemma
- a particular moment or sequence of work
- an intervention or impasse
- a question arising from your practice

Bring us a piece of clinical work that has stayed with you.

We are interested in both the clinical thinking and embodied experience of the work: what was happening between therapist and client, what you noticed in yourself, what the body was communicating, and how the field shaped what became possible.

Your conversation might draw on Gestalt theory, contact and boundary processes, field theory, phenomenology, relational or intersubjective approaches, transference and countertransference, self-psychology, attachment, trauma or other relevant frameworks.

In your submission, tell us:

- What clinical material, question or dilemma are you bringing?
- What is happening in the bodies and relationship?
- What clinical or theoretical ideas help you understand the work?
- What would you like participants to think about or explore with you?

Clinical Conversations might be presented individually or in dialogue with a colleague or supervisor.

Clinical material must be appropriately de-identified and adapted to protect client confidentiality, privacy, dignity and wellbeing.

If you are unsure how to appropriately adapt material for presentation, please contact us and we will provide you with support.

3. Local Keynote Proposals

Have a big idea? A provocation? A challenge to the way Gestalt thinks about bodies, embodiment or the field?

We are looking for local keynote proposals that open up something significant for the community to consider - theoretically, clinically, culturally or politically.

This might be:

- a substantial argument
- a provocation
- a new perspective on a familiar Gestalt idea
- a challenge to something the field has taken for granted
- an emerging perspective the community needs to encounter
- a question that opens new possibilities for Gestalt practice and thinking

We are interested in ideas that create movement, curiosity and conversation.

What might we be thinking about?

This is not an exhaustive list - consider it an invitation rather than a syllabus.

We are interested in proposals exploring embodiment and the field across difference, relationship and the lifespan, including:

- **Bodies and difference:** race, culture, gender, sexuality, disability, chronic illness, body size, neurodivergence, sensory and interoception differences
- **Bodies across the lifespan:** birth, matrescence, adolescence, sexuality and desire, illness and disease, ageing and dying
- **The body in clinical practice:** somatic approaches, the therapist's body, embodied countertransference, contact, rupture, enactment and impasse
- **Bodies in relationship:** intimacy, couples, families, attachment, self and how self shifts and forms in proximity and relation to the other
- **Power and the field:** privilege, oppression, the gaze, trauma and the body's histories, and the social, political and ecological contexts in which bodies live
- **Bodies, Country and ancestry:** Indigenous knowledges and understandings of body, place, Country, kinship, ancestry and relationality; ecological and more-than-human approaches to embodiment
- **Embodied practice:** movement, dance, music, rhythm, breath, voice, touch, space and sensory experience
- **Gestalt and the body:** what Gestalt has understood about embodiment, what it may have missed, and where our thinking might go next
- **Sustaining the work:** what supports therapists to remain present, embodied and vital, and what allows aliveness, creativity and capacity to emerge in the work

And perhaps most importantly: **bring us something we haven't thought to name yet.**

What Makes a Strong Submission?

We are looking for contributions that:

- engage meaningfully with embodiment, bodies and/or the field
- offer participants something to think, feel, experience or engage with
- demonstrate thoughtful clinical, theoretical, research-based or lived-experience grounding
- create curiosity, dialogue or movement rather than simply presenting information
- contribute something relevant to the contemporary Gestalt community

- attend thoughtfully to culture, difference, power and context where relevant
- are appropriately shaped for the proposed contribution format

We are not looking for one particular kind of expertise or one particular academic style.

We value curiosity, originality, embodied knowledge, clinical wisdom and meaningful questions.

What Do I Need to Submit?

Please provide the following for all submissions:

1. Title
The title of your proposed contribution.

2. Contribution format
Experiential Workshop, Clinical Conversation or Local Keynote Proposal.

3. Abstract - maximum 400 words
A concise description of your proposed contribution.

4. Short biography
A brief biography outlining your relevant professional, academic, practice or lived experience.

5. Technical, accessibility or room requirements
Please identify any requirements that may affect the room, equipment, accessibility or participant experience.

Format-specific information

Experiential Workshops
Briefly describe what participants will experience, do or engage with.

Clinical Conversations
Briefly describe the clinical question, case, dilemma, moment or thinking you will explore.

Local Keynote Proposals
Describe the central idea, argument, provocation or question you want to bring to the field.

You do not need to have presented at a conference before.

We particularly encourage proposals that bring perspectives and experiences that have historically been less visible within Gestalt spaces.

Submission Details

Submission deadline:

Friday 11th December 2026

Submit to: contact@ganz.org.au

Please include 'Conference Submission' in the subject line of your email.

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For any enquiries: contact@ganz.org.au

The GANZ Conference Organising Group (COG)

Michelle Sier, Zoë Webber, Tegan Mumford, Gina Denholm, Michael Pitt, Britta Wigginton, Jess Hodges, Sean Tonnet, and Betty Buckrich