



**The Australian & New Zealand
Society for Geriatric Medicine
Annual Scientific Meeting 2019**

Geriatric Medicine – Best care to the end

ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE
MONDAY, 13 MAY 2019 – WEDNESDAY, 15 MAY 2019

Monday, 13 May 2019 – Wednesday, 15 May 2019

Adelaide Convention Centre

Professor Ken Hillman

1. How does attending events like the **ANZSGM ASM 2019** inform or relate to your current practice?

Attending an event such as the ANZSGM ASM which is closely related to much of the clinical work that I am involved with as well as to my research work.

2. Which topics and sessions will you be addressing and participating in as part of the program?

My topics will mainly cover end-of-life, my experience and management in the elderly.

3. Why should these sessions not be missed?

The elderly comprise an increasing percentage of the population. There is rarely honest discussion about ageing and what it means. For us ageing is often referred to as a disease we can cure not as an inevitable deterioration of bodily function and how we should adapt not cure. Moreover, death and dying is not usually discussed in a practical and honest way especially with the elderly.

4. What do you think are the most exciting recent developments in the field of geriatric medicine?

As I am a clinician practising intensive care medicine some of the more exciting developments are detailed assessment of the elderly after being managed in intensive care for conditions such as septicaemia, pneumonia and major surgery. Hospital mortality and the way we are making a possible impact on it. Most of the majority of the elderly after intensive care are not alive after 12 months and have a recovery fraught with severe functional abnormalities and conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

5. What are the biggest challenges?

The biggest challenge is to engage in honest and empathetic discussions with the elderly about choices in their own management when they are exposed to short, medium and long-term outcomes from whatever procedures are being contemplated.

6. If you could work in a different field of work, which would you choose?

I am very happy working in my specialty of intensive care medicine.

7. What are you most looking forward to when you visit Adelaide, Australia?

I am looking forward to listening to sessions given by experts which I am not usually exposed to. I am also interested in networking and contacting people who share similar concerns about the current management of the elderly.