



Australian  
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# Trust in health and medicine

2025 AAHMS Annual Meeting

Old Parliament House, Canberra | 29–30 October 2025

## Thank you

We are most grateful to our generous sponsors for helping to facilitate this event, and to our 2025 Annual Meeting Steering Committee for their support:

- **Professor Graham Mann FAHMS (Chair)**
- **Professor Emily Banks AM FAHMS**
- **Professor Sharon Friel FASSA FAHMS**
- **Professor Russell Gruen FAHMS**
- **Professor Ross Hannan FAHMS**
- **Professor Kiaran Kirk AM FAHMS**
- **Professor Raymond Lovett AM FAHMS**

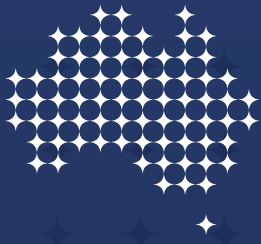
The Academy receives funding from the Australian Government. The views expressed at our events and in our reports, publications and activities do not necessarily reflect the views of the Australian Government.

## Acknowledgement of Country

The Academy acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which our offices stand and on which we hold our meetings and events across the country. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were the nation's first scientists, and they remain the spiritual and cultural custodians of their land. We pay our respects to elders past and present.



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# Welcome to the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences.

We are delighted to welcome you to this year's Annual Meeting – a flagship event that brings together leading minds from across the health and medical sciences. The Academy is proud to convene Fellows, researchers, clinicians, policymakers, and emerging leaders to share insights, foster collaboration, and explore the future of health in Australia.

This year's theme, *Trust in health and medicine*, reflects one of the most pressing challenges of our time. In an age of rapid scientific progress and widespread information exchange, trust is the foundation of effective healthcare and research. It shapes how individuals engage with health advice, how communities respond to public health initiatives, and how new innovations are adopted. Across the program, we will examine how trust is





built, sustained, and protected — and how we can work together to strengthen public confidence in science and medicine.

The Academy is uniquely positioned to lead these conversations. As an independent, interdisciplinary body, we bring together expertise from across sectors to address Australia's most urgent health challenges. We are committed to supporting the next generation of health and medical researchers, providing independent advice to government, and to seeing research and innovation translated into real-world impact.

Thank you for joining us. We look forward to the ideas, connections, and inspiration that will emerge over the coming days – and to working together to shape a healthier, more informed future for all Australians.

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Look for 'Hidden network' (on Apple devices you may need to select 'Other.' instead)

Type in the network name: NDS

Password: MoAD@18KGT-#Events

# Meeting schedule

Wednesday 29 October

8:30am	Registration
9:00am	<b>Welcome to Country</b> Selina Walker, a proud Ngunnawal woman
9:10am	<b>Meeting opening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Professor Graham Mann FAHMS, Chair, 2025 Annual Meeting Steering Committee</li><li>• Professor Louise Baur AM PresAHMS, President</li></ul>
9:20am	<b>Induction of new Fellows to the Academy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Professor Louise Baur AM PresAHMS, President</li><li>• Professor John Prins FAHMS, Vice-President</li></ul>
Opening address	<b>What is the current state of trust in health and medicine in Australia?</b>
9:40am	<i>Chaired by Professor Graham Mann FAHMS</i> <p>This session will explore what we know about the current state of public trust in health and medicine in Australia. It will review recent findings about the levels of trust that exist within the Australian community and explore the key factors shaping this. The session will help to set the scene for the broader program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Professor Joan Leach, Deputy-Vice Chancellor (Academic), The Australian National University</li></ul>
Keynote address	<b>Trust is a verb: Reimagining confidence in an age of doubt</b>
10:10am	<i>Chaired by Professor Graham Mann FAHMS</i> <p>Trust in health and medical sciences is too often framed as a communications problem: if only the public listened harder or we communicated more. But trust isn't won by being louder. It's earned through relationships — between patients and providers, citizens and systems, policymakers and evidence. Today, that fabric is fraying under pressure from doubt, inequity, and politicisation. In this session, we'll explore how to repair it: by acting in ways worthy of trust, by renewing the social contract across generations, and by reimagining how science and society walk forward together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms Tina D Purnat, Prajna Leadership Fellow, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and Vice President, Global Health Section, European Public Health Association (joining remotely)</li></ul>
11:00am	Morning tea
Panel 1	<b>The weaponisation of misinformation and disinformation</b>
11:30am	<i>Chaired by Dr Norman Swan AM FAHMS</i> <p>This session will explore how misinformation and disinformation are being used to influence public opinion and undermine trust. The discussion will consider how we might combat misinformation and disinformation, and strategies for fostering a more informed and information resilient community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Professor Sharon Friel FASSA FAHMS, Director, Australian Research Centre for Health Equity and The Planetary Health Equity Hothouse, The Australian National University</li><li>• Professor Raina MacIntyre FAHMS, Professor and Head, Biosecurity Program and Founder of EPIWATCH®, Kirby Institute</li><li>• Associate Professor Raglan Maddox, Senior Fellow, Yardhura Walani, National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Wellbeing Research, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, The Australian National University</li><li>• Mr Liam Mannix, National Science Reporter, The Age and the Sydney Morning Herald</li></ul>

# Meeting schedule

## Wednesday 29 October (continued)

<b>Expert Talk 1</b>	<b>Navigating misinformation, policy and politics</b>
<b>12:25pm</b>	<i>Chaired by Professor Louise Baur AM PresAHMS</i> <p>This talk will explore how misinformation impacts public perceptions and political decisions, and the challenges policymakers face in this environment. It will consider strategies for effectively navigating and countering misinformation to create more informed and resilient policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dr John Byron</b>, Principal Policy Adviser, Queensland University of Technology</li></ul>
<b>Expert Talk 2</b>	<b>Falling for falsehoods: Scientific perspectives on causes, engagement and countermeasures to misinformation</b>
<b>12:50pm</b>	<i>Chaired by Professor Louise Baur AM PresAHMS</i> <p>Why does misinformation spread so easily, and why do people engage with it even when it's misleading? Drawing on current research, this talk will explore why we sometimes fall for misleading information and what can be done to help individuals and communities recognise and reduce the impact of misinformation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Associate Professor Jeremy Brownlie</b>, Group Leader, Australian Research Centre for Human Evolution, Griffith University; Member, Prime Minister's National Science and Technology Council</li></ul>
<b>1:20pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>Panel 2</b>	<b>Trust in health and medicine: Evidence and approaches from Indigenous peoples</b>
<b>2:20pm</b>	<i>Chaired by Professor Raymond Lovett AM FAHMS</i> <p>This session will provide insights on what approaches build trust in health and medicine for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities. It will explore how health and medical systems and practices require fundamental shifts to processes and practice to (re)build trust.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mr Karl Briscoe</b>, Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners</li><li>• <b>Dr Ali Drummond</b>, Chief Executive Officer, Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives</li><li>• <b>Associate Professor Carmen Parter</b>, Chief Executive Officer, Girudala Community Cooperative Society; Researcher and Cultural Lead, Djurali Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Heart Research Institute</li></ul>
<b>Panel 3</b>	<b>How strong is the social licence for health and medical research in Australia?</b>
<b>3:10pm</b>	<i>Chaired by Professor Emily Banks AM FAHMS</i> <p>This session will explore the basis for a social licence for health and medical research and how strong this is in Australia. It will consider whether the social licence is under threat – the current factors that might influence this, and consider whether we have any blind spots or risks. The discussion will consider the global environment and how Australia should reflect on its own situation in this context.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dr Doug Hilton AO FAA FTSE FAHMS</b>, Chief Executive, CSIRO</li><li>• <b>Professor Michael Kidd AO FAHMS</b>, Chief Medical Officer, Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing</li><li>• <b>Professor Kamalini Lokuge OAM</b>, Lead, Humanitarian Health Research Initiative, The Australian National University</li></ul>
<b>4:05pm</b>	<b>Day 1 closing remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Professor Graham Mann FAHMS</b>, Chair, 2025 Annual Meeting Steering Committee</li><li>• <b>Professor Louise Baur AM PresAHMS</b>, President</li></ul>
<b>4:15pm</b>	<b>Day 1 concludes</b>
<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Gala dinner</b> <p><b>The Marion, Barrine Dr, Parkes ACT</b> Registered guests are invited to join us from 6:00pm for drinks on the balcony, before dinner commences at 7:00pm sharp. Dress code: Cocktail attire.</p>

# Meeting schedule

Thursday 30 October

8:30am	<b>President's Breakfast</b>
	<b>Members' Dining Room 3, Old Parliament House</b> All guests are invited to join our President, Professor Louise Baur AM PresAHMS, for a light networking breakfast. Hear from some of our esteemed new Fellows as they are challenged to introduce themselves and their achievements in under three minutes.
<b>Panel 4</b>	<b>The future of trust in health and medical science</b>
10:35am	<i>Chaired by Professor Russell Gruen FAHMS</i>  This closing panel will reflect on the key themes and insights from the meeting, exploring how we can strengthen trust in health and medical science moving forward. This session will explore a vision for a future where transparency, collaboration, and innovation build lasting confidence in research, practice, and policy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dr James Kite</b>, Senior Lecturer, Prevention Research Collaboration, Sydney School of Public Health and Charles Perkins Centre, The University of Sydney</li><li>• <b>Professor Farah Magrabi</b>, Professor of AI Safety, Australian Institute of Health Innovation, Macquarie University</li><li>• <b>Professor Deborah Lupton FASSA FAHMS</b>, SHARP Professor in the Centre for Social Research in Health and the Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW</li><li>• <b>Professor Brett Sutton AO</b>, Director, Health &amp; Biosecurity, CSIRO</li></ul>
11:25pm	<b>Day 2 closing remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Professor Graham Mann FAHMS</b>, Chair, 2025 Annual Meeting Steering Committee</li><li>• <b>Professor Louise Baur AM PresAHMS</b>, President</li></ul>
11:35pm	<b>Comfort break</b>
11:45am	<b>AAHMS Annual General Meeting</b>
	For AAHMS Fellows and Associate Members only. Remote participants may join via livestream.
12:45pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:30pm	Meeting closes Bus leaves for the airport (15-minute trip)

## Our speakers

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### Professor Joan Leach

Deputy-Vice Chancellor (Academic), The Australian National University

Professor Joan Leach is Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) at the Australian National University (ANU). For the past 9 years, she has been Director of the Australian National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science, also at the ANU. In that role, she has participated in and led national discussions on the interface between science and society. She is also CI on an ARC industrial transformation training centre, training the next generation of synthetic biologists about societal expectations around food crops and has just finished an MRFF project "Enabling Openness in Australian Stem Cell Research". These projects explicitly address 'trust' in the Australian scientific context. Professor Leach also acts as advisor to the Chief Scientist of the UN FAO on science communication and public trust.



### Ms Tina D Purnat

Prajna Leadership Fellow, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and Vice President, Global Health Section, European Public Health Association

Tina D. Purnat is Prajna Leadership Fellow at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. With over two decades of international experience, she has led major initiatives at the World Health Organization, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, and in academic and policy settings to modernise how public health systems use data, technology, and evidence. Tina's work focuses on strengthening public health systems and shaping policies that are adaptive, data-informed, and grounded in a deep understanding of societal context. Tina believes modernising the business of public health means integrating cutting-edge technology and human-centered approaches to solving the world's most wicked problems. She is a sought-after conference speaker and academic lecturer, especially in health misinformation and digital public health and AI.



### Professor Sharon Friel FASSA FAHMS

Director, Australian Research Centre for Health Equity and The Planetary Health Equity Hothouse, The Australian National University

Professor Sharon Friel is an Australian Research Council Laureate Fellow and Professor of Health Equity in the School of Regulation and Global Governance at the Australian National University. She is Director of the Planetary Health Equity Hothouse and Australian Research Centre for Health Equity (ARCHE) at the Australian National University.

Between 2005 and 2008, Professor Friel was the Head of the Scientific Secretariat (University College London) for the World Health Organization's landmark global Commission on Social Determinants of Health. She is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences Australia, and the Academy of Health and Medical Sciences. Professor Friel is also a Principal Visiting Fellow at the United Nations University, International Institute for Global Health. Her work focuses on governance of the planetary, social and commercial determinants of health inequities.

## Our speakers

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### Professor Raina MacIntyre FAHMS

Professor and Head, Biosecurity Program and Founder of EPIWATCH®, Kirby Institute

Professor Raina MacIntyre is Head of the Biosecurity Program at the Kirby Institute, UNSW. She leads research on prevention and detection of epidemic infections, with a focus on adult vaccination, epidemic early warning and facemasks. She is the founder of EPIWATCH®, an AI system for pandemic early warnings. She has received many awards including the Sir Henry Wellcome Medal and Prize from the Association of Military Surgeons of the US and the Eureka Prize for Leadership and Innovation in Science. Professor MacIntyre has served on committees for the US National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine and WHO.



### Associate Professor Raglan Maddox

Senior Fellow, Yardhura Walani, National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Wellbeing Research, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, The Australian National University

Associate Professor Raglan Maddox (Bagumani (Modewa) Clans, Papua New Guinea) is a public health researcher whose work focuses on the development, implementation and analysis of Indigenous-led, population-based health research using community-driven processes, with a focus on tobacco and vaping.

Associate Professor Maddox has been actively engaged in tobacco control since 2007 and currently leads the Tobacco Free Program at Yardhura Walani, the National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Wellbeing Research at the Australian National University.



### Mr Liam Mannix

National Science Reporter, The Age and the Sydney Morning Herald

Liam Mannix is a multi-award-winning science reporter with The Age and the Sydney Morning Herald, based in Melbourne. His work has won Walkleys, Quills, and the Eureka Prize for Science Reporting.

Liam's first book, *Back Up: Why Back Pain Treatments Aren't Working and the New Science Offering Hope*, was published in 2023.

## Our speakers

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### Dr John Byron

Principal Policy Adviser, Queensland University of Technology

Dr John Byron has worked in higher education and research policy for over 25 years, including as Senior Ministerial Adviser on Science and Research in the previous Labor Government, Dean of Research and Graduate Studies for Humanities at Curtin University, Executive Director of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, and President of the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations. He earned degrees in English from the Universities of Adelaide and Sydney, after spending three years studying medicine at The University of Sydney: he drew on both his anatomy and literary educations for his debut crime novel, *The Tribute*, published in 2021.



### Associate Professor Jeremy Brownlie

Group Leader, Australian Research Centre for Human Evolution, Griffith University;  
Member, Prime Minister's National Science and Technology Council

Associate Professor Jeremy Brownlie is Associate Professor of Genetics and Evolution at Griffith University. His research explores human evolution and applies genetic tools to repatriate ancestral Indigenous remains to communities. As a member of the Prime Minister's National Science and Technology Council, Associate Professor Brownlie has led four reports that explore misinformation's impact on Australian society and what might be done to mitigate it.

As a past President of Science & Technology Australia, he is a leader in STEM policy and advocacy, dedicated to promoting evidence-based solutions and strengthening connections among researchers, policymakers, industry and the community.



### Mr Karl Briscoe

Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners

Karl Briscoe is a proud Kuku Yalanji man from the Mossman – Daintree area of Far North Queensland and has worked for over 20 years in the health sector at various government and non-government levels.

Karl is the CEO of the National Association for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners (NAATSIHWP), based in Canberra. His vision is to ensure the life expectancy rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are equivalent to or better than those of non-Indigenous Australians. Karl drives change by advocating for self-determined development, the elimination of racism and the transformation of policy and practice across all levels.

## Our speakers

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### Dr Ali Drummond

Chief Executive Officer, Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives

Dr Ali Drummond was born and raised on Weibene (Thursday Island or TI) in north Queensland, and his people are the Meriam and Erubam people of Zenadh Kes (Torres Straits), and the Wuthathi people of Cape York Peninsula.

Dr Drummond is a registered nurse, and his experience spans clinical practice, management, policy, academia, and research. He is currently the CEO of the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM). In this role, Dr Drummond leads a deadly team tasked with fulfilling CATSINaM's purpose, which is to lead the nursing and midwifery workforce to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



### Associate Professor Carmen Parter

Chief Executive Officer, Girudala Community Cooperative Society; Researcher and Cultural Lead, Djurali Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Heart Research Institute

Associate Professor Carmen Parter is a proud Murri woman from Murrana, Juru & Darumbal clans of the Birra Gubba Nation of Queensland with South Sea Island heritage. She has been a volunteer, clinician, educator, policy maker, manager of project teams, a senior executive leader, theorist and scholar. Associate Professor Parter is the CEO of Girudala in Bowen, Queensland, a community-controlled organisation, is a Board member of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency and works as a part-time researcher and cultural lead at Djurali Centre at the Heart Research Institute. She is a proud granny, and Aunty to many, and lives on Country with her partner.



### Dr Doug Hilton AO FAA FTSE FAHMS

Chief Executive, CSIRO

Dr Doug Hilton commenced as CSIRO Chief Executive on 29 September 2023.

Dr Hilton is a molecular and cellular biologist and previously Director of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI). At WEHI, his medical research focused on understanding how blood cells communicate and using this knowledge to improve disease treatments. He and his team held more than 20 patents and translated their research through collaboration with venture capitalists and the biopharmaceutical industry. Through an honorary appointment in the Zoology Department at The University of Melbourne, he also studies a family of tiny day-flying moths involved in the pollination of Australian plants.

Beyond research, Dr Hilton has emphasised the importance of strong institutional cultures, and furthered diversity in science including as a member of the Champion of Change Coalition and a board member of Australians Investing in Women.

## Our speakers

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### Professor Michael Kidd AO FAHMS

Chief Medical Officer, Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Professor Michael Kidd is a highly respected medical leader known for his significant contributions to public health and primary health care, in Australia and internationally. He is currently Australia's Chief Medical Officer.

He has extensive experience as a general practitioner, primary care researcher, educator and academic and has served as president of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and the World Organization of Family Doctors.

Most recently, Professor Kidd has been the Professor of Global Primary Care and Future Health Systems at the University of Oxford, and Director of the International Centre for Future Health Systems at the University of New South Wales.

Professor Kidd served as Deputy Chief Medical Officer and Principal Medical Advisor with the Department of Health and Aged Care during the COVID-19 pandemic making a significant contribution to the national primary care response.



### Professor Kamalini Lokuge OAM

Lead, Humanitarian Health Research Initiative, The Australian National University

Professor Kamalini Lokuge leads the Humanitarian Health Research Initiative at the Australian National University. Professor Lokuge and her team conduct operational research in partnership with communities and service providers to inform effective health service delivery and prevention. She is a public health physician and epidemiologist and has worked for Médecins Sans Frontières, the World Health Organization and the International Committee of the Red Cross over the past 25 years in a range of humanitarian emergencies. She has advised State and Federal governments on their response to COVID-19, and was a member of Australia's National COVID-19 Health and Research Advisory Committee.



### Dr James Kite

Senior Lecturer, Prevention Research Collaboration, Sydney School of Public Health and Charles Perkins Centre, The University of Sydney

Dr James Kite is a Senior Lecturer in the Prevention Research Collaboration at The University of Sydney, with expertise in mass and social media for chronic disease prevention. His research increasingly explores weight stigma and the role of AI in public health.

With over 45 peer-reviewed publications, Dr Kite bridges research and policy, advising government and NGO initiatives. He also leads innovations in public health education, including AI integration in teaching. His background includes roles at the Cancer Institute NSW and active involvement in the Australian Health Promotion Association.

## Our speakers

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### Professor Farah Magrabi

Professor of AI Safety, Australian Institute of Health Innovation,  
Macquarie University

Professor Farah Magrabi is a Professor of Biomedical and Health Informatics at the Australian Institute of Health Innovation, Macquarie University.

She is co-chair of the Australian AI Alliance's Working Group on safety, quality and ethics. Professor Magrabi also advises the Australian Digital Health Agency and serves on the TGA's Technical Reference group for AI.



### Professor Deborah Lupton FASSA FAHMS

SHARP Professor in the Centre for Social Research in Health and the Social Policy  
Research Centre, UNSW

Professor Deborah Lupton is SHARP Professor in the Faculty of Arts, Design & Architecture, UNSW Sydney. Professor Lupton is an elected Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences and the Royal Society of NSW and has been awarded two honorary doctorates from European universities. She has 30 years of experience in qualitative social research investigating the politics of medicine and public health, digital health use, and health topics in the news media and social media. She is the author/co-author of 20 academic books and editor/co-editor of a further 11 volumes, including four books on the social aspects of COVID-19.



### Professor Brett Sutton AO

Director, Health & Biosecurity, CSIRO

Professor Brett Sutton is Director of CSIRO's Health & Biosecurity Research Unit, leading a team of over 350 experts tackling challenges in digital health, human health, and biosecurity. A public health physician and former Victorian Chief Health Officer, Professor Sutton's career spans infectious diseases, tropical medicine, and international humanitarian work. He is a strong advocate for the central role of trust in science, emphasising open, evidence-based dialogue as essential to protecting public health. He has raised the idea of a national coalition to unite expertise and action and bring research insights to countering misinformation.

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The background of the entire page is a photograph of a laboratory. A male scientist with short brown hair and safety glasses is wearing a teal lab coat. He is looking intently at a piece of laboratory equipment, which appears to be a bioreactor or a similar system with various tubes and glass vessels. The equipment is on a stainless steel table. In the background, there are other lab benches and equipment, and a large window showing an outdoor view. The lighting is bright and clinical.

**CSL**

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