

2026 Volunteering NSW State Conference

Leadership that Transforms Communities

Monday 25 May - Sofitel Sydney Wentworth

8.00am - 8.45am	Registration and Arrival Tea & Coffee		
8.45am - 8.46am	Opening: Gemma Rygate, CEO, The Centre for Volunteering		
8.46am - 8.55am	Welcome to Country: Yvonne Weldon AM, Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council		
8.55am - 9.05am	Minister's Address: The Hon Jodie Harrison MP		
9.05am - 9.10am	Introduction: Gemma Rygate, CEO, The Centre for Volunteering		
9.10am - 9.55am	Keynote: Shaun Christie-David, CEO and Founder, Plate-It-Forward		
9.55am - 10.25am	Conflict as a Catalyst for Change: The Voluntas Experience - Lynette Edwards, Voluntas		
10.25am - 10.50am	MORNING TEA - NETWORKING		
	Grand Ballroom	Canberra Room	Brisbane Room
10.50am - 11.30am	Community-Led Recovery: Lessons from the Eugowra Flood Recovery Committee - Sean Haynes, Eugowra Flood Recovery Committee	From Webinar to Workforce: Crowdsourcing Volunteer Knowledge to Build Practical Resources - Darren Wensor, Little Athletics	The volunteering sector's role in a disrupted world - Paul Muller, QQ Research
11.35am - 12.15pm	Measuring Change: From volunteer action to measurable impact - Melanie Liddell, Volunteering WA	Council on the Ageing NSW - expert volunteering - David Brett, Council of the Ageing	The transformative impact of youth environmental volunteering and their leadership in the world - Nathan Turner & Kerry Staker, Taronga Conservation Society Australia
12.20pm - 1.00pm	Volunteer Leadership in Action: The STARS Program and Hospital Transitions in Regional NSW - Tanya Southworth, STARS Volunteer Program	Utilising volunteer professional expertise virtually at Dress for Success - Julie Doherty, Dress for Success	Right Help, Right Time: Integrating Informal Volunteers - Andrew McCullough, NSW SES
1.00pm - 1.45pm	LUNCH - NETWORKING		
1.45pm - 2.30pm	Keynote: Daniel Murray, Empathic Consulting		
2.30pm - 3.00pm	Community Led Disaster Response during the Mid North Coast Floods - Commisioner Mike Wassing, NSW SES		
3.00pm - 3.30pm	Inclusion Panel - Eamon Nicholas, Macular Disease Foundation Australia; Niv Srivastava, Catholic Care; Tom Saetereie, Ankali Project and Kerry Dominish, Early Ed. Facilitator: Daniel Murray, Empathic Consulting		
3.30pm - 3.50pm	AFTERNOON TEA - NETWORKING		
3.50pm - 4.20pm	It's Not If, It's When: Cyber Resilience, AI and Privacy for Volunteer Organisations, Shreeya Pandey Girn, Hall & Wilcox		
4.20pm - 4.50pm	Making Government Engagement part of your Leadership Toolkit - Jo Scard, Fifty Acres		
4.50pm - 5.20pm	Volunteer Leadership and Empowerment Panel - Kellie May, Department of Communities and Justice; Danni Alty, Taronga Conservation Society Australia and Stacy Jacobs PCYC Cessnock and Cessnock Family Support Service. Facilitator: Daniel Murray, Empathic Consulting		
5.20pm - 5.25pm	Event Close: Gemma Rygate, CEO, The Centre for Volunteering		
5.25pm - 6.30pm	NETWORKING & DRINKS		

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Disclaimer: All times and speakers are subject to change.