

small steps | safe workplaces

SEXUAL HARASSMENT CONFERENCE

19, 20, 21 November 2025

Nipaluna (Hobart), Lutruwita (Tasmania)

Meet our Speakers



Nala Mansell, Palawa

Campaign Coordinator, Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Inc.

Nala palawa luna rrala, wanapakalali palawa centre years paya-kati, mapiya luwutina, tunapri milaythina, pangatitja kani. Nala palawutika lani rayji mapali, mangina palawa milaythina and takila nayri.

Nala pangatitja rraka putiya kanaplila palawa krakapaka, pawa warruwa Crowther, palawa milaythina, ningina palanawina rana krakapaka ningampi, nungampi prungi. Nala takamuna, rrukani palawa mapali.

Nala ningina nayri kani-tu nika Conference.

Nala is a proud Palawa woman and fierce advocate for Aboriginal justice and rights. Nala has worked for the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre for over 20 years, in various roles including youth worker, cultural promotion worker, State Secretary, and is currently the Aboriginal Rights campaign coordinator.

Nala is most commonly known for her involvement, leadership and campaign to abolish the Invasion Day celebrations, the removal of the Crowther statue that once stood in Franklin Square, the return of stolen lands to Aboriginal ownership and the repatriation of ancestral remains. Nala's unwavering commitment to these causes has made her a prominent voice in the ongoing fight for justice and recognition for Aboriginal people in Tasmania. Her passion and determination to seek justice for her people will provide a unique insight into the intersections of law, culture, and social justice, making her a valuable speaker at the conference.



Kate Eastman AM SC

Barrister, leading Human Rights Lawyer and academic, NSW

Kate has over 30 years of experience in dispute resolution and advocacy, specialising in employment disputes, sexual harassment, discrimination, vilification law, public law, education, and health law.

She is a recognised expert in human rights law (both international and Australian).

Kate regularly appears in the High Court, Federal Court, Fair Work Commission, and various State/Territory tribunals on matters under the Fair Work Act and discrimination laws.

She represents individuals, governments, corporations, and small businesses in areas such as compliance audits, grievance procedures, mediation, and litigation.

Currently, she serves as Senior Counsel Assisting the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation of People with Disability. Kate is a Senior Fellow at Monash University, teaching human rights law. She also appears as a panellist on ABC's The Drum and was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2021 for her service to law, human rights, and professional organisations.



Luke McLean (he/him)

Director of Legal Practice, Northern Community Legal Centre

Luke McLean is the Director of Legal Practice at Northern Community Legal Centre. With significant experience in refugee and migration law, he has conducted strategic litigation in all federal courts, including cases relating to unlawful detention and medical transfers from offshore detention, and advocates for systemic reform to Australia's migration system.



Catherine Whittington

Disability Commissioner Tasmania

Catherine is an experienced senior executive across government and non-government sectors and was most recently the South Australian Deputy Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner.

Catherine is a fellow of the South Australian Governor's Leadership Foundation and a graduate of Oxford University's Women's Executive Leadership Programme. Catherine has tertiary qualifications in Psychology, Human Rights, Public Health, and Law which she has utilised across professional roles in health, human services, and child protection.

As a disabled woman, Catherine is passionate about the opportunities created for people to thrive when communities are truly inclusive. In her personal life, Catherine is a mum of three wonderful young people, a foster parent, one of South Australia's first 'Other-Person Guardians' and a lapsed musician with a love of community music groups.

Catherine has also been:

- The Deputy Chair of JFA Purple Orange: A South Australian disability organisation with a focus on systemic advocacy;
- The Deputy Chair of the Julia McCleod Benevolent Trust, which funds grants to advance the aim of disability inclusion and leadership; and
- An executive member of the South Australia Community Visitor Scheme Advisory Committee.



Prabha Nandagopal (she/her)

Human Rights Lawyer & Changemaker

Prabha Nandagopal is an award-winning human rights and discrimination lawyer and advocate, having worked over 18 years in a variety of areas from business and human rights to asylum seeker and refugee policy.

Prabha is an innovative changemaker renowned for her ability to challenge the status quo and develop achievable solutions to complex systemic problems. Prabha has led the development of groundbreaking recommendations on numerous high-profile workplace cultural reviews, including the Independent Review into Commonwealth Parliamentary Workplaces and the National Music Industry Review into sexual harm, sexual harassment and systemic discrimination. In 2020, she was a senior legal advisor to the Respect@Work National Inquiry and helped shape the positive duty regulatory scheme and in 2023, she worked alongside Elizabeth Broderick on the Independent Review into Workplace Culture at EY Oceania.

Prabha spent many years at the forefront of human rights in Australia, tirelessly protecting the rights of asylum seekers and refugees through advocacy, strategic litigation, and policy reform. As one of Australia's foremost experts on immigration detention law and policy, she led the landmark National Inquiry into Children in Detention in 2014.

She is the founder of Elevate Consulting Partners and SafeSpace@elevate, which she established to support and strengthen the work of organisations committed to positive social change. Prabha has a proven track record of leading high-performance teams in sensitive and complex environments. She combines her fiercely sharp intellect, empathy, and courage to create positive workplace cultures and drive successful business outcomes.

Prabha wants to empower organisations with the leadership mindset and strategies to create safe, respectful, diverse and inclusive workplaces where every individual can thrive. Drawing from her tremendous career at the forefront of the country's most complex human rights issues, she is a vibrant and compelling speaker, leaving audiences inspired to take action.

In 2024, Prabha won the India Australia Business & Community Award for Business Leader of the Year and was a finalist in the Women's Agenda Leadership Awards.



Marta Hodul Lenton

Project Coordinator – Migrant Work Rights, Unions Tasmania

Marta is a campaigns and community organising professional with over a decade of experience driving collective efforts for social and economic justice. She established and now leads the Migrant Work Rights Hub at Unions Tasmania, which works to support migrant workers in understanding their rights and confidently asserting them, under recent Migration Act changes that make it safer for migrant workers to speak up about unfair or unsafe work.

She also provides Accredited Third Party certifications on behalf of Unions Tasmania to support eligible workers accessing the Workplace Justice Visa and Strengthening Reporting Protections pilots.

Marta is passionate about working women's rights and actively supports the development of emerging union women leaders. She has campaigned on a range of workplace rights issues, including pay equity, safer workplaces, and a strong public service.

Her work spans unions, government, business, and community sectors, and is grounded in collaboration, action, and a commitment to safer, fairer workplaces for all.



Tallulah Bur

Solicitor/Clinical Supervisor, Kingsford Legal Centre

Tallulah joined Kingsford Legal Centre in early 2023 as Discrimination and Employment Solicitor where she works primarily out of the sexual harassment and discrimination legal service. Prior to KLC, she worked at the Australian Human Rights Commission in the Investigation and Conciliation Section, as tipstaff to a Judge at the Supreme Court of New South Wales and she has also worked at Amnesty International Australia and the United Nations in legal affairs and translation.



Carina Field (she/her)

Solicitor and Program Lead, Temporary Visa Program, Women's Legal Service Tasmania

Carina is a lawyer at Women's Legal Service Tasmania who specialises in providing advice on family law/family violence and migration.

Prior to moving to Tassie at the start of last year, Carina was an associate lawyer who specialised in refugee law. Through her work as a refugee lawyer, Carina assisted several clients who had experienced trafficking and modern slavery. Recognising the legal complexities which exist for people who have experienced MS, and her unique skill set, Carina reached out to Anti-Slavery Australia, where she now volunteers as a lawyer.

Carina holds a Masters in Law (Human Rights Law) and won the Tasmanian Law Society Early Career Lawyer Award in 2025. She was also a finalist for the Launceston Chamber of Commerce's Young Professional of the Year Award in 2025. Carina can often be found out in the community, where she runs community legal education, or is busy befriending other people's pets.



Alisha Taylor-Jones

Workplace Lead, OurWatch

Alisha Taylor-Jones is the Workplace Implementation Lead at Our Watch; running programs to prevent violence against women in workplaces settings, with a current focus on small business. Alisha has led projects with large Australian organisations across the construction, telecommunications, and retail sectors, and managed mentoring and leadership programs for women across male-oriented sectors. Alisha has a Masters in Gender and Development, and over 15 years of experience working with government, universities, TAFEs, NGOs, and corporate businesses to foster gender equality, and inclusive leadership."



Sarah Wright

Barrister, Tasmanian Bar

Sarah is a Tasmanian Barrister with a long history of work in the fields of anti-discrimination, employment, workers' compensation and administrative law. Sarah has broad experience advising on and appearing in cases involving Federal politicians and their staff.

This experience has spanned matters involving unfair dismissal, sexual harassment and injury claims, as well as sensitive internal investigations. Sarah's blend of experience has shaped her expertise in matters involving public sector employers and their employees in scenarios which frequently involve conduct-related allegations within the prism of a vast power differential.

Sarah's professional experience began with her time as an Officer in the Navy before she completed a law degree and was admitted to practice in 2002. Since then Sarah has worked in both private and public sector solicitor and In-house counsel roles, including time spent working for UNRWA in Jordan. Since 2016 Sarah has focused on advocacy in a range of Courts, Commissions and Tribunals.



Laura Cottam

Acting Senior Solicitor, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Legal Service, Kingsford Legal Centre

Laura has been working in discrimination law for over 16 years, at community legal centres such as the Public Interest Advocacy Centre, Kingsford Legal Centre and the Australian Centre for Disability Law. Laura joined the KLC team again in January 2023, and is acting Senior Solicitor in the Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Legal Service. She has significant experience in advising and representing clients in employment and sexual harassment matters at the Fair Work Commission, Anti-Discrimination NSW and the Australian Human Rights Commission.



Pia Saturno

Acting Commissioner, Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commission Tasmania

Pia Saturno is the Acting Anti-Discrimination Commissioner administering the Anti-Discrimination Act 1998 (Tas) in Tasmania.

She holds an Arts/Law degree from the University of Tasmania and joined the Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner in 2000 in the role of Investigation and Conciliation Officer. Her previous roles include Research Officer to the Governor of Tasmania and legal officer with multiple agencies within the Tasmanian State Service.

In her role Pia leads initiatives to promote the Anti-Discrimination Act, equity, inclusion, and systemic change across public and private sectors.

Pia leads the Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner in its work including in relation to complaints of discrimination and prohibited conduct, policy submissions and education and community engagement.

She seeks to build strong and strengthen existing connections with stakeholders to raise awareness, educate and inform about Anti-Discrimination and is committed to building a society where diversity is celebrated and discrimination is actively dismantled.

She is a member on various government working and reference groups and is actively involved in all aspects of advocating for the legislation she administers.

Pia has been a Committee Member of the Tenants Union of Tasmania since 2014 and is currently its Convenor.



Josie Hullick

Director, Northern Territory Anti-Discrimination Commission

Josie Hullick is the Director of the Northern Territory Anti-Discrimination Commission and a lawyer with more than a decade of experience in the legal sector. She has a comprehensive background in discrimination law, policy and governance. As Director, she leads the Commission's statutory functions, including complaints handling, education, systemic reform, and acts as in-house counsel to the Commissioner.

Since her appointment, Josie has played a central role in implementing the Northern Territory's significant 2023 reforms to the Anti-Discrimination Act 1992 (NT). She has been a leading voice in the Territory on the introduction of the positive duty to eliminate discrimination, sexual harassment and victimisation.

Beyond her role at the Commission, Josie contributes to the profession through a range of leadership roles, including: as the public officer of NT Women Lawyers Association; NT representative on both the Australian Women Lawyers and the Law Council of Australia's Equal Opportunity Committee; and AWL's representative on the Respect@Work Council.

Josie's career has its roots spread across both ends of Australia, spending numerous years at the Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service where she set up and headed the Your Story Disability Legal Support Service, assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people engage with the Disability Royal Commission, and later led the Family and Civil Law team across the State.

Josie is deeply committed to creating inclusive and respectful workplaces through both law and practice. She combines legal analysis and strategic policy expertise with a pragmatic understanding of operational performance and the realities of delivering public services.

Drawing on her leadership of an independent statutory body, her contribution to national reform, and her engagement with diverse communities across the Northern Territory and Tasmania, Josie brings a practical yet forward-looking perspective to discussions on preventing and responding to workplace sexual harassment.



Melanie Schleiger

Discrimination and Human Rights Lawyer, Victoria Legal Aid

Melanie Schleiger is a discrimination and human rights lawyer with two decades of experience. She is currently Special Advisor – Strategic Litigation in Victoria Legal Aid's Equality Law Program, a free specialist discrimination law service that represents people with complaints of discrimination. Melanie and the Equality Law Program actively campaign for systemic change to promote equality, with a focus on achieving a better systemic response to sexual harassment. They collaboratively built the Power to Prevent Coalition, bringing together over 80 organisations in the legal, health, community, family violence, business and union sectors to advocate for reforms to prevent and address sexual harassment.

In 2021 Melanie was a Senior Advisor on Dr Helen Szoke's Independent Review of Sexual Harassment in Victorian Courts and VCAT. She holds a Master of Laws, and has published articles on human rights, anti-discrimination and sexual harassment law in various media, including high-ranking journals.



Casi Martin (she/her)

Deputy Managing Lawyer, Equality Law Program,
Victoria Legal Aid

Casi is a Deputy Managing Lawyer in Victoria Legal Aid's Equality Law Program, where she leads a team providing trauma informed, client centred legal support to people who have been subjected to sexual harassment and discrimination. Her work spans strategic litigation, policy reform and community engagement across discrimination, employment, and human rights law. Casi works closely with the Equality Law Program's sexual harassment lived experience reference group and is focussed on embedding lived experience into legal service delivery, outreach, and reform. Since December 2023, Casi has been a member of the Victorian Government's LGBTQIA+ Taskforce's Justice Working Group, where she provides strategic, community centred advice to government on law and policy issues impacting LGBTQIA+ communities.



Jim McKenna

Barrister, Vicbar

Jim practises predominantly in industrial and administrative law. He also maintains an employment practice, involving discrimination and contractual claims. Jim's industrial practice encompasses both advice and appearance work across the Federal Courts and the Fair Work Commission.

His particular experience in the Federal jurisdiction includes complex modern award variation proceedings, industrial disputes, bargaining disputes, general protections claims and breach of award and enterprise agreement proceedings.

His administrative work includes judicial review matters in both Federal and State jurisdictions and merits review proceedings. Jim has most recently appeared in the Fair Work Commission in proceedings achieving an increase to the minimum award wages for aged care workers across the Nurses Award 2020 and the Aged Care Award 2010 - [2022] FWCFB 200.

Prior to signing the Bar Roll Jim was Associate to the Honourable Justice Marshall in the Federal Court of Australia and was a solicitor with Minter Ellison in Melbourne.

Jim read with Rachel Doyle SC and Melinda Richards SC (now the Hon. Justice Richards). He has a Master of Laws from Monash University.



Bridget Akers

Senior Solicitor | Workplace Rights Service Legal Aid, New South Wales

Bridget Akers has over 20 years experience as a discrimination practitioner. Bridget began her career in discrimination law working in the human rights branch of the Federal Attorney-General's Department. Bridget has worked as a conciliator and lawyer at the Australian Human Rights Commission. Bridget currently manages Legal Aid's Workplace Rights Service, a national service providing employment and discrimination advice and representation to vulnerable workers



Seri Feldman-Gubbay

Senior Solicitor, Redfern Legal Centre

Seri Feldman-Gubbay is the Practice Lead and Senior Solicitor of the Employment Law Team at Redfern Legal Centre, and a Senior Solicitor within the Employment Rights Legal Service—a NSW state-wide legal service dedicated to advancing the rights of and empowering marginalised workers. Seri recently ran the landmark *Magar v Khan* decision, which resulted in the highest damages ever awarded in an Australian sexual harassment court case. She is a strategic litigator and policy advocate, committed to embedding equity and trauma informed practice into employment law frameworks. Her work spans individual advice and representation, law reform, and sector-wide capacity building.



Aira Firdaus

Advocacy and Policy Officer,
Working Women's Centre Australia

Aira Firdaus is the Advocacy and Policy Officer at Working Women's Centre Australia. Aira has almost 10 years experience as an organiser and campaigner, and is a proud trade unionist and activist.

Aira has held pivotal roles within the union movement in Australia and internationally, and has led the national advocacy to improve the living and working conditions of migrant and refugees in the horticulture industry with the United Workers Union. Aira's passion is understanding culture, structure and practice to drive collectivism and progressive change in societies and communities.

She is currently the Treasurer and a Board Member of Vitalstatistix, and has sat on the Advisory Committee of ANROWS' national study of migrant and refugee women's experiences, understandings and responses to sexual harassment in the workplace.



Claire Browning

Lived Experience Workforce Lead, Tasmanian Health Service

Claire brings over a decade of experience in the mental health sector, having served initially within the hospital system at Queensland Health and subsequently across various mental health teams within the Tasmanian Health Service. Currently, as the Lived Experience Workforce Lead for Southern Mental Health Services, Claire champions the integration of peer perspectives into policy development and workforce initiatives as part of the Statewide Lived Experience Workforce Team.

In this role, she leads strategic efforts to amplify the voices of consumers and carers, cultivate inclusive workplace cultures, and enhance capacity for lived experience roles throughout the mental health system. Claire is recognised for her collaborative leadership style, trauma-informed approach, and steadfast commitment to leveraging lived experience as a catalyst for transformative mental health care.

She actively mentors emerging peer workers and advises on national strategies aimed at embedding lived experience at all levels of decision-making. Claire's work is guided by the core principles of hope, empowerment, respect, mutuality, empathy, and authenticity.



Lucy Aird

Head of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Hyrdo Tasmania

Lucy is the Head of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Hydro Tasmania. In 2023, she was nationally recognised for her leadership in the sector, receiving the Clean Energy Council's award for Diversity and Inclusion. A former lawyer, she began her career at PWB Lawyers in Hobart before moving to Melbourne, where she worked at the Fair Work Commission and leading firms including Corrs Chambers Westgarth and Herbert Smith Freehills. While at Corrs, she was seconded to the Royal Commission into Family Violence – an experience that shifted her focus toward prevention, education, and driving systemic change. She believes meaningful equity and inclusion work benefits not only individuals but entire workplaces and communities.



Abbey Kendall

Chief Executive Officer, Working Women's Centre Australia

Abbey Kendall is the CEO of Working Women's Centre Australia.

Prior to taking up appointment, she was the Director and Principal Solicitor of the South Australian Working Women's Centre for just under 6 years.

Abbey has 15 years of experience in legal practice as an employment and industrial lawyer and has built a reputation as a litigator and strategic advisor in national and smaller labour law firms, working for unions and as a pro bono lawyer and leader in worker and women's collectives over this time.

Abbey has dedicated her career to representing and advocating for worker's rights and has successfully represented workers and unions in major national industrial cases across hospitality, arts, the community sector, construction and mining, retail and professional services. Abbey has been appointed by government at the state and federal level to many strategic governance and specialist advisory board and committees, for example she is a member of the national Respect@Work Council and of the South Australian government's Gender Pay Gap Taskforce.

Abbey has played a leadership role in work and IR practitioner organisations, for example, until early 2024 she has been elected as the Vice President of the Australian Labour and Employment Relations Association (ALERA) National Executive Committee and the President of the ALERA SA Executive Committee.

Abbey is a feminist unionist and advocates for collectivist gender, sexual and political justice.



Kelsey Paske

Kelsey Paske Consulting

Kelsey Paske is a recognised leader in preventing gendered violence, harassment, and discrimination, working with organisations across education, government, sport, and the private sector in Australia and the UK.

Based on Tasmania's North West Coast, Kelsey brings together lived experience, research expertise, and over a decade of working across the prevention spectrum to design effective, tailored interventions grounded in behavioural science, systems change, and inclusion.

Her career includes leadership roles at University College London, Advance HE, and Culture Shift UK, where she developed prevention strategies for over 70 UK university partners. After returning to Australia in 2021, she worked as a senior advisor with Our Watch in the Tasmanian government before establishing her independent consultancy.

Kelsey currently partners with clients including Monash University, Women's Legal Services Victoria and Tasmania, Motorsport Australia, AFL Tasmania, and the South Australian Parliament, creating sustainable solutions that make prevention accessible and effective.



Carolyn Self (she/her)

Social Enterprise (Training) & Business Development Manager,
Engender Equality

Carolyn Self has a Bachelor of Communications with a specialisation in the not-for-profit and social impact space and has completed postgraduate studies in the Prevention of Gender and Family Violence with Monash University. Carolyn has worked in the family law, family violence and primary prevention sector for several years and is an active voice in the primary prevention and men and masculinities space. Carolyn is also a well respected lived experience advocate within the media, research projects and consultancy, and is passionate about embedding lived in experience in response frameworks, primary prevention, community education and policy development regarding family and gendered violence to create impactful social change. Carolyn resides in nipaluna/Hobart, lutruwita/Tasmania.



Kasumi Ejiri

Director of Integrated Practice, Working Women's Centre
Australian Capital Territory

Kasumi Ejiri is the Director of Integrated Practice at the Women's Legal Centre ACT and has had a transformative impact since joining the Centre in 2019.

Working collaboratively with senior colleagues, Kasumi has led the development of the Centre as a multidisciplinary and Trauma-Informed organisation. This includes recognising the prevalence and impacts of trauma and driving a commitment to reflective practice. Under her leadership, the Centre has emerged as an example of best practice, boasting a groundbreaking framework that integrates legal expertise with the invaluable perspectives of social workers and other professionals.



Rose Clarke (they/them)

LEAPY Member, Laurel House Lived Experience Advisory Panel
for Youth

Rose Clarke (they/them) is a member of Laurel House's Lived Experience Advisory Panel for Youth (LEAPY) and also serves on the advisory panel for System 2. Driven by their own experiences, they are passionate about improving how the system supports victim-survivors. Having left home at 17, Rose is committed to advocating for those affected by domestic and sexual violence, as well as homelessness, all while viewing these issues through the lens of being a queer AFAB neurodivergent person. Currently, they have begun studying Social Work at the University of Tasmania. In their free time, Rose is also a drag artist. As a LEAPY member, they consult with Tasmanian/Lutruwita organizations, using their lived experience to enhance frameworks and legislation.



Ella Kelly

Working Women's Centre Australian Capital Territory

Ella Kelly is the Managing Solicitor of the Employment, Discrimination & Sexual Harassment (EDSH) practice at the Women's Legal Centre ACT.

Ella began her career inhouse in the public sector before joining the EDSH team at Women's Legal Centre ACT in September 2020. Ella is an experienced employment lawyer who represents employees in the Fair Work Commission, ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal, Federal Courts and in the ACT and Australian Human Rights Commissions. Ella also specialises in sexual harassment and discrimination matters in areas of public life outside of employment.



Dr Sarah Ailwood

Associate Professor, University of Wollongong

Sarah Ailwood is Associate Professor in the School of Law at the University of Wollongong. Sarah teaches in the fields of Equality and Anti-Discrimination Law and Work Health and Safety Law. Her research investigates law and justice responses to #MeToo with a particular focus on sexual harassment and defamation law. Sarah currently holds an Australian Research Council Discovery Grant investigating women's voices and the politics and practices of listening in law reform and policy responses to violence against women. Sarah has strong expertise in the lived experience of victim-survivors of sexual harassment within legal contexts, including law reform and the civil courtroom, and has published research on the Respect@Work Report, *Rush v Nationwide News* and *Lehrmann v Network Ten*. Following a Research Fellowship with the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies at Oxford University, Sarah's emerging research explores comparative positive duties between the UK and Australia, as well as the experience of victim-survivors of workplace sexual harassment in Federal Court proceedings. Sarah is co-Managing Editor of the *Australian Feminist Law Journal*, and co-author (with Skye Charry) of *Beyond Compliance: Sexual Harassment Law, Policy and Practice in Australian Workplaces*, forthcoming with Federation Press in 2026.



Jennifer Jones (she/her)

Legal Director, Westjustice

Jennifer Jones (she/her) is the Legal Director and Principal Lawyer of the Workers' Rights Program at Westjustice and Working Women's Centre Victoria Western Agency, where she is responsible for overseeing the delivery of free and confidential legal advice, representation, information, education and advocacy services for migrants and refugees, women and non-binary workers, young workers and international students, and all people experiencing sexual harassment and discrimination in Melbourne's Western region. Jennifer has more than 18 years' experience providing legal, policy and strategic advice in the areas of workplace relations, anti-discrimination and human rights law, with experience in the private, public and not-for-profit sectors. Jennifer has experience advising both employers and employees on workplace issues including general protections, discrimination, sexual harassment, workplace injuries and risk assessments, safety investigations, and management of complex return to work cases. Jennifer has also provided consulting services as a technical adviser on sexual harassment to the Sir Zelman Cowen Centre's WorkWell Respect Network, funded by Worksafe Victoria, and spent almost five years as a Senior Lawyer for the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission. Jennifer is a member of the Law Institute Victoria's Human Rights Committee, has a Masters of Laws from the University of Melbourne focusing on human rights and equality law, and is admitted as a lawyer in New Zealand and Australia.



Snehashree Sapkota (Sneha) (she/they)

Advocates for Change Coordinator, Engender Equality

Sneha is the Advocates for Change (lived expertise) Coordinator at Engender Equality. She has lived in Tasmania for six years as a queer Nepalese person.

Sneha is an intersectional feminist with a degree in Sociology and International Relations. She is committed to addressing all forms of marginalisation and oppression, working towards collective liberation from men's violence and the impacts of capitalism, patriarchy, and colonisation.



Thea Depold (she/her)

Senior Lawyer, Westjustice

Thea Depold (she/her) is a Senior Lawyer in the Workers' Rights Program at Westjustice and the Working Women's Centre Victoria (WWCV) Western Agency. Thea is the lead lawyer for WWCV services in the West, and specialises in providing legal advice and representation to women and non-binary employees on a wide range of workplace issues including sexual harassment, discrimination, flexible work, gender-based harassment, as well general workplace rights and entitlements. Thea has a particular interest in community outreach and legal education initiatives to empower community with information to raise awareness and provide critical resources to those who need it across regional and remote areas of the state. Thea started her career in disability discrimination law, before moving to a youth focused employment law role at Westjustice almost 6 years ago. During her time at Westjustice, Thea has also worked as part of the Children and Young People's Rights Team in a School Lawyer capacity embedded into a local high school, practicing in general civil and criminal law and providing legal education.



Kali Wischmann (she/her)

Associate, Wotton Kearney

Kali (she/her) is an Associate in the Human Rights and Law Reform practice in the Pro Bono team at Wotton Kearney. Kali originally hails from Aotearoa New Zealand where she was involved in social justice, animal rights, environmental and workers' rights activism. In her career in Australia, Kali has worked as a lawyer running discrimination and sexual harassment claims for victim survivors and volunteered at several community legal centres. Kali now works on a range of human rights and law reform issues and is motivated by the idea that law can be a powerful tool to create change for the most marginalised communities.



Briana Ganesharajah (she/her)

Acting Program Manager, Westjustice

Briana Ganesharajah (she/her) is Senior Lawyer in the Workers' Rights Program at Westjustice and the Working Women's Centre Victoria Western Agency. She is also currently Acting Program Manager for the Westjustice Equality Law Service. Briana specialises in providing legal advice and representation in workplace sexual harassment and discrimination matters, as well as delivering community legal education on work rights in the Western Region of Melbourne. While at Westjustice, Briana also worked in the Children and Young People's Rights Team where she was embedded as a lawyer at Parkville College in Parkville Youth Detention Centre to provide legal services and education to incarcerated young people. Prior to this, Briana has practised in police and prison accountability, child protection and civil rights matters for First Nations peoples in the Northern Territory in urban and remote communities. She also worked in litigation at Minter Ellison and as a Deputy Associate in the then Federal Circuit Court of Australia. Briana is passionate about racial justice, ending gender-based violence, legal empowerment, and credits much of her learning to the clients and people she has had the privilege of working alongside over the years.



Craig Green

Counsel, Dobson Mitchell Allport Lawyers

Craig Green is Counsel at Dobson Mitchell Allport. He acts predominantly for employers in a wide range of industries, including the education, transport, aged care and disability sector. Craig is a leading practitioner in relation to Tasmanian State Service matters and he has been involved in a number of significant cases in this area. Craig has a strong focus on alternative dispute resolution and negotiated outcomes. Craig is a member of the Industrial Law Committee and the Equal Opportunity Committee of the Law Council of Australia and is a long-standing member of Employment, Diversity and Inclusion Committee of the Law Society of Tasmania. Craig is inaugural member of the National Sports Tribunal and is a member of a number of other sporting tribunals. Craig is also the Integrity Officer for the Australian Men's and Mixed Netball Association. In these roles, Craig works to ensure that sport is a safe and welcoming place for everyone.



Kim Copeland

Ayvon Consulting

Kim Copeland is a consultant, trainer and facilitator based in Sydney with a clinical background and executive leadership experience in government, military, higher education and non-government sectors. Kim studied social work in Tasmania and started her career as a counsellor at Laurel House in Launceston, so she is looking forward to coming back to where it all began at this conference. As a consultant and trainer, Kim applies her expertise across all sectors, working extensively with universities and organisations to address gender-based violence. Kim specialises in embedding whole-of-organisation trauma-informed approaches, engaging leaders, improving policies and practices, developing and delivering trauma-informed reporting and investigation models, and driving cultural transformation as a foundation for prevention. Her current PhD research focuses on applying normalisation of deviance theory to gender-based violence prevention in university residential settings.



Alice Wallace

Intake Officer, Working Women's Centre Queensland

Alice Wallace is a proud Koori woman living in Meanjin, the lands of the Turrbal and Jagera peoples. She is in her penultimate year of a Bachelor of Laws and Arts. Alice joined WWQ last year as an Intake Officer and is currently in training as an Industrial Officer. In her role as the first point of contact for women seeking support with employment issues, and more recently during her work as an Industrial Officer, Alice has deepened her commitment to advancing access to justice. Her work is driven by a passion for addressing the systemic roots of misogyny through advocacy and reform.



Anna Gilet

Social Worker, Working Women's Centre Queensland

Anna Gilet is the senior social worker at Working Women Queensland, on the unceded lands of the Turrbal and Jagera people. With over 20 years of experience as a social worker, Anna is a dedicated activist and advocate for gender equity and social justice. In her work alongside survivors of sexual violence and domestic and family violence, Anna has co-ordinated community-based and integrated programs with a strong emphasis on anti-oppressive and intersectional feminist frameworks. Anna is committed to collective solidarity and amplifying the voices of those most impacted by systemic inequities to activate meaningful, community-led change.



Georgia May

Managing Senior Lawyer of Workers Rights Program, Caxton Community Legal Centre Qld

Georgia May is the Managing Senior Lawyer of the Workers' Rights Program at Caxton Community Legal Centre. Before joining Caxton, Georgia worked at Legal Aid Queensland and as an Associate in the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. She started volunteering at community legal centres while studying a Bachelor of Arts and Laws at the University of Queensland. Georgia is passionate about a client-centred approach to workplace justice, ensuring that every person's experience guides the legal response. Her practice focuses on workplace discrimination and sexual harassment. Georgia is interested in using strategic litigation to challenge systemic inequality. She values the impact of Caxton's integrated lawyer-social worker service delivery model.



Biplavi Jarga Magar

Biplavi Jarga Magar is a Nepali-born woman based in Sydney whose life weaves together migration, womanhood, colour, and mental health. As a former international student, she has moved through spaces that often fail to see the full complexity of women rebuilding their lives away from home. Her story speaks to the quiet endurance of those who have had to learn safety and belonging from the ground up.

In 2025, her case *Magar v Khan* [2025] FCA 874 was upheld in the Federal Court of Australia, confirming the sexual harassment and victimisation she experienced in her workplace. What began as a painful confrontation with power became a deeper reckoning with dignity, vulnerability, and the meaning of justice for women whose voices are rarely heard.

Biplavi now reflects on how race, migration, gender, and mental health intertwine to shape the lives of women at the edges of systems. She brings this lens into her ongoing studies in cybersecurity, exploring how safety must exist in both physical and digital worlds. Her writing and speaking invite others to recognise that healing is not just recovery from harm but the creation of spaces where care, accountability, and humanity can coexist.



Eloise Dalton

Director, Working Women's Centre Queensland

Eloise Dalton is the Director of Working Women Queensland, leading efforts to support vulnerable, non-unionised women facing workplace challenges. A dedicated lawyer and advocate, she champions workplace fairness through legal support, policy reform, and education. Her work has expanded legal access, shaped key legislative reforms and empowered women. Eloise collaborates with policymakers, community organisations and legal experts to drive systemic change. Through her leadership, she is committed to building safer, more equitable workplaces where all thrive.



Aimen Jafri (she/her)

Training & Engaging Officer, Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania

Ms. Jafri is a multicultural advocate and a community leader combining her lived experience of migration with a deep commitment to creating better opportunities for new migrants in Tasmania. She works within the settlement sector, centring on program delivery and evaluation. Recognised for her significant contributions, Aimen has been honoured with the Awards Australia Tasmanian Community Achievement Award twice, in 2024 and 2021. She was Glenorchy City Council 2024 Local hero and Hobart City Council 2024 Volunteer of the year.

Aimen has played a pivotal role in various organisations dedicated to supporting people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, with a steady focus on empowering and educating victims of domestic violence. She is Training and Engagement Officer at Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania and member of the Australian Multicultural Council.

Her passion for promoting diversity and inclusion has empowered migrant communities by advocating for employment opportunities, organising cultural events, and facilitating educational programs.



Sharmilla Bargon (she/her)

Legal Director, Women's Legal Service NSW

Sharmilla Bargon is a specialist employment and discrimination law practitioner. She is the Legal Director at the Women's Legal Service NSW, running the new Working Women's Centre in NSW. Prior to this, Sharmilla was a Senior Solicitor at Redfern Legal Centre and coordinated the Employment Rights Legal Service, a statewide employment rights service in NSW. In 2023 she won NSW Women Lawyers CLC Lawyer of the Year award. She is passionate about assisting migrant workers and working on broader law reform campaigns to prevent workplace exploitation. In March 2024, she published the report "Let's talk about confidentiality: NDA use in sexual harassment settlements since the Respect@Work Report" with Regina Featherstone, as an output of the Social Justice Practitioners-In-Residence at USYD law school.



Poorvaja Nirmaleswaran

Lawyer, Anti-Slavery Australia

Poorvaja works is a lawyer at Anti-Slavery Australia. She works with the legal team to provide holistic advice and assistance to victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking in a range of matters including complex immigration matters, family and criminal law.

Poorvaja has specialised experience in Migration Law as an applicant and government solicitor and was also nominated as a finalist in the Lawyers Weekly '30 under 30' Migration Award in 2020. She is particularly passionate about social justice and has previously worked and volunteered with Salvos Legal and Salvos Legal Humanitarian.

Poorvaja holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Public Communications)/ Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours) from the University of Technology, Sydney and a Masters in Administrative Law and Policy from the University of Sydney.



Liv Hogarth

Chief Executive Officer, Working it Out



Yvette Cehtel

Chief Executive Officer, Women's Legal Service Tasmania

Yvette Cehtel is the CEO of the Women's Legal Service Tasmania, since 2019.

Yvette's background is as a lawyer having graduated in 1995 and having been admitted to practice in 2000. Yvette has worked as a Judges Associate, in private practice, as a Legal Adviser to the Tasmanian Attorney General (working on the Family Violence Act 2004 (Tas)), as counsel with Crown Law in New Zealand, as a Barrister in New Zealand, as a Manager with Relationships Australia, Tasmania and with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre.

Yvette has a Bachelor of Law (UTAS), Master of Law (Human Rights) Monash and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Yvette is a board member of the Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Alliance.

Yvette is an active member of Women's Legal Service Australia, the national peak body for Women's Legal Services. She has been contributing to not for profit community sector and government boards for over 30 years, including three appointments to the Tasmanian Legal Aid Commission as a Commissioner.

Her passion is for social justice and in particular the rights of Aborigines, women and children. She is committed to systems reform to improve the rights of those who experience structural barriers to achieving equality. This includes access to justice.



Siobhan Mackay

Director of Programs, Women's Legal Service Tasmania



Jodie Lee (she/her)

Principle Solicitor, Working Women's Centre Tasmania

Jodie is the Principal Solicitor at Working Women's Centre Tasmania | Women's Legal Service Tasmania. She previously delivered the Sexual Harassment Program statewide. She began her legal career as a volunteer at Redfern Legal Centre. Since that time, Jodie has worked in private practice specialising in family law, family violence and criminal law. She has also worked in various roles at Redfern Legal Centre as well as South West Sydney Legal Centre.

She has served as chair of the board of Women's Safety NSW and is currently a member of:

- Working Women's Centre Community of Practice
- Women's Legal Services Australia Employment, Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Committee
- The National Employment Law Network
- Rec 53 | Frontline Services to address workplace sexual harassment Community of Practice

Jodie is passionate about Integrated Practice service models and strives to provide holistic trauma informed legal advice and representation to women in Lutruwita/Tasmania.



Dr Lucy Mercer-Mapstone

Policy, Advocacy, and Lived Experience Lead, Laurel House

Dr Lucy Mercer-Mapstone brings their whole self to their work as the Policy, Advocacy, and Lived Experience Lead at Laurel House, and as director of Collective Voices Consulting. They have deep expertise in engagement, lived experience advocacy, human research, public speaking, facilitation, professional development, and equity, diversity, and inclusion. They are a queer, neurodivergent, disabled person and a victim-survivor of sexual assault. Lucy has a long history of research, teaching, facilitation, and advocacy across all these lived experiences, driving social, cultural, organisational, and legislative reform for a more inclusive society. They integrate their first-hand navigation of systems of privilege and oppression into their engagements, making their work authentic, inclusive, and accessible.



Sharon King

Social Worker, Working Women's Centre Tasmania

Sharon is a Social Worker at the Working Women's Centre with Women's Legal Service Tasmania, based in Burnie, Tasmania, in a statewide role.

With a Master of Social Work from the University of Tasmania (2016), Sharon has built a career rooted in intersectional feminism, providing support to women affected by family violence, gender discrimination, and sexual harm.

Over the years, Sharon has gained extensive experience in therapeutic clinical counselling, including in leadership roles. Prior to joining the Working Women's Centre, Sharon served as Counselling Team Leader at Laurel House Sexual Assault and Support Service, where she oversaw a team of social workers and psychologists, while also contributing to policy development and the implementation of the organisation's strategic plans.

Throughout her career, Sharon has worked directly with clients, offering specialised trauma therapy to adults, children, and young people impacted by sexual harm, including those who have experienced sexual harassment in the workplace.



Heidi Gulbaek

Circle Green Community Legal Centre

With over 15 years of experience in the anti-violence against women sector, Heidi has led a range of state and national initiatives across both government and non-government contexts, with a focus on prevention and response. She currently leads the Workplace Respect Project, which addresses workplace sexual harassment through legal responses, law reform advocacy, capacity building, and prevention strategies. Heidi holds qualifications in Behavioural Science and Human Rights, grounding her work in both evidence and advocacy. She is passionate about collaboration and is committed to centring the voices of those with lived experience of violence, in shaping policies, programs, and legislation aimed at dismantling structural oppression and advancing justice.



Georgina Cahill (she/her)

Working Women's Centre Western Australia

Georgina is a Social Worker at the Working Women's Centre WA, based in Perth and working in a state-wide role. She holds a Bachelor of Social Work from Curtin University.

Georgina's practice experience spans the disability sector, Child Protection and Family Services, and socio-legal settings - particularly in family law, protection and care, family and domestic violence, and employment-related matters. Her areas of expertise include family and domestic violence, trauma, child development, family relationships, and disability.

Her approach to practice is grounded in critical feminist theory, intersectionality, and trauma-informed principles. Georgina works alongside survivors of sexual and family violence, centring empowerment, advocacy, and safety in her work. In her current role, she works collaboratively with lawyers to deliver integrated socio-legal support to women experiencing workplace sexual harassment, discrimination, and violence, ensuring holistic and trauma-responsive pathways to justice.

Georgina has also been actively involved in addressing systemic inequalities within financial institutions affecting women experiencing family and domestic violence. She played a key role as a representative of Women's Legal Service WA in the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Financial Services Regulatory Framework in Relation to Financial Abuse, advocating for stronger protections and accountability where perpetrators exploit financial systems to perpetuate abuse.

As a neurodivergent woman, Georgina brings unique lived and professional insight into neurodivergence, women's mental health, trauma recovery, and somatic approaches to wellbeing. Guided by feminist praxis, she is committed to rewriting "herstory" - challenging and dismantling patriarchal systems, amplifying women's voices, and contributing to systemic transformation through her practice and advocacy.



Jeanella Tan

Working Women's Centre Western Australia

Jeanelle is a Social Worker at the Working Women's Centre WA, based in Perth and working in a state-wide role. She holds a Master of Social Work and a Master of Human Rights from the University of Western Australia.

Before joining the Centre, Jeanelle worked in Singapore's youth justice system, where she supported young people in detention and contributed to the implementation of restorative justice frameworks within youth rehabilitation settings. Since moving to Australia, she has worked extensively with refugee and migrant communities through the Australian Red Cross and Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Services, providing individual case management and systemic advocacy for women and families experiencing intersecting forms of marginalisation, including family and domestic violence.

Her practice is grounded in human rights, critical feminist theory, and intersectionality. In her current role, Jeanelle works within a socio-legal framework that integrates legal advocacy with psychosocial support to strengthen workplace responses to sexual harassment, discrimination, and family and domestic violence. Her work focuses on bridging the gaps between legal systems and social support, ensuring that women's safety, dignity, and wellbeing remain central in both individual and systemic advocacy.

Jeanelle is passionate about structural reform for women from marginalised communities, particularly in reshaping systems to be culturally safe, trauma-informed, and empowering. She is driven by a commitment to building workplaces and institutions that are not only equitable in principle but safe and accessible in practice.



Ella Kucharova (she/her)

Acting Senior Director, Positive Duty Team, Australian Human Rights Commission

Ella is the Acting Senior Director of the Positive Duty Team at the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC).

She has 15 years of experience practising in the areas of human rights law and social justice law. For eight years she has worked in legal positions at the AHRC, including as the Director of Legal (Positive Duty Team). In this role she was lead drafter of the AHRC's primary public-facing materials on the positive duty, as well as its Compliance and Enforcement Policy. In 2020, she was a senior lawyer and worked with the former Sex Discrimination Commissioner Kate Jenkins, on the Respect@Work Report as well as the Bills implementing the Respect@Work legislative amendments.

Prior to this, Ella worked in the community legal centre sector as a litigation solicitor at Canberra Community Law and a duty lawyer at the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Ella holds a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws (First Class) from the University of New South Wales and a Master of Laws (First Class) from the University of Cambridge, where she studied as a Cambridge-Australia Trust scholar.



Emily Gray

Working Women's Centre New South Wales



Susan Price (she/her)

Principal Solicitor, Civil Practice, Women's Legal Centre ACT

Susan is the Head of Civil Practice at Women's Legal Centre ACT and Chair of the Women's Legal Services Australia Employment, Discrimination & Sexual Harassment Committee. She is an experienced employment lawyer with a background in private practice, in-house roles, and community legal centres. Holding a Masters of Laws in employment and discrimination, Susan has also completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors course. She has been a Policy Lab Fellow, an Honorary Associate at the University of Sydney Business School, and has taught in areas including employment law and change management. A long-time member of Women Lawyers NSW, Susan was awarded Life Membership in 2023. She is also part of the ACT Law Society's Employment Committee. In her role as Chair of the WLSA Employment Committee, Susan oversees initiatives for employment and discrimination lawyers, leads law reform submissions, and fosters collaboration across Women's Legal Services. She played a key role in establishing the ACT Working Women's Centre through a partnership with UnionsACT. Susan is dedicated to advancing women's opportunities, empowerment, and gender equality in the workforce.