



**WORKING
WOMEN'S
CENTRE**
Tasmania

A program delivered by Women's Legal Service Tasmania
in partnership with Worker Assist Tasmania

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small steps | **safe workplaces**
SEXUAL HARASSMENT CONFERENCE

18, 19, 20 November 2026

Nipaluna (Hobart), Lutruwita (Tasmania)

Program 2026

Made possible by funding from the Commonwealth Government in response to Recommendation 53 of the Respect@Work Report

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge Palawa/Pakana as the Traditional Custodians of this island, lutruwita/Tasmania. As we meet here, we honour those people and all the tribes of lutruwita who are no longer here as a result of the brutal invasion, and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community of today who remain owners of these lands. We pledge to continue to support them to achieve Truth Telling and Treaty.



We acknowledge that we are working towards being a safe space for members of the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community.

We acknowledge that we are working towards being a safe space for people living with a disability.

We are curious green and growing and working towards being a safe space for all people.



Key Conference Contacts

For general assistance: Staff wearing blue lanyards

Safe Person(s): If support is required during the conference please reach out to our safe people wearing orange lanyards or contact Sharon: 0492 487 818

Other helpful numbers:

1800RESPECT: 1800 737 732

Sexual Assault Support Service (SASS)/ Laurel House: 1800 697 877 (24/7)

Map of RACV Hobart Hotel



Day 1 Wednesday 18 November 5:00pm till 7:30pm			Day 2 Thursday 19 November 8:00am till 5:10pm		
MC	Susan Price, Working Women's Centre NSW		MC	Susan Price, Working Women's Centre NSW	
5:00pm	Registrations Open	Pre Function Area	8:00am	Registrations Open	Pre Function Area
5:30pm	Welcome to Small Steps Safe Workplaces: Sexual Harassment Conference 2026		8:30am	Welcome & House Keeping Address from Yvette Cehtel, Women's Legal Service Tasmania	
	Acknowledgement & House Keeping Address from Rachel Watson, Hydro Tasmania		8:45am	Welcome to Country Nala Mansell, Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Inc.	
5:45pm	Our Silence is Not for Sale NDA Reform		9:30am	Delegate Grounding Activity	
	Abbey Kendall, Working Women's Centre Australia Jennifer Jones, Westjustice		9:40am	The Hon. Chief Justice Debbie Mortimer, Federal Court of Australia in Conversation with Ms Kate Eastman AM SC	
6:30pm	Welcome Reception Sponsored by Hydro Tasmania		10:40am	Morning Tea & Trade Stall Exhibition	
7:30pm	Session Concludes		11:00am	Navigating Multiple Claims - Balancing Best Legal Outcomes with Complainants Wellbeing Emily Latif, Barrister Alex McKenzie, McLean McKenzie & Topfer	Topic to be Announced Sally Sievers AO, Anti-Discrimination Commissioner Tasmania
				Collins Room	Stables
			12:00pm	A Social Workers Role A Value Add or Integrated Imperative Facilitator: Sharon King, Working Women's Centre Tasmania Anna Gilet, Working Women's Centre QLD Further speakers to be confirmed	
				Collins Room	

Day 2 Thursday 19 November 8:00am till 5:10pm		
1:00pm	Lunch & Trade Stall Exhibition Pre Function Area	
1:45pm	Rights in Practice: Human Rights Law as a tool for sexual harassment litigation and advocacy Ms Kate Eastman AM SC Collins Room	
2:45pm	Beyond the Complaint Barriers to Justice for Victim-Survivors Dr Sarah Ailwood, University of Wollongong Dominique Allen, Monash University Collins Room	Innovating Compliance The Positive Duty in Action: A deep dive into the Positive Duty Tanaya Roy, Intersection Georgie Langford, Canva Stables
3:45pm	Afternoon Tea & Trade Stall Exhibition Pre Function Area	
4:10pm	The Positive Duty & the Burden on the Individual - Are we there yet? The introduction of Part IIA of the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth) promised an evolution of Australia's complaints-based discrimination law, shifting the burden of equality from the individual to the institution. Has Part IIA delivered as promised, or does the burden of equality remain with the individual? Sarah McCarthy, Barrister Collins Room	Collective Wisdom, lets consolidate A reflective & restorative art workshop, helping participants consolidate their learnings and connection Ana Gilet, Working Women's Centre QLD Stables
5:10pm	Session Concludes	

Day 2 Thursday 19 November 6:30pm till 9:30pm	
6:30pm	Formal Conference Dinner Collins Room
6:45pm	The Positive Duty Leading by Example The Hon. Justice Jacqueline Gleeson, High Court of Australia Collins Room
9:30pm	Session Concludes

Day 3 Friday 20 November 2026 8:00am till 3:25pm		
MC	Susan Price, Working Women's Centre NSW	
8:00am	Registrations Open	Pre Function Area
8:30am	Welcome, Acknowledgement & House Keeping	Collins Room
8:45am	The Art of Persuasion What persuades the Bench and other decision makers?	
	The Hon. Justice Jacqueline Gleeson, High Court of Australia in Conversation with Ms Sarah Wright, Barrister	
9:45am	Panel Discussion: From Prevention to Practice Building Safer Workplaces	Systemic Remedies Outcomes Project
	Maddie Bowen, Working Women's Centre Tasmania Carolyn Self, Engender Equality Kate Johnstone, Sexual Assault Support Service Prabha Nandagopal, Elevate Consulting Partners	Cat Hemingway, Vic Legal Aid Megan Pearce, Vic Legal Aid Melanie Schleiger
	Collins Room	Stables
10:45am	Morning Tea & Trade Stall Exhibition	Pre Function Area
11:05am	Reconciling Complainant Protections with Cross Examination by Self Represented Respondents	Collins Room
	Ms Cathy Dowsett SC	

Day 3 Friday 20 November 2026 8:00am till 3:25pm		
	Panel Discussion: Secrets to Trauma Informed Practice	
12:05pm	Facilitator: Natalie Ryan, Women's Legal Service Tasmania Dr Lucy Mercer-Mapstone, Laurel House Sexual Assault Support Service Sneha Saptoka, Engender Equality Anna Gilet, Working Women's Centre QLD	
	Collins Room	
1:05pm	Lunch & Trade Stall Exhibition	Pre Function Area
1:35pm	Collective Wisdom, lets consolidate	
	A reflective & restorative art workshop, helping participants consolidate their learnings and connection	
	Ana Gilet, Working Women's Centre QLD	Stables
2:05pm	Remedies for sexual harassment: changing paradigms	
	Examination of the current trend towards 'medicalisation' of loss and the prospect of advancing different conceptualisations of loss that may be available drawing on overseas examples.	
	Prue Bindon, Barrister	Collins Room
3:05pm	Close of Conference with Susan Price Prize Draw	Collins Room
3:25pm	Conference Concludes	