

# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE 2025

Tuesday 29 - Wednesday 30 July 2025  
The Pullman Melbourne, Albert Park



## DAY 1 - TUESDAY 29 JULY 2025

7:45 - 17:00	CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPEN		
	STREAM 1		
	Chair: Mark Swiney Fire Rescue Victoria		
08:50 - 08:55	Welcome to Country, <b>Name/RAP</b>		
08:55 - 09:00	Welcome from Conference Chair, <b>Mark Swiney</b> Fire Rescue Victoria		
09:00 - 09:30	Welcome from the Emergency Management Commissioner, <b>Tim Wiebusch</b>		
	<b>Laurie Lavelle Keynote:</b> <b>Fighting Fires and Falsehoods while Facing the Future</b> <b>Bob Jensen</b> International crisis, risk and emergency management advisor, Washington DC		
09:30 - 10:25	MORNING TEA - EXHIBITION AREA		
10:25 - 10:50	STREAM 1	STREAM 2 (DIVERSITY)	WORKSHOP 1
	Chair: Julian Smith, DEECA	Chair:	Chair:
10:50 - 11:25	<b>Case study: Two brains are better than one</b> Reegan Key and Lucy Bell, EMV <i>Reflections and realities of job-sharing in the EM sector</i>	<b>Understanding the 2022 flood from diverse perspectives</b> Bhiamie Williamson National Indigenous Disaster Resilience Program <i>Views from Aboriginal communities in SA, Central and NW Victoria</i>	<b>Edge of wedge decision making</b> DEECA <i>Exploring risk and real-world barriers to sound decision making</i>
11:25 - 12:00	<b>Innovating for long-term safety:</b> Community-led public rescue equipment in Venus Bay, Victoria Grace Strugnell, Life Saving Victoria Paul Hoffman, Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club	<b>Cultural healing and Aboriginal participation for October 2022 flood clean-up Victoria</b> Melanie Micalizzi, A2B Personnel <i>2024 National Resilient Australia Award for Business</i>	
12:00 - 12:35	<b>Lessons learnt from the February 2024 storm event and Network Outage Review</b> Sarah Hannah, AusNet <i>AusNet has redesigned its emergency management capability, capacity and engagement.</i>	<b>The Changing faces of emergency management</b> Levi Lovett, DEECA <i>Working together to lead change in Indigenous landscapes</i>	
12:35 - 13:30	LUNCH - EXHIBITION AREA		
	STREAM 1	STREAM 2	WORKSHOP 2
	Chair:	Chair:	Chair:
13:30 - 14:05	<b>Mobilising an army of agencies and communities</b> Mark Gunning, Country Fire Authority <i>Whole communities combine to minimise loss and damage in Western District fires</i>	<b>Highlighting sector-led research</b> hosted by <b>Dr Emily Phillips</b> , Inspector-General for Emergency Management <i>Ambulance Victoria Bass Coast Shire &amp; Mornington Peninsula Shire Country Fire Authority Dept of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Department of Health Life Saving Victoria</i>	<b>Where can our young people take us?</b> Youth Affairs Council Victoria <i>Establishing the Centre of Excellence - 'Young People and Disasters'</i>
14:05 - 14:40	<b>Understanding and Recovering from Moral Injury</b> Jesse Winter, Fire Rescue Victoria <i>ESF Scholarship recipient</i>		
14:40 - 15:15	<b>Navigating disaster recovery in a complex world.</b> Mariela Diaz CEO Emergency Recovery Victoria <i>What recovery looks like for communities and how we navigate an evolving policy environment</i>		
15:15 - 15:45	AFTERNOON TEA - EXHIBITION AREA		
	STREAM 1		
	Chair: Margaret Moreton, GAD Australia		
15:45 - 16:20	<b>The Claire Zara Memorial Oration</b> <b>TOPIC</b> Kate Fitz-Gibbon, Chair, Respect Victoria; Professor Business & Economics, Monash University		
16:20 - 17:00	<b>Looking back to look forward</b> Joe Buffone, NEMA <i>Overview of the last 25 years, and their probable impact</i>		
17:00	Close		
17:00 - 19:00	CONFERENCE COCKTAILS - EXHIBITION AREA		
19:00 - 22:00	CONFERENCE DINNER		

Program subject to change

Current at 9 June 2025

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## DAY 2 - WEDNESDAY 30 JULY 2025

08:00 - 16:30	CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPEN		
	STREAM 1		
	Chair:		
09:00 - 09:20	<b>OPENING ADDRESS:</b> <b>ESF Lived Experience Program</b> Susan MacKenzie, CEO Emergency Services Foundation		
09:20 - 10:00	<b>KEYNOTE:</b> <b>The next wave:</b> reimagining water safety beyond the flags Catherine Greaves, CEO Life Saving Victoria		
10:00 - 10:40	<b>KEYNOTE:</b> <b>Protect, Connect, Empower</b> Andrew Colvin, CEO Australian Red Cross <i>How well do you know the Australian Red Cross? And how ready are we to support communities on their worst day?</i>		
10:40 - 11:00	MORNING TEA - EXHIBITION AREA		
	STREAM 1	STREAM 2	WORKSHOP 3
	Chair: Susan MacKenzie, CEO, Emergency Services Foundation		
11:00 - 11:35	<b>PANEL: ESF Residential Wellbeing Program</b> Dr Shannon Hood (Program Facilitator), Ass Prof. Lisa Dell (Phoenix Australia), Alex Vella, (MICA Paramedic)	<b>PANEL: National Volunteering Blueprint</b> Blythe McLennan, Natural Hazards Research Aust & Celeste Young, Victoria University <i>Current challenges and strategies</i>	<b>Reflections and realities</b> <b>How will research set us for the next 25 years?</b> Co-designing opportunities to harness full value of research and knowledge sharing
11:35 - 12:10	<b>Empowering community mobilisation in Disaster Response</b> Kelly Hofert, Yarra Ranges Council & Rachael Davidson, Healesville Community Emergency Group <i>Tools to assist communities to step up in disasters</i>	<b>Managing the complexities of Neurodivergence in EM</b> David Clancy, Fire Rescue Victoria <i>Creating an inclusive environment</i>	<i>How can we connect academics with agency practitioners towards better research that is utilised every day by agencies across Australia?</i>
12:10 - 12:45	<b>Fatigue within Emergency Services</b> Matt Nicholson, Fire Rescue Victoria <i>ESF Scholarship recipient</i>	<b>Utilising the voice of the community</b> - Key lessons in multicultural fire safety resource development Ruth Harley, FRV & Ellis Bourne, CFA <i>Making sure our terminology and translations make sense to all communities</i>	
12:45 - 13:30	LUNCH - EXHIBITION AREA		
	STREAM 1	STREAM 2	WORKSHOP 4
	Chair:		
13:30 - 14:05	<b>Supporting community preparedness</b> Liz Mackinlay, Australian Business Volunteers <i>Supporting and mobilising communities to engage in disasters</i>	<b>Enhancing Cultural Safety in EM:</b> A pathway to resilience Lisa Keedle, Yarra Ranges Council & Nelson Aldridge, Taungurung man <i>Creating culturally safe spaces in response, relief and recovery situations</i>	<b>Making the invisible visible</b> Victoria University <i>Developing a framework for monitoring and evaluating risk prevention programs at community level</i>
14:05 - 14:40	<b>Next Generation CAD Dispatch</b> Leveraging cutting edge technology Dallas Reilly, Triple Zero Victoria <i>New integrated comms system revealed</i>	<b>The future: Student-led Emergency Planning</b> Students with support from Briony Towers <i>Students take the lead in EM Planning at Upwey High School</i>	
14:40 - 15:15	<b>Class 3 Emergencies:</b> A hypothetical discussion exploring susceptibility and resilience Tony Combridge & Briony Jones, Victoria Police <i>Towards a highly cohesive community with reduced opportunities for divergent extremism.</i>	<b>From Reflection to Action:</b> <b>Male Allyship and Next-Generation Fire Services</b> Bronnie Mackintosh (Girls on Fire/FRNSW), Lily Brown (Parks Vic), Wayne Phillips (Commissioner, ACT ESA) <i>The transformative power of allyship in building inclusive fire services</i>	
15:15 - 15:40	AFTERNOON TEA - EXHIBITION AREA		
	STREAM 1		
	Chair: Mark Swiney, Fire Rescue Victoria		
15:40 - 16:10	<b>PANEL: Inclusion in the EM sector</b> FRV/EMV - I&D Leadership Group <i>Gathering feedback about mapping pathways to an inclusive EM sector</i>		
16:10 - 16:15	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b> Tony Pearce, Chair, Emergency Services Foundation		
16:15	CONFERENCE CLOSE		

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