



TasCOSS Conference 2025 Preliminary Program

** Please note: this is a draft program and subject to change.*

DAY 1: Tuesday 12 August 2025

9:30am-9:35am	Welcome to Day 1 Jane Longhurst <i>Conference facilitator</i>
9:35am-9:45am	Welcome to Country Graeme Gardner <i>Palawa man from Trawlwoolway people</i>
9:45am-9:55am	Official opening Adrienne Picone <i>CEO, TasCOSS</i>
9:55am-10:05am	Welcome message Premier of Tasmania

10:05am–10:25am	Setting the scene for developing a future vision for community services Katy Cooper <i>Disruptive consultant</i>		
10:25am–11:10am	The new shape of Australian politics George Megalogenis <i>Journalist and author</i>		
11:10am–11:40am	Morning refreshments and trade exhibition		
11:40am–1:00pm	Concurrent sessions		
	<u>Stream #1</u> Future thinking <i>Session proudly supported by Brand Tasmania</i>	<u>Stream #2</u> Collaboration and impact	<u>Stream #3</u> Industry sustainability
11:40am–12:00pm	1.1 National and international best practice examples of community support for at-risk children Meg Tait, TasCOSS & Jack Davenport, Children's rights advocate	2.1 Shaping better futures by elevating brave young parent voices Sue Wilson & Chanell Wynwood, Brave Foundation	3.1 Volunteering: A thriving culture of community participation Mel Blake & Fiona Cameron, Volunteering Tasmania
12:00pm–12:20pm		2.2 Positive outcomes for young people: A focus on service responses to harmful sexual behaviour Renae Pepper & Ebony Griggs, Sexual Assault Support Service	3.2 Pathway to impact: Anglicare Tasmania's 2024 <i>Unsafe and Unhoused</i> report Mary Bennett & Ginny Toombs, Anglicare

12:20pm–12:40pm	1.2 Safe, seen, and supported: Embedding trauma-informed practice to create compassionate and impactful organisations Holly Davies-Freeman , <i>Lifeline Tasmania</i>	2.3 Social impact: Fad or future? Belinda Witter , <i>Social Impact Strategies + Solutions</i>	3.3 Recognising resilience: A case study of Nepali migrants' contributions to social cohesion and leadership in Tasmania Dr Santosh Adhikari , <i>University of Tasmania; Nepali Society of Northern Tasmania</i>
12:40pm–1:00pm	1.3 Our children, our community, our culture, our collective change: Transforming systems in place through community voice and leadership in <i>Lutruwita</i> Raylene Foster & Chloe Woolnough , <i>Connected Beginnings Lutruwita/Tasmania</i>		3.4 Transport: Building on great work to create a network of solutions Dr Lisa Stafford , <i>Griffith University</i> & Veronica Terry , <i>Cradle Coast Authority</i>
1:00pm–2:00pm	Lunch and trade exhibition		
2:00pm–3:10pm	Concurrent workshop sessions		
	Stream #4 Future thinking <i>Proudly supported by University of Tasmania</i>	Stream #5 Collaboration and impact	Stream #6 Industry sustainability

	4.1 Future thinking: Community development practitioners and researchers Dimitra Papavassiliou, Menzies Institute for Medical Research (University of Tasmania)	5.1 Creating a connected and respectful Tasmania through conversations: Shaping a shared vision Dr Michael Kelly and Le-ella Doyle, Relationships Australia Tasmania	6.1 Making good decisions in uncertain times Melinda Maddock, melindamaddock.com & Dr Lisa Schimanski, Just Beyond
3:10pm–3:40pm	Afternoon refreshments and trade exhibition <i>Proudly supported by Safety Forward</i>		
3:40pm–3:55pm	Breathwork session with St Lukes <i>Proudly supported by St Lukes</i>		
3:55pm–4:30pm	Setting the scene: shaping our future together Dr Lisa Denny <i>Systems thinker, demographer, researcher and educator</i>		
4:30pm	Day 1 close Jane Longhurst <i>Conference facilitator</i>		
4:30pm–5:30pm	Conference networking function <i>Proudly supported by the Power People Project</i>		

DAY 2: Wednesday 13 August 2025

9:00am–9:10am	Welcome to Day 2 and recap of Day 1 Jane Longhurst <i>Conference facilitator</i>		
9:10am–9:40am	Technology advances and AI: Opportunities and risks for community services To be announced soon		
9:40am–10:15am	Why the future economy has to be a wellbeing economy Dr Katherine Trebeck <i>Political economist</i>		
10:15am–11:00am	The future sustainability of Australia's community services industry To be announced soon		
11:00am–11:30am	Morning refreshments		
11:30am–1:10pm	Concurrent workshop sessions		
	<u>Stream #7</u> Future thinking <i>Session proudly supported by Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council (ATDC)</i>	<u>Stream #8</u> Collaboration and impact	<u>Stream #9</u> Industry sustainability
11:30am–11:50am	7.1 How the climate crisis is impacting social services, and what's your role? Steve Willing, <i>Growth in Mind</i>	8.1 The success of collaboration: Supporting young people and the future Dr Aleisha Davis & Hannah Katz, <i>The Shepherd Centre</i>	9.1 Cultural diversity: Key to future workforce success Darya Kuznyetsova, <i>Multicultural Council of Tasmania</i>

11:50am-12:10pm	7.2 Courage to change: Trans and gender diverse inclusion in women's services Lucinda Shannon , <i>Women's Health Tasmania</i> Yalei Wilson , <i>TGD Advisors Group</i> Yvette Cehtel , <i>Women's Legal Service Tasmania</i>	8.2 To be announced soon	9.2 A sustainable industry for all Tasmanians <i>TasCOSS</i>
12:10pm-12:30pm	7.3 Best practices in living/lived experience story telling Dr Jackie Hallam , <i>Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council (ATDC)</i>	8.3 The About Me Project: Fostering a culture of inclusion through innovative information sharing practices and collaboration Bill Fulton , <i>Brain Injury Association of Tasmania</i>	
12:30pm-12:50pm	7.4 Leading through reflection: Cultivating a culture of critical practice in community services Ben McGregor , <i>Anglicare Tasmania</i>	8.4 Lived experience co-design for impact: Knowledge gaps and evidence from lived experience realities Professor Sharon Lawn , <i>Lived Experience Australia</i> & Aislin Gleeson , <i>National Mental Health Consumer Carer Forum</i>	9.3 Workforce planning across the care and support sectors <i>HumanAbility</i>
12:50pm-1:50pm	Lunch and trade exhibition		

1:50pm–2:35pm	<p>Leadership Panel Discussion: Collaborating for impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christine Finnegan, <i>Tasmania JackJumpers</i> • Vaughn Bennison, <i>Disability Voices Tasmania</i> • Jacqui Parker, <i>TasWater</i> • TBC, <i>Tasmanian Aboriginal Council</i> <p><i>More panellists to be announced shortly</i></p>
2:35pm–2:55pm	<p>Defining our future together</p> <p>Katy Cooper</p> <p><i>Disruptive consultant</i></p>
2:55pm–3:00pm	<p>Official close</p> <p>Adrienne Picone</p> <p><i>CEO, TasCOSS</i></p>