



TasCOSS Conference 2025 Preliminary Program

**Please note: this is a draft program and subject to change (up to date as at 14 July 2025).*

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
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 <i>Proudly supported by Safety Forward</i>		
11:40am–1:00pm	Concurrent workshop sessions		
	<u>Stream #1</u> Future thinking <i>Session proudly supported by Brand Tasmania</i>	<u>Stream #2</u> Collaboration and impact <i>Session proudly supported by Primary Health Tasmania</i>	<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, <i>Children's rights advocate</i>	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, <i>Volunteering Tasmania</i>
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 & Veronica Terry</i> , <i>Cradle Coast Authority</i>
1:00pm–2:00pm	Lunch and trade exhibition		
2:00pm–3:10pm	Concurrent workshop sessions		
	<u>Stream #4</u> Future thinking <i>Proudly supported by the University of Tasmania</i>	<u>Stream #5</u> Collaboration and impact	<u>Stream #6</u> Industry sustainability
	4.1 Future thinking: Community development practitioners and researchers	5.1 Creating a connected and respectful Tasmania through conversations: Shaping a shared vision	6.1 Making good decisions in uncertain times Melinda Maddock , <i>melinamaddock.com</i> & Dr Lisa Schimanski , <i>Just Beyond</i>

	Dimitra Papavassiliou, Menzies Institute for Medical Research, University of Tasmania	Dr Michael Kelly and Le-ella Doyle, Relationships Australia Tasmania	
3:10pm–3:40pm	Afternoon refreshments and trade exhibition <i>Proudly supported by the Brain Injury Association of Tasmania</i>		
3:40pm–3:55pm	Breathe: Refresh: Rebalance Trisha Dixon <i>Join long-term yoga teacher Trisha for a short guided breathwork and mindfulness session designed to shake off stress, sharpen focus and lift your energy for the afternoon ahead.</i> <i>Proudly supported by St Lukes</i>		
3:55pm–4:30pm	Is demography destiny? Shaping our future 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 Ian Lim <i>The Project Lab</i>
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	Leadership Panel Discussion: The future sustainability of Australia's community services industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Cassandra Goldie AO, Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) • Cara Varian, NSW Council of Social Service (NCOSS) • Sally Sievers AO, Northern Territory Council of Social Service (NTCOSS) • Adrienne Picone, Tasmanian Council of Social Service (TasCOSS) • Greg Ogle, South Australian Council of Social Service (SACOSS)
11:00am–11:30am	Morning refreshments

11:30am–1:10pm	Concurrent workshop sessions		
	<u>Stream #7</u> Future thinking <i>Session proudly supported by the Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council (ATDC) Tasmania</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, Growth in Mind	8.1 The success of collaboration: Supporting young people and the future Dr Aleisha Davis & Hannah Katz, The Shepherd Centre	9.1 Cultural diversity: Key to future workforce success Darya Kuznyetsova, Multicultural Council of Tasmania
11:50am–12:10pm	7.2 Courage to change: Trans and gender diverse inclusion in women's services Lucinda Shannon, Women's Health Tasmania Yalei Wilson, TGD Advisors Group Yvette Cehtel, Women's Legal Service Tasmania	8.2 To be announced soon	9.2 A sustainable industry for all Tasmanians Bronwyn Tilbury, TasCOSS
12:10pm–12:30pm	7.3 Best practices in living/lived experience story telling Dr Jackie Hallam, Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council (ATDC) Tasmania	8.3 The About Me Project: Fostering a culture of inclusion through innovative information sharing practices and collaboration Bill Fulton, Brain Injury Association of Tasmania	

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 Olivia Greenwell , <i>HumanAbility</i>
12:50pm–1:50pm	Lunch and trade exhibition		
1:50pm–2:35pm	Leadership Panel Discussion: Collaborating for impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christine Finnegan, <i>Tasmania JackJumpers</i> • Vaughn Bennison, <i>Disability Voices Tasmania</i> • Jacqui Parker, <i>TasWater</i> • Deanna Hutchinson, <i>Burnie Works</i> • TBC, <i>Tasmanian Aboriginal Council</i> 		
2:35pm–2:55pm	Defining our future together Katy Cooper <i>Disruptive consultant</i>		
2:55pm–3:00pm	Official close Adrienne Picone <i>CEO, TasCOSS</i>		