



9-10 September

event program

research summit 2025

safe work australia

Safe Work Australia is a tripartite decision-making body representing the interests of the Commonwealth, states and territories, as well as workers and employers. We develop national policy aimed at reducing the incidence of work-related death, injury and illness, and exposure to hazards and risks in Australian workplaces.

Our national work health and safety vision is *safe and* healthy work for all and we drive and leverage national action to improve return to work outcomes for workers.

Safe Work Australia is delighted the Hon Amanda Rishworth MP, Commonwealth Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations is joining us to officially open our inaugural Research Summit.

Her presence highlights the importance of our shared commitment to safer, healthier workplaces across Australia.



Hon Amanda Rishworth MP

Commonwealth Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations



Welcome to the Safe Work Australia Research Summit

There are still too many deaths, injuries and illnesses arising from work.

To make informed decisions about the policies and actions needed to reduce work related fatalities, injuries and illnesses we need a strong evidence base – and that means rigorous data and research.

Our Research Summit brings together experts in both work health and safety (WHS) and workers' compensation to consider the most important emerging research trends and gaps to support safe and healthy work.

It is an opportunity to build meaningful connections between researchers, governments, unions and employer groups to explore WHS and workers' compensation challenges and opportunities. We hope that the connections made, and the ideas generated, will endure beyond the event itself.

Our Summit will spark conversations, showcase the latest research, and generate ideas to inform the national research agenda and Safe Work Australia's Research and Evaluation Strategy. We encourage you to actively participate in the discussions over the two days of the Summit - be creative and be bold!



Tony MaherChair | Safe Work Australia



Marie Boland
CEO | Safe Work Australia



The Research Summit Challenge

How do we work together to design and deliver research that supports safe and healthy work?

We are excited to bring so many creative and clever people together to answer this question, to take on the challenge and discuss the research opportunities in WHS and workers' compensation.

Over the two days of the Summit, we will explore the current evidence across diverse topics to answer this key question we have posed.

The answer will help us develop a plan and provide the focus to support our Research and Evaluation Strategy.





Safe Work Australia's research agenda will be driven into the future by our Research and Evaluation Strategy. It has three goals:

- 1
- Drive thought leadership by engaging with academics and others to deliver high quality and innovative research.



2

Build the evidence base for Safe Work Australia's workplan through research and evaluation.



3

Enhance national value by supporting the application of evidence into practical outcomes.



By the end of the Summit we will:

- Pinpoint priority research and gaps to identify the most important evidence needed to shape our collective research focus over the next decade.
- **Provide Safe Work Australia with ideas** on where it should focus its Research and Evaluation Strategy.
- Find ways to keep working together towards a national research agenda and agree on how we can all contribute to it beyond the Summit.





Session 1 9-11 am

Welcome

Marie Boland (MC) Chief Executive Officer, Safe Work Australia

Welcome to Country

Wally Bell Ngunawal Traditional Custodian

Opening

The Hon Amanda Rishworth MP

Commonwealth Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

A model of tripartite decision making

Four Safe Work Australia Members will provide context on how they work together and how this links into the Summit's challenge.

Marie Boland Chief Executive Officer, Safe Work Australia
Liam O'Brien Assistant Secretary, Australian Council of

Trade Unions

Andrea Fox Executive Director Policy and Workplace

Services, QLD Office of Industrial Relations

Tracey Browne Manager National WHS Policy, Australian

Industry Group

Keynote: Shaping the future of work, from a busy present

This session is about unlearning how we think about 'the future', embracing complexity, and rethinking how we navigate change.

Reanna Browne Futurist & Director, Work Futures

In conversation: Applying futures thinking to the work health and safety research landscape

Making sense of change to create conditions for meaningful action.

Reanna Browne Futurist & Director, Work Futures

Professor Director, Centre for Work, Organisation &

Paula Brough Wellbeing, Griffith University

Morning tea | 11-11:30 am



Session 2 11:30 am-1 g

Morning workshops

Workshop 1

Planning for the WHS impacts of climate change

Workshop 2

Improving understanding of the health impacts of chemical exposures

Workshop 3

Translating evidence into action to improve injured worker outcomes

Workshop 4

WHS risks and opportunities of new technology in the workplace

Federation Ballroom

Lunch | 1-2:15 pm



Session 3 | 2:15-5 pm

Afternoon Workshops

Workshop 1

Work as a determinant of our psychological health

Workshop 2

Learning lessons to reduce occupational lung disease

Workshop 3

A systems-based approach to WHS

Workshop 4

Designing safe work - what is good design and how do we know?

In conversation: Where does work health and safety fit in the productivity discussion?

Liam O'Brien (MC) Assistant Secretary, Australian Council of

Trade Unions (SWA Member)

Emeritus Professor Emeritus Professor/Researcher **Michael Quinlan** University of New South Wales

Laureate ProfessorDirector Psychosocial Safety Climate GlobalMaureen DollardObservatory, University of South Australia

Rebecca Sostarko Director of WHS, Australian Chamber of

Commerce and Industry (SWA Member)

What we heard at the workshops

MosaicLab

Closing remarks

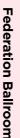
Tony Maher Chair, Safe Work Australia

Networking reception | 5-6:30 pm

The Atrium

Hosted by Tony Maher | Chair, Safe Work Australia







Welcome back

Marie Boland (MC) Chief Executive Officer, Safe Work Australia

Session 1 9-11 am

ederation Ballroom

Keynote: 'Indigenous-led research': What does it mean, why does it matter, and how do you do it in workplace settings?

Exploring the significance of Indigenous-led research and how to support it in workplace settings.

Professor Associate Dean, University of Technology Sydney

& Director UTS Jumbunna/UTS Business School Nareen Young Centre for Indigenous People and Work

In conversation: Collaboration, consultation, representation

Reflections on collaboration, consultation, and participation across diverse workforces and underrepresented voices.

Professor Associate Dean, University of Technology Sydney & Director UTS Jumbunna/UTS Business School Nareen Young Centre for Indigenous People and Work

Fair Work Ombudsman, Office of the Fair Anna Booth

Work Ombudsman

Dr StellaMav Senior Research Fellow, Monash University Gwini

Discussion: Using dilemmas to sharpen our focus

MosaicLab

Morning tea | 11-11:30 am

Debate: It's not a question of where work health and safety ends, it's where it begins Margo Lydon (MC) Establishment Co-Lead, Mentally Healthy Workplaces Australia Professor Professor of Work and Regulation. Andrew Stewart Queensland University of Technology Jacqueline Agius ACT Work Health and Safety Commissioner. WorkSafe ACT **Session 2** 11:30 am-12:30pm Liam O'Brien Assistant Secretary, Australian Council of Trade Unions (SWA Member) Shaun Schmitke Director Workplace Relations, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Alena Titterton Partner, Johnson Winter Slattery Cameron Chair. Australian Institute of Health and Safety Montgomery

Lunch | 12:30-1:30 pm

:30-3:30 pm Discussion: Prioritising and shaping the next steps MosaicLab Closing address: Reflections and next steps Marie Boland Chief Executive Officer, Safe Work Australia





Reanna Browne

Futurist & Director | Work Futures

Reanna Browne is a globally recognised voice in futures thinking and strategic foresight. As an award-winning futurist and founder of Work Futures, Reanna helps organisations regain their future through unlearning and rethinking action in the present. With over a decade of experience in futures work, coupled with a background in business strategy and a former career as an elite athlete, Reanna brings a unique blend of expertise to her field. She has worked across numerous sectors, from technology and sport to banking and government, helping clients translate foresight into meaningful change.

Holding an MA in Strategic Foresight and various other qualifications, Reanna is dedicated to making futures work not just interesting, but important.



Professor Nareen Young

Associate Dean | University of Technology Sydney Professor & Director | UTS Jumbunna/UTS Business School Centre for Indigenous People and Work

Nareen is Associate Dean, Indigenous Engagement and Leadership, Business School, University of Technology Sydney, Professor Indigenous Policy (Indigenous Workforce Diversity) at UTS Jumbunna Institute of Indigenous Education and Research and Director of the UTS Jumbunna/UTS Business School Centre for Indigenous People and Work.

She is one of Australia's most respected workplace diversity practitioners and thinkers, has held numerous leadership positions, is responsible for introducing many concepts to Australian diversity practice and has been awarded many awards and accolades for her leadership work over many years.

Nareen is influenced by her First Nations and culturally diverse heritages in all her work.

Check out the <u>Research Summit</u>
<u>Directory</u> for information about
all our Summit speakers





Workshops

Led by expert MCs and supported by MosaicLab

Eight workshops will be held on Day 1 of the Summit. The format of each workshop will vary to match its content and goals.

Safe Work Australia has engaged MosaicLab to facilitate and support key conversations at the Research Summit.

Information will be collected from each workshop that will continue to shape the next steps for Safe Work Australia's Research and Evaluation Strategy.

MosaicLab will be supporting a process where Summit participants will be able to see and review the opportunities, challenges and ideas that were discussed at all workshops. We are calling this process 'The Forge'!

Morning Workshop

Planning for the work health and safety impacts of climate change

How can research ensure work health and safety is at the forefront in responding to climate change, recognising it presents new hazards, emerging industries, and evolving risks and opportunities for businesses and workers.

Key questions:

- What are the biggest impacts of climate change for WHS?
- What are the most urgent areas of research required to address gaps in knowledge?

Speakers:

Genevieve Quilty (MC)

Interim Australian Centre for Disease Control

Dr Elizabeth Humphrys

University of Technology Sydney

Professor Dino Pisaniello

University of Adelaide

Associate Professor Fatemeh Salehi

Macquarie University

Read about these speakers on page 8 in the directory



The overarching goal for the Summit workshops is to discuss the current state of evidence, and then explore the gaps and future priorities and generate ideas on how to fill those gaps and meet those priorities.

This information will feed into Dilemma and Priority discussions on Day 2.

Morning Workshop

Improving understanding of the health impacts of chemical exposures

How can we better protect workers and workplaces from chemical exposure, especially where evidence is limited, and how do we ensure Australia's protections can keep pace with new technologies and chemicals?

Key questions:

Sneakers:

- How could research get better at predicting the health impacts of workers' exposure to chemicals to ensure better controls, informed decision making and improve health and safety outcomes?
- How does Australia's research keep up with new / novel chemicals, and provide an evidence base for existing chemicals where there is currently limited, or outdated, evidence?

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Professor Deborah Glass (MC)	Monash University
Dr Tessa Keegel	Monash University
Peter Knott	GCG Health Safety Hygiene
Dr Claire Larter	Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme
Dr Chris Schyvens	Therapeutic Goods Administration
Dr Lisa Sharwood	University of New South Wales

Read about these speakers on page 9 in the directory





Morning Workshop

Translating evidence into action to improve injured worker outcomes

What does the evidence tell us about improving return to work outcomes, and what practical advice and support is needed to assist injured workers and those involved in their recovery.

Key questions:

- What do we know nationally in relation to return to work outcomes and what is working well? What else is needed to build a national picture?
- What practical advice would assist workplaces, particularly people directly involved in supporting injured workers to return to work, to improve outcomes and protect injured workers? What research do we need to provide this advice?

Speakers:	
Mandy Young (MC)	State Insurance Regulatory Authority
Professor Sarah Anderson	Institute for Safety, Compensation and Recovery Research
Andrea Madeley	Family and Injured Worker Advisory Committee (Commonwealth)
Professor Karen Walker-Bone	Monash University
Dr Mary Wyatt	RTWMatters.org and It Pays to Care
Michael Young	ACT Government Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations Office (SWA Member)

Read about these speakers on page 10 in the directory



Morning Workshop



Work health and safety risks and opportunities of new technology in the workplace

What are the impacts of new technologies in the workplace, current approaches to WHS in the context of new technology, and what should we be considering now in relation to WHS to position for the future.

Key questions:

- What are the WHS risks and opportunities in relation to new technology in the workplace?
- How can we be on the front foot responding to the WHS impacts, and leveraging the WHS opportunities, of new technology now and over the next 5 years, 10 years?

Speakers:	
Emeritus Professor Michael Quinlan (MC)	University of New South Wales
Dr Timothy Colin Bednall	Swinburne University of Technology
Professor Robin Burgess-Limerick	University of Queensland
Dr Jacqueline Meredith	Swinburne University of Technology
Associate Professor Farnad Nasirzadeh	Deakin University
Dr Natalie Sheard	University of Melbourne
Associate Professor Penny Williams	Queensland University of Technology

Read about these speakers on page 11 in the directory





Work as a determinant of our psychological health

What do we know about the role of work - including working hours and job security - in supporting physical and mental health, and how do these factors impact WHS.

Key questions:

Speakers:

- What does the research tell us in relation to the impact of taking a more holistic view to work health and safety in the workplace?
- What does the research tell us about the impact of working hours on an individual's health, including psychological health, and wellbeing?

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Margo Lydon (MC)	Mentally Healthy Workplaces Australia
Professor Sally Ferguson	Appleton Institute, Central Queensland University
Professor Lyndall Strazdins	Australian National University
Dr Miriam van den Berg	University of Adelaide
Kay Wilson	Victorian Collaborative Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing & La Trobe University & University of Melbourne

Read about these speakers on page 12 in the directory





Learning lessons to reduce occupational lung disease

How can we better protect workers from, and reduce incidents of, occupational lung disease, drawing on lessons from Australia's world-first engineered stone ban in 2024 to prevent occupational lung disease from known and unknown hazards.

Key questions:

- What are the research gaps and priority areas in relation to silicosis, asbestos related diseases, occupational asthma and other occupational lung diseases that will enhance understanding of the risks and controls?
- What are the barriers (aside from funding) to research in relation to silicosis, asbestos related diseases, occupational asthma and other occupational lung diseases? What is needed to address this and what should the priorities be?
- With a focus on prevention, and recognising the problem of long latency, is there research that can help us identify substances and practices that are harmful to workers earlier, as well as more effective ways to protect workers from occupational lung diseases?

Speakers:	
Deb Vallance (MC)	Australian Council of Trade Unions
Kim Brislane	Asbestos and Dust Diseases Research Institute
Kate Cole	University of Sydney
Jodie Deakes	Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency
Professor Tim Driscoll	University of Sydney
Dr Ryan Hoy	Monash University
Professor Emeritus Malcolm Sim AM	Monash University

Read about these speakers on page 13 in the directory





A systems-based approach to work health and safety

How we can encourage a systems-based approach to better integrate WHS into workplaces' processes, operations and decisions, and what drivers are needed to support a more proactive and integrated approach.

Key questions:

- What is needed to support workplaces in taking a systems-based approach to WHS?
- What challenges do we need to address in order to drive behavioural change in workplaces towards a more systems-based approach to WHS? How can research address these challenges and support translation of evidence?

Dr Elizabeth Convery (MC)	Behavioural Insights Team
Luka Campbell	Comcare
Associate Professor Carlo Caponecchia	University of New South Wales
Dr Olivia Miller	Queensland University of Technology
Dr Rachael Potter	University of South Australia
Professor Michelle Tuckey	University of South Australia

Read about these speakers on page 14 in the directory





Designing safe work - what is good design and how do we know?

What does good work design look like, the challenges in implementing it, and what is needed to shift behaviour towards a more proactive approach to safe work design.

Key questions:

- How do we know what works in relation to safe work design, and where it doesn't, why doesn't it work?
- Anecdotal evidence suggests businesses struggle with work design – is this true and, if so, what needs to be done differently?

Speakers:	
Associate Professor Kïrsten Way (MC)	University of Queensland
Associate Professor Marcus Cattani	Edith Cowan University
Mehrdad Hassani	Queensland University of Technology
Dr Valerie O'Keeffe	Flinders University
Bernie Smith	Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association

Read about these speakers on page 15 in the directory





Safe Work Australia Showcase

Connecting you with our national policy, data and research.

Visit the Showcase to learn more about our national work health and safety and workers' compensation strategies, and discover how our research, data, and policy projects are driving change.

Meet the teams behind key initiatives and connect with Safe Work Australia's ongoing work, such as:

- Best practice review of Australia's model WHS laws
- Horizon Scan and evidence mapping of current evidence gaps and future research opportunities
- Social audience research to better understand and connect with our target audiences
- Work health and safety and workers' compensation data capability and data sharing opportunities.

The Showcase will be in the Gallery for the duration of the Summit, come and say hi!



The Forge

The Forge is a dynamic online space for capturing the pulse of the Summit in real time - gathering comments, discussions, ideas, surfacing challenges and spotlighting opportunities as they emerge across workshops and discussions. It will be powered by MosaicLab.

From individual voice to collective intelligence.

Live input will be collected throughout the Summit through a collaborative platform (GroupMap). Participants can interact with the platform to build concepts, vote on ideas, and help shape the summit's collective intelligence. Access instructions will be provided at the event.

Using the power of artificial intelligence (AI), we will play back what we are seeing and hearing at key intervals during the Summit to highlight emerging themes, surface shared challenges, and spark deeper conversation.

The live data collected and synthesised throughout the Summit will provide a set of collective insights, ideas and priorities that will be shared with all participants.

Please note:

All contributions made during the Summit - whether through GroupMap, workshops, or discussions - may be used to generate collective insights and ideas and inform future research and policy development.

Participant input will be anonymised and aggregated before analysis. No personally identifiable information will be shared or published.

By participating, you consent to your input being used for these purposes. If you have any concerns, please speak with the Safe Work Australia or MosaicLab teams.

19



Networking opportunities

Morning tea

11-11:30am Day 1 | 11-11:30am Day 2

Take the opportunity to meet with colleagues and peers in the Atrium or Gallery spaces.

Lunch

1-2:15pm Day 1 | 12:30-1:30pm Day 2

While you enjoy lunch, you can also:

- Take a few moments to watch a series of short video presentations from researchers in the Federation Ballroom.
- Explore the SWA Showcase in the Gallery to connect with Safe Work Australia and chat about our work.

Networking reception

5-6:30pm Day 1

We invite all participants to join the networking reception in the Atrium to reflect on the day and discuss what they are looking forward to on Day 2 over canapés and drinks.



Research Summit Directory

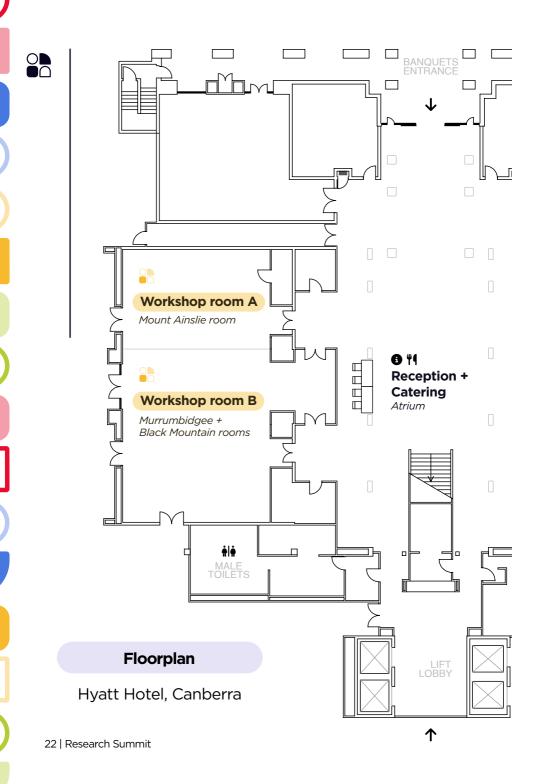
The <u>Research Summit Directory</u> is a publicly available resource designed to showcase the breadth and depth of researchers and experts working across work health and safety and workers' compensation.

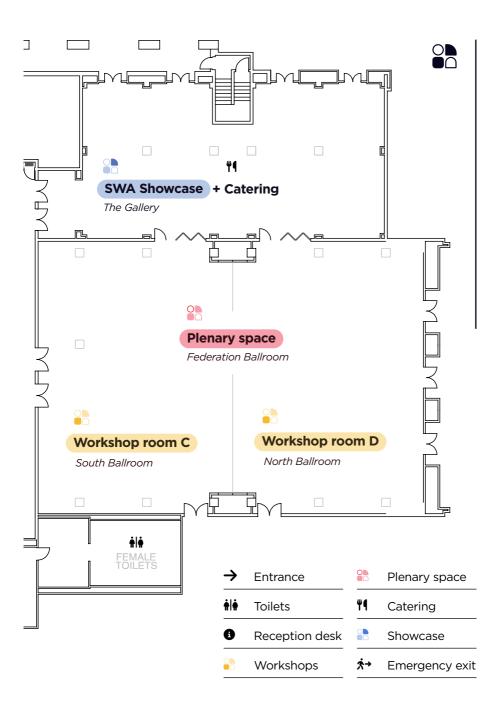
The directory features information about the **speakers at the Summit**, as well as **key researcher profiles**, to support collaboration, visibility, and knowledge-sharing at and beyond the Summit.

The directory is just one way we are working to support our Research and Evaluation Strategy's vision of an engaged and connected research ecosystem.

Researcher Showreel

The showreel spotlights some current research activities being undertaken within the work health and safety research space. Information about the researchers featured in the showreel will be available in the Summit Directory.







Tuesday 9 and Wednesday 10 September 2025 Hyatt Hotel, Canberra



