

CONTENTS

Welcome – page 2

Conference information – page 4

Keynote speakers – page 10

Conference sponsors and partners – page 13

Welcome to Country | Conference opening – page 19

Conference support grants for emerging Indigenous evaluators – page 20

Social program – page 21

Visit the Exhibitions – page 23

Special program – page 24

Program overview – page 26

For your diary: aes26 Darwin – page 27

Share your AES story – page 27

Acknowledgements – page 28

Session details: Wednesday – page 30

Session details: Thursday – page 35

Session details: Friday – page 41

Pop into the aes25 Exhibition! – page 45

About the conference logo – page 45

AES contact details – page 45

WELCOME

Dear colleagues

Welcome to the Australian Evaluation Society (AES) 2025 International Evaluation Conference in Canberra, Australia.

Going 'beyond the bubble' is essential in today's inter-connected and rapidly changing world. By embracing diverse perspectives, engaging with different communities, and challenging our own assumptions, we can develop a more holistic and inclusive understanding of the world. This approach not only enhances personal and professional growth but also contributes to more effective problem-solving and a more just and equitable society.

At aes25 we will explore four themes:

Foundations:

Paying attention to world views, values, theories, methodologies, tools and techniques of evaluation and where we have come from.

Connecting:

Fostering networks, democratisation and citizen engagement, participatory and people-centred approaches, Indigenist evaluation, systems thinking, place and ecosystems.

Cultivating:

Growing the profession, building capacity and awareness of evaluation, and knowledge translation.

Transforming:

Embracing ethical use of AI, new technologies, adaptive leadership, innovation, and learning.

The aes25 Committee is excited to provide an extensive program of speakers with diverse experiences across disciplines, sectors, and cultural perspectives. With provocative keynotes, panel discussions, papers and skill-building sessions, we have crafted aes25 to be welcoming and stimulating. We hope aes25 offers something for everyone.

We meet on the traditional lands and waterways of the Ngunnawal people and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We pay our respects to ancestors and elders, past and present. We also acknowledge all First Nations people joining us. The name of this place, Canberra, means 'meeting place'. We are grateful to be able to hold this gathering here in this place.

The program is supported by the wonderful AES team, Fiona Zlotnik and Bill Wallace, and our committed conference committee – to whom we extend our greatest thanks.

Ruth Nicholls, Conference Co-Convenor

Kim Grey, Conference Co-Convenor

Graham Smith, Co-Program Chair

Julie Elliott, Co-Program Chair

Scott Bayley, Co-Workshops Chair

John Stoney, Co-Workshops Chair

Bill Wallace, Conference Director / CEO

Fiona Zlotnik, Conference Manager /Events Executive

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Dates

Conference workshops

Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 September 2025

Conference

Wednesday 17 to Friday 19 September 2025

Location

National Convention Centre Canberra (NCC)
31 Constitution Avenue, Canberra, ACT, 2601

Registration Desk

Location: Ground Floor, Exhibition Hall

Wednesday 17 September 7:30am–4:00pm

Thursday 18 September 7:30am–3:30pm

Friday 19 September 7:30am–2:00pm

Accessibility

Presentations

This year's Plenary presentations will include closed captioning. All other sessions in Royal Theatre will be captioned for access on individual devices.

Venue

NCC has accessibility options.

Speaker support

Kindly sponsored by Iris Ethics

Location: Ground Floor, Foyer

This room will be available for all presenters to upload their presentations with the assistance of the audio visual technician.

Speaker support access hours

Wednesday 17 September 8:00am–4:00pm

Thursday 18 September 8:00am–3:00pm

Friday 19 September 8:00am–2:30pm

Presenters are required to visit the speaker support room and provide their presentation in MS PowerPoint format, aspect ratio 16:9, on a USB drive to the technician at least two hours prior to the commencement of their session (except for early morning sessions, which is one hour prior). This will ensure that the technician has met with all presenters and are fully aware of your presentation requirements. It is our objective that presentations operate as smoothly as possible.

Coffee Lounge

Kindly sponsored by ACIL Allen

Location: Ground Floor, Exhibition Hall

Savour a barista coffee and connect with others in the Coffee Lounge at the conference.

Wednesday 17 September 7:30am–3:30pm

Thursday 18 September 8:00am–3:30pm

Friday 19 September 7:30am–1:30pm

First Nations Creation Space | Gilibanga Yarn Space

Presented by our exclusive aes25 First Nations Partner Gilibanga

Location: Ground Floor, Exhibition Hall

Explore the First Nations Creation Space open to all First Nations People. A culturally safe gathering place led by Gilibanga, our official First Nations Partner, celebrating storytelling, connection and First Nations leadership.

Charging stations

Kindly sponsored by Rooftop Social

Charging stations are located opposite Rooftop Social exhibition booth in the Exhibition Hall.

Quiet room

The Quiet Room is located on First Floor, please check the venue map for the exact location. The quiet room is a space an attendee can retreat to whenever they feel overwhelmed or overloaded from the event environment. It is a space to decompress and regulate. This is not available to be used for work and/or meetings.

Health and safety

AES will follow all relevant government health and safety guidelines, working closely with the venue and all suppliers to plan and deliver the safest possible conference experience.

Wifi Internet at the venue

Complimentary wireless internet is available at the venue for delegates.

Name (SSID): **aes25**

Password: **Canberra_25**

Up-to-date conference program / conference app

aes25 app kindly sponsored by Grosvenor

- Install and open the app.
App Store - Apple
Apps on Google Play
- Press Log in.
- Enter the email you registered for the conference.
- Enter the PIN associated with your account (sent to you via email).
- If you need assistance in locating your pin, please check your emails or go to the registration desk.

Alternatively access the web app on mobile at:

<https://aes.eventsair.com/attendeeapp/aes25/aes25>

Program changes and messages

All major program changes will be communicated via notification to the aes25 app and announcements during the plenaries. Delegates can message each other via the attendees section in the app.

Social media

#aes25CBR is the official social media hashtag.

LinkedIn

We encourage delegates to post daily updates and highlights using #aes25CBR and mention @Australian Evaluation Society so we can re-share your thoughts with the wider evaluation community.

Follow @Australian Evaluation Society for photos and updates.

Facebook

Check out Facebook to view a daily snapshot of photos from the conference.

A note on phones and time

As a courtesy to fellow delegates and speakers, please ensure your mobile phones are silent during conference sessions and that you are seated before the advertised start time for each session. Entry doors will be closed at that time.

AES committees/SIGs

AES member groups can meet during lunch breaks – these meetings will either be planned or ad hoc. For ad hoc meetings please check with the Registration Desk to see if there is a room available.

Refreshment breaks

Kindly sponsored by Whereto | Ipsos

All refreshment catering breaks will be served in the Exhibition Hall, Ground Floor.

Special dietary requirements

If you have advised us of special dietary requirements, please speak to a member of the venue staff during refreshment breaks to locate the dietaries table. The menu on offer will cater for a variety of dietaries. Catering staff have a full list of delegates with special dietary requirements, as advised on registration.

Name badges

Kindly sponsored by Urbis

All participants will receive a name badge and lanyard upon registration. Name badges are required at all times for identification purposes and admission to sessions, exhibition, catering breaks and the Gala Awards Dinner, if opted into at registration.

Providing feedback on aes25 sessions

Please provide feedback on the sessions you attend:

1. Open the aes25 app.
2. Navigate to Session Surveys.
3. Find your session.
4. Locate the corresponding session name.
The session names are listed in both the agenda and the conference handbook (e.g., Wed: Concurrent 3).
5. Complete the survey.
6. Answer the multiple-choice and radio button questions.
7. Add comments in the short-answer options if you wish.

Meet this year's conference evaluator: Zach Lee

Zach is leading the evaluation of aes25 as part of his capstone project for the Master of Evaluation at The University of Melbourne. Based in Singapore, Zach is part of a practice research team within a local charity, where he is actively learning to integrate evaluation into everyday practice. He looks forward to connecting with you at the conference and hearing about your experiences.

Privacy

The AES respects your right to the privacy and confidentiality of your personal information. We observe and comply with all relevant government legislation, regulations and industry codes of practice. Information collected in respect of proposed participation in any aspect of the conference will be used for the purposes of planning and conduct of the conference and may also be provided to the organising body or to the organisers of future Australian Evaluation Society International Conferences.

Photography and filming

The Australian Evaluation Society (AES) might record or photograph you during the conference and associated events that you attend and you grant the AES a non-exclusive, royalty-free, perpetual license and permission to use your image, visual likeness or your voice.

Should you prefer not to have your photograph taken or your image recorded at the time of the conference or associated events, it is your responsibility to communicate this preference to the photographer/videographer at the time of the event.

aes25 photographer: Albie Colvin (they)

Albie is a graphic design social impact sole trader with 15+ years experience working with not for profit groups, community organisations, government and social enterprises.

Committed to helping others make a positive difference by providing the creative services and supports they need to reach their full potential (branding, reports, infographics, photography and more).

Albie is passionate about accessibility, inclusion and social justice. They are the proud founder of 'Colour Them Safe', an organisation using art to improve the wellbeing of young people with mental health challenges.

Cloakroom

The cloakroom is situated at ground floor reception.

Personal property

Please take good care of your personal belongings. Do not leave them unattended. The venue and organisers will not be responsible for any loss or damage to your personal properties.

Disclaimer

The program is correct as of 4 September 2025. The most up-to-date program agenda is available in the aes25 app. We reserve the right to cancel, delete, modify or alter items from the agenda or to delete, modify or alter any aspect of the conference timetabling and delivery at our sole discretion.

Neither the host organisation nor the meeting organisers or their contractors will accept any liability for any loss or inconvenience caused to any party consequent to such changes.

The views and opinions expressed at the conference are those of the presenters and participants and are not necessarily endorsed by the Australian Evaluation Society (AES).

Venue location | getting around Canberra

The NCC is conveniently located within the city centre and is close to all city centre services, attractions and amenities that Canberra has to offer. It's only 7km from Canberra Airport and easily accessible by car, taxi and public transport at any time of the day.

Transport

Public transport

There are a number of bus and light rail lines that pass near the NCC. For public transport information, visit the Transport Canberra website.

Taxi/Ride-share services

A taxi rank is located at the entrance and you can book a taxi direct using the free taxi phone or connecting directly with ride-share services.

Parking

Secure, underground car parking is available at the NCC.

Conference managers

The 2025 AES International Conference is managed by:

Australian Evaluation Society Limited
425 Smith Street, Fitzroy Vic 3065, Australia
Email: conference@aes.asn.au

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Angie Abdilla (*Opening keynote*)

Professor, School of Cybernetics, The Australian National University and Founder / Director of Old Ways, New

In her keynote address 'Navigating complex systems: Country Centred Design & Indigenous Protocols for AI', Professor Angie Abdilla explores the work of Old Ways, New and the origins of Country Centred Design, a strategic design methodology developed by Old Ways, New, alongside their research project, Indigenous Protocols for AI (IP//AI). We will examine the impact of this work over nearly a decade. Through creative practice, exploratory visual and oral storytelling, Indigenous worldviews, values, and ways of seeing, being, knowing, and doing will be shared. These perspectives offer insight into how Indigenous principles of governance and leadership enable deeply nuanced understanding of complexity, relationality, and reciprocity. The talk will showcase two artworks developed through Country Centred Design and IP//AI, identifying an alternative culture of evaluation through creative research practice.

Angie is a palawa woman and is the founder and director of Old Ways, New. In her various roles as a strategic designer, creative practitioner, and consultant, Angie advocates for Indigenous peoples, knowledges and knowledge systems as foundational to technology automation through design and cultural practice. Her published research interrogates the praxis of Indigenous deeptime technologies and Artificial Intelligence, which continue to be informed by the Indigenous Protocols and AI working group (IP//AI), which she co-founded. As a creative practitioner, she works across film and video installation as an exhibiting artist. She created the company's strategic design methodology, Country Centered Design, leading projects for the public and private sectors over the past decade. Angie continues to advise on the cultural and ethical affordances of automated systems and technologies internationally and locally.

Andi Fugard

Director, Quantitative Impact Evaluation, IFF Research, UK

In their keynote presentation 'Challenging binaries in evaluation', Andi Fugard argues that evaluation is saturated with binaries. Impact evaluations are divided into counterfactual (generally statistical) or theory-based (often so named when there is no comparison group). Statistical approaches, such as randomised controlled trials and quasi-experiments, are frequently regarded as objective, while qualitative methods such as interviews and focus groups are viewed as subjective. Additionally, professional expertise is often valued over lived experience, and professionals have a monopoly on theorising. This talk will consider a range of prevalent binaries in evaluation. Participants will be invited to reflect on the binary bubbles they may inhabit and consider what might happen if we stretch, merge, or burst them.

Andi (they/them) is a Director in the Community Team at IFF Research, where they specialise in randomised controlled trials and quasi-experiments. With over 15 years

of experience in social science and evaluation, Andi has led impact evaluations funded by UK government departments and What Works Centres across a range of policy areas, including crime and justice, mental health and education. Their previous roles include leading the Quantitative Impact Evaluation Hub at Verian UK; co-directing the Evaluation team at the UK's National Centre for Social Research; and leading child outcomes research at Anna Freud, a mental health charity. They have also held academic positions at University College London and Birkbeck, University of London, where they taught research methods and statistics. Andi originally trained in computer science and quantitative psychology. They hold a doctorate from the University of Edinburgh and completed a postdoc at the University of Salzburg in Austria, both on the cognitive science of reasoning. Andi is also a member of the UK Evaluation and Trial Advice Panel, which provides independent advice to civil servants and What Works Centres on evaluation methodology.

Ray Lovett

Professor, Mayi Kuwayu Study, Yardhura Walani Centre, The Australian National University

co-presenting with Bobby Maher

Researcher, Yardhura Walani Centre, The Australian National University

The time for token consultation is over. The time for transformative, Indigenous-led evaluation is now. In their keynote 'Let's get real: Transforming evaluation through Indigenous-led practice' Professor Ray Lovett and Bobby Maher move beyond the safe confines of 'cross-cultural' approaches and into the relational heart of Indigenist evaluation paradigms – where partnerships are deep, accountability is mutual and power is rebalanced. It's a challenge to commissioners, evaluators and institutions alike: are you ready to shift from performative inclusion to genuine Indigenous leadership in evaluation? Through stories, provocation, and grounded practice, this session invites you to reflect on the systems you work within – especially the commissioning criteria and default processes that uphold the status quo. We'll spotlight what it takes to centre Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems, not as an add-on, but as the foundation. You won't leave with a checklist. You'll leave with questions you can't unask, a fire in your gut, and a deeper understanding of what real partnership means. If you're serious about moving beyond the bubble in evaluation – don't miss this.

Ray is an Aboriginal (Ngiyampaa/Wongaibon) Australian social epidemiologist with extensive experience in health services research, large scale data analysis for public health policy development and evaluation. Ray leads Mayi Kuwayu, the National Study of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Wellbeing and is an Executive member of the Maïam nayri Wingara Indigenous Data Sovereignty Collective in Australia and an Executive member of the Global Indigenous Data Alliance who created the CARE principles in response to FAIR.

Bobby is an Aboriginal woman (Yamatji, Noongar, Kija). Bobby brings expertise in developing Indigenist approaches to evaluation, and curriculum development relating to Indigenist evaluation and Indigenous Data Sovereignty (IDSov). Bobby's practice includes

Indigenist evaluation and methodology, social epidemiology methods including validation of psychometric tools, systems thinking and community-based participatory research.

Bobby is a member of the Australian Indigenous Data Sovereignty collective, Maianayri Wingara, and the Global Indigenous Data Alliance collective. She has experience in operationalising theoretical frameworks and principles relating to Indigenous Data Governance and has also written extensively on IDSov in Australia. Additionally, Bobby works collaboratively with international Indigenous leaders, scholars and activists on IDSov, including developing and facilitating a Masterclass in IDSov at the 2024 International Indigenous Research Conference and planning the 2025 Global Indigenous Data Sovereignty Conference.

Bianca Montrosse-Moorhead

Professor of Evaluation, University of Connecticut, USA

Today's evaluation ecosystem is complex and ever-evolving. In her keynote address 'Do you prefer to dig deep or free range?', Bianca Montrosse-Moorhead invites evaluators to reflect on their own professional instincts and locations within the ecosystem:

Do you prefer to specialise in a focused area of practice, or do you thrive taking on projects in new areas? Do you have a proclivity for using specific methodologies, or are you methodologically eclectic? Inspired, in part, by story-telling and a popular animal metaphor that is reimagined for our field, this talk explores how evaluators often find themselves embracing one of two dominant frames – deep expertise or expansive expertise – or trying to move between or beyond them. This keynote will offer a fresh frame for thinking about professional identity, collaboration and growth. Along the way, we'll reflect, maybe laugh, and hopefully walk away with a renewed appreciation for the diverse ways we contribute to a thriving evaluation ecosystem.

Bianca is a Professor of Evaluation at the University of Connecticut, where she also directs the Partnership for Evaluation and Educational Research (PEER) lab. She is currently the Co-Editor-in-Chief of *New Directions for Evaluation*. She has served as a Board Member of the American Evaluation Association, and co-founded and Chaired the EvalYouth Global Network. Bianca's research describes what is distinct about evaluation and the work evaluators do. One arm focuses on the boundaries between evaluation and other professions, and the translation of evaluation approaches to practice. A second arm focuses on how we teach others to 'think' and 'act' like evaluators and to exercise the types of judgment evaluation practice demands. A third arm centers on improving the tools we use in practice, with a recent focus on artificial intelligence. In 2020, Bianca began using open science practices to get her evaluation scholarship out from behind paywalls and into the hands of evaluation practitioners, managers and commissioners. Bianca's publications include special issues of evaluation journals, chapters, educational resources for teaching evaluation, evaluation-specific checklists, an R workbook and several dozen journal articles and evaluation reports. She has led several multi-year process and impact evaluations guided by different evaluation approaches and that used quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods. She has facilitated evaluation workshops in several countries.

CONFERENCE SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

Thank you

As a small organisation, we are especially grateful to our partners and sponsors whose support enriches the conference experience for all delegates. Their financial support enables us to deliver greater value, foster connection and create opportunities for learning and connecting.

Gilibanga Create-Make Light: Blak Evaluators & Trusted Allies Network

FIRST NATIONS PARTNER

We are excited to announce Gilibanga Create-Make Light: Blak Evaluators & Trusted Allies Network as the First Nations partners for the aes25 International Evaluation Conference. This partnership brings together innovation and strong leadership under Gilibanga's Network – highlighting expertise in Two Worlds Understanding, Measurement, Evaluation and Learning (2WUMEL), First Nations Data Sovereignty and Governance, First Nations place-making and driving positive systems change.

Gilibanga is a network who are pioneering the amplification of First Nations leadership to collectively reimagine and reinvent evaluation spaces. Together, we will ensure that First Nations perspectives are celebrated and woven into the fabric of the conference and provide a Culturally safe space for all First Nations attendees to connect and create.

[Link to Gilibanga website](#)

ARTD

SAPPHIRE SPONSOR – WELCOME FUNCTION

ARTD is a medium-sized Australian-owned company that supports government agencies and not-for-profits to use evaluative thinking to design and refine action for the public good. We are collaborative, creative and critical thinkers who deliver evaluations that are engaging, robust and impactful. From co-designed and lived experience led evaluations to causal inference and experimental designs, we have the experience, capacity and flexibility to tailor to your specific needs. When you choose to work with ARTD, you tap into over 35 years of strategic evaluation experience across the policy spectrum and the wisdom and passion of our whole team.

[Link to ARTD website](#)

ACIL Allen

GOLD SPONSOR – COFFEE LOUNGE

ACIL Allen is a leading independent economics, policy, and strategy advisory firm, dedicated to helping clients solve complex issues. We are committed and passionate about providing rigorous independent advice that contributes to a better world. We use leading qualitative and quantitative techniques to inform decision making that helps make the world a better place.

Our evaluation practice brings advanced expertise in strategic reviews, meta-evaluations, evaluation design and co-design, stakeholder engagement, evidence-based research, cost-effectiveness analyses and capacity building.

We work across a range of sectors, including health and mental health, education, community services, justice, and public safety.

[Link to ACIL Allen website](#)

Urbis

GOLD SPONSOR – DELEGATE LANYARD

As evaluators within the multidisciplinary Urbis family, our goal is to improve lives through social and economic inclusion.

We define complex problems through applied research, evidence capture and inclusive consultation.

We generate real-world answers through co-designing systems, services and programs.

We make things better through results-driven evaluation.

By working in partnership with clients who share our values, and leveraging a multidisciplinary team of curious minds, we catalyse innovation and learning in service of positive social impact.

[Link to Urbis website](#)

Whereto | Ipsos

SILVER SPONSOR – REFRESHMENT BREAKS

Whereto | Ipsos has provided high-quality social research and evaluation services and directional, effective advice to governments for over 20 years. We pride ourselves in taking our clients further – we don't just deliver reports, we articulate 'where to next'.

Our team has a strong commitment to social impact, collaborative learning, and trauma informed, culturally responsive and participatory evaluative approaches.

Our partnership with Ipsos Global Public Affairs brings to bear expertise working across government and the civil sector worldwide, addressing pressing complex policy challenges, and the full range of experimental design and economic evaluation services.

[Link to Whereto | Ipsos website](#)

Grosvenor

SILVER SPONSOR – DIGITAL

At Grosvenor, we know that no two bubbles are the same – just as no two evaluations are the same. That's why we tailor our approach to fit your needs, ensuring evaluations go beyond the surface to deliver real, lasting impact. As seasoned evaluators of Australia's public sector, we bring practical expertise and independent advice to

everything we do. From program evaluation and performance measurement to strategy, governance, capability, and service delivery improvement.

At AES25, we invite you to Grosvenor's stand or journey to presentations by Grosvenor's evaluation experts Dana Cross, Kristy Hornby or Evie Cuthbertson.

[Link to Grosvenor website](#)

Rooftop Social

SILVER SPONSOR – CHARGING THE CONFERENCE

Rooftop Social is a leading provider of evaluation, research, and facilitation services across Australia.

Our expertise includes:

- designing evaluation frameworks, systems, and tools
- building evaluation capacity through training and coaching
- facilitating participatory design for social innovation

Since 2013, our 'evidence for good' mission guides:

- who we partner with – government and for-purpose organisations
- our inclusive, flexible, and transparent approach
- our focus on education, justice, environment, health, and human services
- taking on projects where we make meaningful contributions to important causes

Our core team is based in NSW and Victoria, with a network of subject matter experts and colleagues nationwide.

[Link to Rooftop Social website](#)

Policy Performance

SILVER SPONSOR – SOLUTIONS HUB

Policy Performance has been supporting public sector excellence since 2018. Our skills run deep in monitoring, evaluation, capability building and outcomes/impact measurement.

We offer services across many sectors. Over the past 12 months, we have completed projects in: agriculture/drought, natural resource management, disaster preparedness, vocational education, international development, economic empowerment, transport safety, digitisation and training.

Our 5-day suite of policy and evaluation training is also available to various audiences.

We are excited to host the first ever Solutions Hub at the AES Conference. This will be a welcoming and collaborative space, where you can relax and unwind with like-minded evaluation colleagues. See you there!

[Link to Policy Performance website](#)

Bellberry

SILVER SPONSOR – RECHARGE BREAKFAST

Bellberry Limited is an Australian award-winning independent, not-for-profit organisation offering Human Research Ethics Committee services. Driven by two key objectives, to protect the welfare of research participants and improve the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of research, Bellberry provides high-quality, time-efficient, and internationally accredited scientific and ethical review of research projects.

Established in 2004, Bellberry is Australia's single largest reviewer of clinical research, providing specialist HREC oversight to ~40% of CTN registered clinical trials across all phases of clinical and device trials as well as for social and behavioural studies. In 2024, Bellberry was honoured as the national winner of the Telstra Best of Business award for Championing Health highlighting its support of advancing research.

Participant wellbeing is at the centre of all that Bellberry does. Unique within the research sector, Bellberry reinvests the surplus funds generated by the activities of its Human Research Ethics Committees back into the Australian medical research community through philanthropy and education. It is the only organisation in Australia to gain the 'gold seal' of accreditation from the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP) for excellence and ethically sound processes in running Human Research Ethics Committees (HRECs).

[Link to Bellberry website](#)

Verian Group

SILVER SPONSOR

Developing better public policy and services – by understanding what works and why

Verian is a world leading, independent research, evidence, evaluation, and communications agency, providing services to government and the public realm.

With offices across Europe, APAC and in the US, our consultants and researchers are supported by a unique global data ecosystem.

We are expert methodologists and leading practitioners in public sector innovation – we design and conduct evaluations rigorously and collaboratively to answer critical questions about what's working and what's not – and most importantly, why.

We can integrate the expert use of behavioural science, systems thinking, adaptive learning and economic analysis to develop recommendations that improve public policy design, performance and importantly, value for money.

[Link to Verian Group website](#)

Australian Centre for Evaluation

BRONZE SPONSOR – CONCURRENT SESSION SPACE

The Australian Centre for Evaluation (ACE), based in Commonwealth Treasury, champions the integration of rigorous evaluation evidence into policy design and decision-making across the Australian Public Service. Its mission is to improve the volume, quality, and use of evaluation, ensuring programs deliver better outcomes, value for money, and meaningful impacts for Australians. It drives evaluation through leadership and promotion of evaluation, enhancing evaluation planning and use, evaluation capability building, and delivery of impact evaluations. It supports agencies and contributes to Australia's broader evaluation landscape via an evaluation toolkit, training, technical advice (including on randomised trials), evaluation libraries, and professional networks.

[Link to ACE website](#)

Bluebird Consultants

BRONZE SPONSOR – CONCURRENT SESSION SPACE

Bluebird Consultants is an Australian-based consultancy which provides acclaimed monitoring, evaluation and design services in Australia and internationally. Founded and run by award-winning evaluator Jess Kenway, Bluebird has provided practical and tailored support to Commonwealth and State departments, international donors and for-purpose organisations since 2011.

We are valued for our consistent high quality and evidence-based work; our engaging products and processes; and our warmth and integrity.

We support a growing network of Australian and international evaluation consultants who value our collaborative and learning-focused approach and the depth and breadth of global programs we work on.

[Link to Bluebird Consultants website](#)

Clear Horizon

BRONZE SPONSOR – CONCURRENT SESSION SPACE

Clear Horizon is a women-led, values-based company that partners with organisations working in complex settings to create meaningful change. We specialise in learning-oriented approaches to strategy, measurement and evaluation, grounded in principles of equity, decolonisation, and planetary health. Our services are multi-layered and include conducting evaluations as well as partnering with organisations to design and implement strategy and impact measurement, all with a strong learning focus. We provide dashboards and bespoke digital solutions, and have a world-class learning academy focused on MEL, theory of change, placed-based approaches and systems transformation. Collaboratively, we co-create pathways to change that are responsive, inclusive, and practical – because lasting impact is not delivered, it's made together.

[Link to Clear Horizon website](#)

First Person Consulting

BRONZE SPONSOR – CONCURRENT SESSION SPACE

Your partner for impact. We create tailored solutions for complex questions.

At our core, FPC are committed to working with others to support progress towards a sustainable, just, and fair world. Our team combines expertise in systems thinking, design, and evaluation, with deep experience across environmental, public health, and social justice sectors. We prioritise flexibility and adaptability, and maintain a good sense of humour along the way. Committed to clarity, innovation, and social impact, we equip organisations and communities with the tools and insights needed to understand complexity, make informed decisions, and achieve sustainable positive impacts.

[Link to First Person Consulting website](#)

Iris Ethics

BRONZE SPONSOR – SPEAKER PREP ROOM

Iris Ethics is Australia's first ethical review service provider tailored for the evaluation sector, delivering full Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) services, as well as peer reviews of lower risk projects, and resources to support ethical evaluation practice. Our secure platform enables fast turnaround without compromising quality or privacy, so that evaluators can get insights to clients and communities when they need it. Our committee and management team include experienced evaluators who understand what high quality, ethically sound evaluation looks like. This ensures that we are a trusted partner to the communities we serve.

[Link to Iris Ethics website](#)

WELCOME TO COUNTRY | CONFERENCE OPENING

Welcome to Country

Conference opening

AES President Kiri Parata officially opens the conference.

Gilibanga welcome

Liz Wren, Gilibanga Create-Make Light: Blak Evaluators & Trusted Allies Network

Opening keynote address

Angie Abdilla, Professor, School of Cybernetics, The Australian National University and Founder / Director of Old Ways, New

Title: Navigating Complex Systems: Country Centred Design & Indigenous Protocols for AI

This talk explores the work of Old Ways, New and the origins of Country Centred Design, a strategic design methodology developed by Old Ways, New, alongside their research project, Indigenous Protocols for AI (IP//AI). We will examine the impact of this work over nearly a decade. Through creative practice, exploratory visual and oral storytelling, Indigenous worldviews, values, and ways of seeing, being, knowing, and doing will be shared. These perspectives offer insight into how Indigenous principles of governance and leadership enable deeply nuanced understanding of complexity, relationality, and reciprocity. The talk will showcase two artworks developed through Country Centred Design and IP//AI, identifying an alternative culture of evaluation through creative research practice.

CONFERENCE SUPPORT GRANTS FOR EMERGING INDIGENOUS EVALUATORS

In 2025 we are pleased to award grants to support 15 Indigenous evaluators from the Australasian region to participate with us in Canberra | Ngunnawal and Ngambri Country.

We welcome our grant recipients and hope you thoroughly enjoy this opportunity.

As well as developing recipients' capacity, the support grants strengthen the knowledge base of the evaluation sector by bringing the grantees' knowledge and understanding to experienced evaluators.

Thank you to those who helped publicise the grants and encourage prospective applicants. Thank you also to the panel who volunteered their expertise and time to select this year's grantees.

This year's program has been supported by:

- Australian Government National Indigenous Australians Agency
- Australian Centre for Evaluation (ACE)
- Institute for Social Science Research (The University of Queensland)
- Rick Cummings
- AES members.

SOCIAL PROGRAM

Monday 15 September 2025

Welcome to Canberra drinks

5:30pm–8:30pm, Assembly, 11 Lonsdale Street, Braddon

Open to anyone in Canberra for the pre-conference workshops or arriving early to soak up the sights, sounds of the nations capital and the vibrant evaluation community that calls Canberra home!

Hosted by the AES Canberra Regional Committee

Tuesday 16 September 2025

Welcome Function at the National Portrait Gallery

6:30pm–8:30pm, National Portrait Gallery

Kindly sponsored by ARTD Consultants

Join us for the Welcome Function on at the National Portrait Gallery.

Kick off aes25 in style at a dramatic and culturally rich venue in Canberra, where you'll check out some of the people and artists who have shaped our national identity.

From the famous to the notorious, the remarkable to the glorious, this is your chance to connect and reflect with conference delegates.

Registration is included in your three-day conference ticket, but you must opt in during registration. A complimentary shuttle bus will operate between the National Convention Centre and National Portrait Gallery, running prior to the event start time and again at its conclusion. Full details, including the schedule, will be shared closer to the event dates.

Wednesday 17 September 2025

New Delegate & CSG recipient networking breakfast

8:00am–8:45am, National Convention Centre

This is invitation only

Wednesday 17 September 2025

aes25 First Night Supper

5.30pm–8.30pm, Verity Lane Market, 50 Northbourne Ave, Canberra

Wind down with great food and even better company after Day 1. Meet new people, swap stories and ease into the evening in one of Canberra's favourite spots

Hosted by the AES Canberra Regional Committee

Thursday 18 September 2025

Gala Awards Dinner at Australian Parliament House

6:30pm–10:30pm, Great Hall, Australian Parliament House

Join us for a truly special evening at the aes25 Gala Awards Dinner, held in Australia's Parliament House – the people's house. As one of the few parliamentary buildings in the world that opens its doors for private events, this is more than just a dinner, it's a rare invitation to step into a national icon that belongs to all Australians.

With its striking architecture, sweeping views and rich democratic significance, Parliament House offers a powerful setting to celebrate excellence in evaluation. Enjoy fine dining, inspiring company and the chance to connect in one of the most exclusive venues in the country.

The Gala Awards is the flagship social event of the conference – if you're not in the room you're missing out on more than dinner.

Registration is included in your three-day conference ticket, but you must opt in during registration.

A complimentary shuttle bus will operate between the National Convention Centre and Parliament House, running prior to the event start time and again at its conclusion. Full details, including the schedule, will be shared closer to the event dates.

Friday 19 September 2025

Recharge Breakfast

8:00am–8:50am, Exhibition Hall, National Convention Centre

Kindly sponsored by Bellberry Limited

Start your final day of the conference with a Recharge Breakfast – a blend of energy-boosting nutrients designed to fuel your mind and body for a day of meaningful connections and insightful learnings.

VISIT THE EXHIBITIONS

Exhibitions are open during refreshment breaks:

Wednesday 17 September	10:30am–3:30pm
Thursday 18 September	10:00am–3:30pm
Friday 19 September	10:00am–1:30pm

List of exhibitors

Booth 1: Gilibanga

Booth 2: String Theory

Booth 3: Where to | Ipsos

Booth 4: ARTD

Booth 5: Bellberry Limited

Booth 6: Allen + Clarke

Booth 7: First Person Consulting

Booth 8: Policy Performance

Booth 9 : Iris Ethics

Booth 10: Urbis

Booth 11: Grosvenor

Booth 12: Clear Horizon

Booth 13: Rooftop Social

Booth 14: Parenting Research Centre

SPECIAL PROGRAM

Evidence 101: a conference primer for new and non-evaluators

Wednesday 17 September, 11:00am–12:30pm, Royal Theatre

Presenter: Charlie Tulloch

This session will provide an overview of evidence-related fields, key concepts, a primer on what evaluators do, values, ethics, competencies and the 7-key steps in completing high quality evaluation projects. It will give attendees an opportunity to ask questions anonymously so they feel comfortable and prepared to engage during the conference.

Writing powerful articles: from theory and philosophy into practice

Wednesday 17 September, 4:30pm–5:30pm, Murray Room

Presenters: John Guenther, Anthea Rutter, Jeffery Adams

The EJA editorial team will demystify theory and philosophy in academic articles, and how to incorporate them into literature, methodology and discussion sections. The presenters will explain how theory and philosophy increase the impact and utility of articles for evaluators, commissioners and program/policy managers – how to make their articles more powerful for readers.

Quality evaluation that makes a difference

Wednesday 17 September, 4:30pm–5:30pm, Bradman Theatrette

Presenters: Liam Downing and Kara Scally-Irvine

This session is a dynamic, interactive fishbowl discussion where real-world practitioners will share examples of their evaluation experiences. You'll have opportunities to jump into the discussion, contribute your insights, and help shape a shared understanding of what 'quality' means in different contexts. Whether you take a seat in the fishbowl, share your thoughts on the ideas board, or join the open discussion, your contributions will directly feed into this ongoing project to help AES explore what 'quality evaluation that makes a difference' truly means.

AES Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 17 September, 5:30pm–6:30pm, Bradman Theatrette

Creating light: a transforming new era for First Nations evaluation – exploring adaptive leadership, innovation, and learning

Thursday 18 September, 11:00am–12:30pm, Royal Theatre

Presenter: Liz Wren

It is widely understood the dominant system operating in and around the evaluation sector is failing First Nations Peoples. This includes acute failures to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures as being integral aspects for social and economic development of our communities, along with inadequate government oversight and authorisation to initiate work within the sector as a priority.

This session aims to showcase Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous Wisdom through Community of Practice across many facets of evaluation, including our ways of thinking and measuring, our tools and our ways of knowing, doing, being. It aims to challenge the current system and facilitate critical thinking – creating deeper understanding and valuing of our methodologies for a more focused leaning in and systems shift required.

The ‘Super Six’ ideas shaping evaluation

Thursday 18 September, 10:30am–11:30am, Bradman Theatre

Panel: Carina Calzoni, Amy Gullickson, Eleanor Williams, Doyen Radcliffe, Theo Nabben

Over the past decade, evaluation has increasingly been recognised not just as a tool for accountability, but as a foundation for learning, systems change and social justice. Guided by a vision of quality evaluation that makes a difference, the AES and its partners have played an active role in shaping the evaluation landscape in Australia.

In Carina’s role as AES Policy Officer, she has identified six of the most influential and widely discussed ideas that have driven this shift – the ‘Super Six’, a set of widely discussed topic areas that reflect the evolution of evaluation. Each carries system-wide implications for the future.

But are these six ideas the right ones? Where do they lead us? To explore these questions, Carina has invited four influential thinkers to interrogate the Super Six. Together, they’ll examine tensions between the ideas, challenge assumptions about what ‘quality’ really means, and spark a timely conversation about the future of evaluation in Australia.

Buying evaluation: how do evaluation commissioning approaches facilitate and constrain the delivery of responsive, people-centred evaluation practices

Thursday 19 September, 1:30pm–3:00pm, Royal Theatre

This session will be introduced by AES Fellows and facilitated by Duncan Rintoul and Doyen Radcliffe using a Round Table format and a roving mike.

Participants will be invited to explore how well commissioning approaches are enabling evaluators to meet not only their ethical obligations, but also meet high evaluation standards and produce evaluations that are meaningful to many stakeholders, including program participants. The session will consider what commissioning practices have been most successful in engaging innovative evaluations that are fit for purpose, foster networks and relationships with communities to contribute to more effective evaluation practices.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Day 1: Wednesday 17 September 2025

9:00am–10:30am Plenary

Welcome to Country

Conference opening by AES President Kiri Parata

Gilibanga welcome by Liz Wren

followed by Keynote address by Angie Abdilla, 'Navigating complex systems: Country centred design & Indigenous protocols for AI'

10:30am–11:00am

Morning tea sponsored by Whereto | Ipsos

11:00am–12:30pm

Concurrent sessions

12:30pm–1:30pm

Lunch sponsored by Whereto | Ipsos

1:30pm–3:00pm

Concurrent sessions

3:00pm–3:30pm

Afternoon tea sponsored by Whereto | Ipsos

3:30pm–4:30pm

Plenary: Keynote address by Andi Fugard, 'Challenging binaries in evaluation'

4:30pm–5:30pm

Concurrent sessions

Day 2: Thursday 18 September 2025

9:00am–10:00am

Plenary: Keynote address by Ray Lovett and Bobby Maher, 'Let's get real: Transforming evaluation through Indigenous-led practice'

10:00am–10:30am

Morning tea sponsored by Whereto | Ipsos

10:30am–12:30pm

Concurrent sessions

12:30pm–1:30pm

Lunch sponsored by Whereto | Ipsos

1:30pm–3:00pm

Concurrent sessions

3:00pm–3:30pm

Afternoon tea sponsored by Whereto | Ipsos

3.30pm–5.00pm

Concurrent sessions

6.30pm

Gala Awards dinner

Day 3: Friday 19 September 2025

8:00am

Recharge Breakfast sponsored by Bellberry Limited

9:00am–10:00am

Plenary: Keynote address by Bianca Montrosse-Moorhead, 'Do you prefer to dig deep or free range?'

10:00am–10:30am

Morning tea sponsored by Where to | Ipsos

10:30am–12:30pm

Concurrent sessions

12:30pm–1:30pm

Lunch sponsored by Where to | Ipsos

1:30pm–2:30pm

Concurrent sessions

2.30pm–4.00pm

Closing plenary 'Bursting the bubble! Ignite presentations from 5 big thinkers'

Closing address by the AES President, Kiri Parata and handover to aes26 Darwin

FOR YOUR DIARY: AES26 DARWIN

Workshops 14-15 September 2026 | Conference 16–18 September 2026

SHARE YOUR AES STORY

An invitation to contribute your story as a member of the AES

To take part, simply respond to the three short prompts provided:

1. 'I first heard about AES at...' Tell us where or how you first found out about AES
2. 'I first joined AES because...' Share what motivated or inspired you to become a member
3. 'AES can shape the future of evaluation by...' Add your vision for the role AES could play in the years ahead

Add your voice, shape our story ... located in the Exhibition Hall.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you

We are grateful to those who volunteered their time and expertise to ensure the success of the conference, including:

Committee

Co-convenors: Kim Grey, Ruth Nicholls

Co-program chairs: Julie Elliott, Graham Smith

Co-workshop chairs: Scott Bayley, John Stoney

Rani Austin

Dana Cross

Martina Donkers

Josephine Haussler

Lorraine Heywood

Kate O'Malley

Joan Ten Brummelaar

Emma Wensing

Staff team

Sonya Krzywoszysja

Bill Wallace

Fiona Zlotnik

Reviewers

Kwame Acheampong

Jeffery Adams

Raniya Al Kiyumi

Ghislain Arbour

Dru Armstrong

Ruth Aston

Rituu B Nanda

Zina Baghi

Bhuban Bajracharya

Phillip Belling

Meghan Bond

Josephine Borthwick

Jennifer Burmester

Giulia Capuzzo

Magnolia Cardona

Robert Chapman

Mubanga Iwuananji Chulu

Rick Cummings

Didar Ali Didar

Liam Downing

Su-Ann Drew

Kira Duggan

Zoe Enticott

Sally Fitzpatrick
Ken Fullerton
Hanna Goorden
Gregory Greenman
Yann Guisard
Andrew Hawkins
Matt Healey
Eliza Hovey
Miriam Jeyapalan
Smita Jhajharia
Foorough Kavian
Ulla Keech-marx
Eleanor Kerdo
Amna Khawer
Angelina Leonello
Bianca Lowe
Dorothy Lucks
Lisa Mail
Lynne Millar
Elissa Mortimer
Karishma Navalkar
Marion Norton
Rahema Obaid
James Ong
Virginia Poggio
Jon Quach
Stephanie Quail
Donna Quinn
Susan Rudland
Anthea Rutter
Emily Saurman
Reuben Silungwe
Eunice Sotelo
Donna-Maree Stephens
Annaleis Tatkovic
Danielle Taylor
Charlie Tulloch
Jo van Twest Farmer
Fiordaliza Ventura
Werner Vogels
Jeanette Ward
Celene Yap
Emily You
Noor Yousef

SESSION DETAILS: WEDNESDAY

OPENING PLENARY Room: Royal Theatre

9:00am – 10:30am

- Welcome to Country *followed by*
- Conference opening by Kiri Parata, AES President
- Gilibanga Welcome by Liz Wren
- Opening keynote address by Angie Abdilla: 'Navigating complex systems: Country Centred Design & Indigenous Protocols for AI'

WEDNESDAY CONCURRENT SESSIONS 11:00AM TO 12:30PM

Concurrent session 1 Room: Royal Theatre

11:00

Evidence 101: a conference primer for new and non-evaluators

Presenter: Charlie Tulloch; Special session

Concurrent session 2 Room: Torrens+Swan

11:00

Inclusivity of digital connection in community-based monitoring and evaluation: a case example

Presenter: Nopitri Wahyuni; Sub-theme: Cultivating

11:30

Is government ready for equity-focused evaluation?

Presenters: Tom Steele, Vanessa Rose; Sub-theme: Cultivating

Concurrent session 3 Fitzroy+Derwent

11:00

Re-imagining evaluation: delivering a culturally impactful evaluation with Aboriginal school communities

Presenters: Jonathan Mcguire, Nathan Towne; Sub-theme: Connection

11:30

Logical leap or logical lapse? Strengthening the fact-to-claim process

Presenter: Kate Sunners; Sub-theme: Foundation

Concurrent session 4 Room: Murray

11:00

Yalari's Social Impact Study: empowering Indigenous young people in evaluation practice

Presenter: Paul Flatau; Sub-theme: Cultivating

11:30 Ignites Room: Murray

Defining evaluation: Don't judge me

Kat Franks

Fit for purpose evaluation: a pragmatic summary for 'reading the room'

Andrew Hawkins

From place-focused to place-based: co-evolving service delivery and evaluation approaches to strengthen local impact

Jennifer Hester

How can we balance accountability and learning in evaluation?

Christabelle Darcy

Rethinking the role of indicators in MEL

Ulla Keech-Marx

A yarn about being an ally for indigenous evaluation

Paula White

Evaluation that frees us up from project boxes to cherish values inherent in communities

Katsuji Imata

Concurrent session 5 Room: Menzies

11:00

Connecting online to move beyond the bubble: sharing knowledge and yarning to innovate, problem solve and design

Presenter: Sharon Babyack; Sub-theme: Connection

11:30

Beyond blowing bubbles of knowledge and skills training: extending evaluation capacity building thinking using a train-themed model, a framework and a game for embedding organisational evaluation culture and practice

Presenter: Samantha Abbato; Sub-theme: Transforming

Concurrent session 6 Room: Bradman

11:00

Ivory towers, or masters of our own destiny? How to create your own Master of Evaluation program of study

Presenter: Kristy Hornby; Sub-theme: Cultivating

11:30

Evaluators in the murky middle – fostering sustainable careers after the early years

Presenters: Jo Van Twest Farmer, Eunice Sotelo, Matt Healey, Taimur Siddiqi;

Sub-theme: Cultivating

WEDNESDAY CONCURRENT SESSIONS 1:30PM TO 3:00PM

Concurrent session 7 Room: Royal Theatre

1:30

A post-evaluation world? Exploring the future of evaluation in the age of AI

Presenter: Gerard Atkinson; Sub-theme: Cultivating

Concurrent session 8 Room: Torrens+Swan

1:30

Developmental evaluation of Gamadji Balit, informed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander worldviews and values

Presenters: Krystal Navez, Kathy Prior; Sub-theme: Foundation

2:00

Integrating culturally safe evaluation and experimental methods: a global perspective

Presenters: Elissa Mortimer, Kathryn Dinh, Harry Greenwell, Toshihiro Nakamura, Eleanor Williams; Sub-theme: Foundation

Concurrent session 9 Room: Fitzroy+Derwent

1:30

From extraction to exchange: re-centering values in a shifting evaluation paradigm

Presenters: Ma'u Leha, Seini Togoloa; Sub-theme: Transforming

2:00

Ripple effect: building Logic Models through play

Presenter: Ben Lawless; Sub-theme: Cultivating

Concurrent session 10 Room: Murray

1:30

Navigating place-based change: developing a suburb-level theory of change through participatory approaches

Presenter: Kathleen Blair; Sub-theme: Connection

2:00

Reframing problem definition in Theory of Change processes using systems methodologies: the case of lawyer wellbeing

Presenters: Matt Healey, Joe Lea; Sub-theme: Connection

Concurrent session 11 Room: Menzies

1:30

Research on evaluation in the AI era: systematic review of sustainability evaluation approaches beyond the bubble

Presenter: Daniela Schroeter; Sub-theme: Cultivating

2:00

Navigating a sea of change: lessons from evaluating regional stewardship of aged care

Presenters: Zoe Enticott, Jonathan Bray, Kate McKegg; Sub-theme: Transforming

Concurrent session 12 Room: Bradman

1:30

Collaborative evaluation in action: rethinking government-consultant partnerships for greater impact

Presenters: Jacqui Hoepner, Kelly Rose, Nikolai Sas; Sub-theme: Transforming

2:00

Preparing high quality recommendations

Presenter: Scott Bayley; Sub-theme: Transforming

2:30

Transforming the evaluation of walking programs: AI, engagement, and the power of listening

Presenter: Sunet Jordaan; Sub-theme: Transforming

WEDNESDAY CONCURRENT SESSIONS 4:30PM TO 5:30PM

Concurrent session 13 Room: Royal Theatre

4:30

Understanding and interpreting statistical results in impact evaluations

Presenters: Vy Nguyen, Scott Copley, Harry Greenwell; Sub-theme: Foundation

Concurrent session 14 Room: Torrens+Swan

4:30

Casting the digital net: Umben's approach to technology-enabled MEL in Papua New Guinea

Presenters: Bardie Barclay-Sutton, Erin Blake; Sub-theme: Transforming

5:00

Breaking the mold: embracing unconventional methods for meaningful outcomes

Presenters: Zina Baghi, Evgeniya Goryacheva, Rohan Pigott; Sub-theme: Foundation

Concurrent session 15 Room: Fitzroy+Derwent

4:30

Wathaga: a culturally-informed platform empowering Indigenous communities to manage, govern, and protect data for monitoring and evaluation

Presenter: Skye Trudgett; Sub-theme: Transforming

Concurrent session 16 Room: Murray

4:30

Writing powerful articles: from theory and philosophy into practice

Presenters: John Guenther, Anthea Rutter, Jeffery Adams; Special session

Concurrent session 17 Room: Menzies

4:30

Reclaiming our Talanoa: Pacific perspectives on this Indigenous MEL approach

Presenters: Allan Mua Illingworth, Eroni Wavu, Seraseini Vulavou; Sub-theme:
Foundation

Concurrent session 18 Room: Bradman

4:30

Quality evaluation that makes a difference

Presenters: Liam Downing, Kara Scally-Irvine; Special session

SESSION DETAILS: THURSDAY

PLENARY Room: Royal Theatre

9:00am – 10:00am

Keynote address by Ray Lovett and Bobby Maher: 'Let's get real: transforming evaluation through Indigenous-led practice'

THURSDAY CONCURRENT SESSIONS 10:30AM TO 12:30PM

Concurrent session 1 Room: Royal Theatre

10:30

Agile waterfalls: managing stakeholders in large-scale, multi-site evaluations

Presenter: Will Morgan; Sub-theme: Connection

11:00

Creating light: a transforming new era for First Nations evaluation – exploring adaptive leadership, innovation, and learning

Presenter: Liz Wren; Special session – First Nations Partner

Concurrent session 2 Room: Torrens+Swan

10:30

Centering Pacific worldviews: learning from unique examples of developing and adapting MEL processes within Tongan and Fijian communities

Presenters: Allan Mua Illingworth, Marilyn Vilsoni, Seraseini Vulavou, Eroni Wavu, Tauyavu Tuvau, Ativeniana Pomana; Sub-theme: Foundation

11:30

Floating beyond the bubble: unlocking insights on complex systems change with sentiment analysis

Presenter: Squirrel Main; Sub-theme: Transforming

Concurrent session 3 Room: Fitzroy+Derwent

10:30

'Nothing about us without us': inclusive evaluation guide aligned with Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031

Presenters: Melinda Nicholls, Amanda Charles, Jane Spring AM; Sub-theme: Connection

11:30

Check your bias at the door

Presenter: Gerard Atkinson; Sub-theme: Cultivating

Concurrent session 4 Room: Murray

10:30

Connecting evaluation and co-design: How we can enhance not crush co-design processes

Presenter: Jade Maloney; Sub-theme: Connection

11:00

Conceptualising & evaluating prevention in the emergent context of tech-facilitated gender-based violence

Presenter: Stephen Cuttriss; Sub-theme: Foundation

11:30

More simplification, more impact: smarter data collection & reporting

Presenter: Erika Fortunati; Sub-theme: Transforming

12:00

Adapting mixed-methods data synthesis for organisational evaluation: Lessons from [...] Beyond Blue

Presenters: Simon Alaba, Jade Maloney, Themis Antony; Sub-theme: Foundation

Concurrent session 5 Room: Menzies

10:30

Embedding utilisation-focused, realist developmental evaluation into senior organisational leadership: an older and wiser ten-year update

Presenters: Liam Downing, Josephine Wise; Sub-theme: Connection

11:00

From engagement to action: rethinking youth-centred evaluation methods

Presenters: Sarah Renals, Felicity Waldock, Gemma Reid; Sub-theme: Foundation

11:30

Moving beyond: what workforce development evaluations can teach the evaluation workforce

Presenters: Lydia Phillips, Sarah Oxford, Kristy Hornby; Sub-theme: Cultivating

Concurrent session 6 Room: Bradman

10:30

The 'Super Six' ideas shaping evaluation

Presenters: Carina Calzoni, Amy Gullickson, Eleanor Williams, Doyen Radcliffe, Theo Nabben; Special session

11:30

Embedding wellbeing frameworks into Government decision-making – how are we going in measuring what matters?

Presenters: Evie Cuthbertson, Dana Cross, Jasper Odgers, Narina Dahms, Jasmin Kientzel; Sub-theme: Transforming

THURSDAY CONCURRENT SESSIONS 1:30PM TO 3:00PM

Concurrent session 7 Room: Royal Theatre

1:30

Buying evaluation: how do evaluation commissioning approaches facilitate and constrain the delivery of responsive, people-centred evaluation practices?

Presenters: Marion Norton, Rick Cummings, Doyen Radcliffe, Duncan Rintoul; Special session

Concurrent session 8 Room: Torrens+Swan

1:30

Integration of risk assessment into lessons management: real time organisational risk tolerance used to drive continuous improvement

Presenter: Alexandra Murray; Sub-theme: Transforming

2:00

Seeking positive deviants: those going beyond the bubble of research = evaluation to evaluative reasoning

Presenter: Amy Gullickson; Sub-theme: Cultivating

Concurrent session 9 Room: Fitzroy+Derwent

1:30

From crisis to recovery: measuring success in family violence services using a new, trauma-informed tool

Presenters: Ellie Taylor, Eliza de Vet; Sub-theme: Foundation

2:00

Exploring new frontiers: can a TTM-based tool truly assess genuine change in court-mandated family violence counselling?

Presenters: Claire Grealy, Lucy Snowball, Anna Trembath; Sub-theme: Transforming

Concurrent session 10 Room: Murray

1:30

Redefining research on evaluation to unlock its full potential

Presenter: Ghislain Arbour; Sub-theme: Foundation

2:00

Beyond the rhetoric: reaffirming evidence-informed practice through rigorous evaluation

Presenters: Ruth Aston, Katina Tan, Stephanie White, Kat Franks;

Sub-theme: Cultivating

Concurrent session 11 Room: Menzies

1:30

The three-legged stool of learning – integrating monitoring, evaluation, research and strategic communications to increase knowledge consumption and use

Presenters: Seraseini Vulavou, Vani Nailumu; Sub-theme: Cultivating

2:00

Fostering locally-led development with a participatory monitoring and evaluation approach

Presenters: Didar Ali Didar, Eva Inamuka; Sub-theme: Connection

Concurrent Session 12 Room: Bradman

1:30 Ignites:

How I found an AI for qual that's more beauty than bludger

Brenda Lia Chavez Cosamalon

EVA the evaluation bot in NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Anabelle (Pin-Ju) Chen

AI transcription software is changing how we do data analysis

Martina Donkers

Data to design: the power of infographics

Arun Jyothi Callapilli

Adventures, adversity and adaptations in applying Appreciative Inquiry

Marnie Carter

From cases to insights: navigating primary data collection challenges in Qualitative Comparative Analysis

James Ong

Evaluating catalyst partnership grants: monitoring impact, innovation, and hard-to-capture outcomes

Sarah Dash

2:30

When it comes to rigour, three rubrics are better than one

Presenters: Gerard Atkinson, Martina Donkers; Sub-theme: Foundation

THURSDAY CONCURRENT SESSIONS 3:30PM TO 5:00PM

Concurrent session 13 Room: Royal Theatre

3:30

Introducing the V.A.L.U.E. System: a system for cultivating professional growth through gamification

Presenters: Matt Healey, Tenille Moselen; Sub-theme: Cultivating

Concurrent session 14 Room: Torrens+Swan

3:30**A tailored systems-based approach to monitoring, evaluation and learning in the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund: Benefits, opportunities and challenges**Presenter: Marwan El Hassan; Sub-theme: Connection

4:00**Expanding the bubble: updating the AES Evaluator Competency Framework**Presenter: Amy Gullickson; Sub-theme: Cultivating

Concurrent session 15 Room: Fitzroy+Derwent

3:30**Growing a culture of evaluation together: how to take participation to communities and show impact**Presenters: Liam Downing, Giulia Capuzzo, Phillip Belling; Sub-theme: Cultivating

4:00**Cultivating a relational approach to commissioning: exploring the why and the how**Presenters: Rae Fry, Eunice Sotelo, Sigrid Patterson, Giulia Capuzzo, Faye Forbes, Stephanie Button; Sub-theme: Cultivating

Concurrent session 16 Room: Murray

3:30**Raising the bar with for-purpose evaluation**Presenter: Lucy Snowball; Sub-theme: Cultivating

4:00**Most Significant Change technique – using digital platforms to engage diverse audiences**Presenters: Sophie Pinwill, Bardie Barclay-Sutton; Sub-theme: Foundation

Concurrent session 17 Room: Menzies

3:30**From data to dialogue: embedding consumer voice in evaluation and service improvement**Presenter: Mia Lorenzo; Sub-theme: Connection

4:00**Insider-outsider perspectives: stakeholders in a mental health & addiction peer service reflect on their developmental evaluation adventure**Presenters: Jaymie Barlow, Laura Ashton, Elizabeth Tingle, Kate McKegg; Sub-theme: Connection

Concurrent session 18 Room: Bradman

3:30

How can control group and stopping guideline approaches from clinical trials be applied when evaluating behavioural interventions?

Presenter: Elissa Mortimer; Sub-theme: Foundation

4:00

Causal reasoning in program evaluation: why defensible causal arguments matter

Presenter: Andrew Mclachlan; Sub-theme: Foundation

4:30

Randomised trials in Australian public policy – a stocktake and recent developments

Presenters: Peter Bowers, Ethan Slaven; Sub-theme: Foundation

SESSION DETAILS: FRIDAY

PLENARY Room: Royal Theatre

9:00am – 10:00am

Keynote address by Bianca Montrosse-Moorhead: 'Do you prefer to dig deep or free range?'

2:30pm – 4:00pm

Closing plenary with Andi Fugard, Bobby Maher, Bianca Montrosse-Moorhead, Patricia Rogers, George Argyrous: 'Bursting the bubble! Ignite presentations from 5 big thinkers

Followed by:

Conference close by AES President Kiri Parata and handover to aes26 conference Darwin

FRIDAY CONCURRENT SESSIONS 10:30AM TO 12:30PM

Concurrent session 1 Room: Royal Theatre

10:30

Navigating ethical challenges for evaluation with practical frameworks: beyond the compliance bubble

Presenters: Squirrel Main, Eleanor Williams, Kristy Hornby, Amy Gullickson; Room: Cultivating

12:00

The Jobsearch Mindset Evaluation: a learning partnership that led us beyond our original expectations, assumptions and evaluation design

Presenters: Michael Cole, Eddie Humeniuk, Joseph Airo-Farulla; Sub-theme: Connection

Concurrent session 2 Room: Torrens+Swan

10:30

Do more better access sessions for men with depression lead to improvements? A target trial emulation study

Presenter: Sean Martin; Sub-theme: Foundation

11:00

So what: a new method for evaluating systems change and impacts

Presenter: Dan Healy; Sub-theme: Connection

11:30

Future directions and promise – going beyond the Systems Thinking bubble

Presenters: Julie Elliott, Brian Keogh, Andrew Hawkins, Kara Scally-Irvine

Concurrent session 3 Room: Torrens+Derwent

10:30**Capacity building to implement trauma-informed practices in evaluation**

Presenters: Carmen Schroder, Sarah Oxford, Faye Forbes;

Sub-theme: Cultivating

11:30**Beyond theory and logic: exploring sound value propositions in evaluation**

Presenter: Andrew Hawkins; Sub-theme: Foundation

Concurrent session 4 Room: Murray

10:30**Evaluating online spaces for children and young people: successes, challenges and insights**

Presenters: Erika Fortunati, Jono Brand, Angela Grant, Claire Treadgold, Antonia O’Gorman; Sub-theme: Foundation

11:00**Looking outside the evaluation methods bubble: a visual digital tool for participatory evaluation with young people with cognitive disabilities**

Presenters: Samantha Abbato, Jane Stewart, Helen Loreck; Sub-theme: Transforming

11:30 Ignites:**Cloudy with a chance of insights: silver linings and practical tips from online focus groups with young people**

Maia Grange

Engaging in-place: innovative data collection in hardly reached communities

Jospeh Lea

Shifting power in evaluation through community-led storytelling

Sarah Mak

Breaking the empowerment bubble: measuring what truly matters

Jess Buchwald, Nikki Sloan

Am I an evaluator yet?

Simon Alaba, Leah Carroll

Becoming a mentor, it’s a win-win journey

Julie Elliott, Martina Donkers

Beyond the justice bubble – resolving values conflict when evaluating with an abolitionist worldview

Jo Van Twest Farmer

Concurrent session 5 Room: Menzies

10:30

Evaluating sustainable agriculture and urban food systems efficiency using social return on investment: insights from Ecuador, Burkina Faso and Indonesia

Presenter: Prima Interpares; Sub-theme: Foundation

11:00

Meaning and money – bringing evaluation and economics together

Presenter: Amy Mehrton; Sub-theme: Cultivating

11:30

If you want to value it, get the system in the room: assessing the Value for Money of systems-change work

Presenter: Nicholas Crooks; Sub-theme: connection

Concurrent session 6 Room: Bradman

10:30

A fireside chat: bursting the causal bubble – towards evidentiary standards for causal inference

Presenters: Julian King, Patricia Rogers, Scott Bayley; Sub-theme: Foundation

11:30

Real world impact evaluations

Presenters: Thushara Dibley, Farida Fleming, Elisabeth Jackson, Linda Kelly; Sub-theme: Foundation

FRIDAY CONCURRENT SESSIONS 1:30PM TO 2:30PM

Concurrent session 7 Room: Royal Theatre

1:30

How to build an evaluation culture through Evaluation Maturity Models: lessons from Commonwealth Government agencies

Presenters: Suzanne Butler, Robert Grimshaw, Richard Sisson; Sub-theme: Foundation

Concurrent session 8 Room: Torrens+Swan

1:30

Putting communities at the heart of your evaluation

Presenter: Sarah Mak; Sub-theme: Transforming

Concurrent session 9 Room: Fitzroy+Derwent

1:30

The dynamics of influence: operationalising social power analysis in evaluation practice

Presenters: Brian Keogh, Jade Maloney; Sub-theme: Connection

Concurrent session 10 Room: Murray

1:30

Leveraging collective learning: a collaborative ecosystem approach to evaluation of a multi-project grant program

Presenters: Cara Büsst, Sue Lukersmith; Sub-theme: Foundation

Concurrent session 11 Room: Menzies

1:30

Transforming systems: designing for and evaluating ecosystem change

Presenters: Anna Powell, Tim Reddel, Jo Taylor, Patrick Sharpe; Sub-theme: Connection

Concurrent session 12 Room: Bradman

1:30

Beyond the Canberra Bubble- 'Walking the talk' in large-scale programs

Presenters: Theo Nabben, Rick Cummings; Sub-theme: Connection

POP INTO THE AES25 EXHIBITION!

Dive into a world of ideas, innovation and inspiration at the aes25 Exhibition. Float from booth to booth, meet our amazing exhibitors, and bubble up your chances to win a prize in our draw!

How to participate

Bubble over with curiosity: Drift through each exhibitor booth and soak up what they're working on. There's a sea of fresh insights waiting to bubble to the surface and burst onto your radar.

Catch the bubble code: Each exhibitor has a unique code word. Collect them all and jot them down on the card overleaf.

Pop your entry in to win: Once your card is filled with all the code words, float it back to the registration desk. You'll be entered into the prize draw. It could be your moment to bubble to the top!

The prizes will be drawn at the final closing plenary.

1st Prize: Complimentary registration for aes26!

2nd Prize: \$200 online debit card

3rd Prize: \$100 online debit card

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE LOGO

The concept reflects the idea of thinking 'beyond the bubble' and outside of what we know to connect to new ideas, knowledge, people, place and ways of doing. Opening our perspective up, is to open up the opportunity for greater positive impact and connection.

The design subtly features an eye shape to reflect the idea of thinking outside of your own perspective, but also the bubble. The layers show the outward progression of reaching outside to out closer network of people, places and knowing, then more broadly to a deeper and wider connection, and finally that impact it has on Country and greater networks of community and connection.

Cause/Affect is a First Nations owned multidisciplinary creative studio boldly going after better. Cause/Affect is here to bring about better outcomes through considered, insight-led creative solutions. Cause/Affect also know that purpose is nothing without passion — so that's why they are focussed on creating better outcomes for people and more connected communities. Cause/Affect website

AES CONTACT DETAILS

Australian Evaluation Society Limited
425 Smith Street, Fitzroy Vic 3065 Australia
Email | Website