IPAA WESTERN AUSTRALIA

INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AUSTRALIA

Women in Public Service Leadership Conference



CONFERENCE PROGRAM AND NOTES

11 NOVEMBER 2026

IPAA WA Women in Public Service Leadership Conference

A DECADE OF THEMES & KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

REFLECT. REIMAGINE. ADVANCE.
10 YEARS
SINCE 2017



2017

Changing Cultures, Driving Better Performance

Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC FIPAA(WA)
Governor of Western Australia

2018

Inspired Change

Emma Hogan
Commissioner, PSC NSW

2019

Authentic leadership

Erma Ranieri
Commissioner for Public Sector Employment SA

2020

Leading Her Journey, Her Way

Catherine McGregor AM
Writer, Broadcaster, and Author

2021

Walking the Talk

Tanya Hosch
Executive General Manager, Inclusion and Social Policy, AFL; 2021 South Australian of the Year

2022

Reaching for Greater Heights

Diane Smith-Gander AO
Chair, HBF Health Ltd

2023

The Long Game: Creating and sustaining a fulfilling purposeful career

Molly Harris-Olson
Former CEO of Fairtrade Australia and New Zealand

2024

A dialogue promoting systemic change and individual growth

Lanie Chopping
Director General, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

2025

Supporting Diversity in Times of Change

Joann Wilkie PSM
Under Treasurer, Department of Treasury and Finance

2026

Reflect. Reimagine. Advance.

Kate Jenkins AO
President, Australian Red Cross

2026 IPAA WA Women in Public Service Leadership Conference

IPAA WA

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

9:15am **Welcome to Country**

Parliamentary Opening Address

Conference Overview

Keynote Presentation | Leading change for women and workplaces: Lessons from the last decade of progress to inspire leaders for the next decade.
Kate Jenkins AO | President, Australian Red Cross

Keynote Q&A
Facilitated by | Morgan Marsh MIPAA, Vice President, IPAA WA

Morning Tea

Session 1A - Leadership lessons from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD)

Session 1B - Talking about our generations: Equity as the workforce demographic changes

12:05pm (5 mins) **Intermission**

Session 2A - Inside running: Making the most of early careers

Session 2B - A great team for women: How to make it work

1:00pm (50 mins) **Lunch**

Session 3 - AI's impact on women: Ethics, leading through the revolution

Afternoon Tea

Session 4 - On the couch: Where are we 10 years later?

4:00pm **Conference Close**

*Program and times are subject to change

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND PEOPLES

IPAA WA acknowledges the Whadjuk People of the Noongar nation, and their inseparable stories, traditions and continuing culture. We are meeting beside Derbal Yerrigan, the river that is a symbol of the unbreakable connection between the human and spiritual realms, all of us who now call this place home, and nature. We pay our respects to Whadjuk and Noongar Elders past and present, and other communities' Aboriginal Elders who may be here.

Today, we especially celebrate Whadjuk yok (women). We acknowledge and commit to building a brighter future together through this conference and those to come.

CONCURRENT SESSION

Our two concurrent sessions provide even more choice for your dynamic and engaging program at the Women in Public Service Leadership conference this year. By having concurrent sessions, you have the flexibility to tailor and enrich your overall experience and enjoyment.

The sessions will be held across two streams between your morning tea and lunch. They give you opportunities to choose which best align with your professional goals.

11.15am	**Session 1A** Leadership lessons from the culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) Slido: #IPAAWA_1A Location: BelleVue Ballroom 2	**Session 1B** Talking about our generations: Equity as the workforce demographic changes Slido: #IPAAWA Location: BelleVue Ballroom 1
12.10pm	**Session 2A** Inside running: Making the most of early careers Slido: #IPAAWA_2A Location: BelleVue Ballroom 2	**Session 2B** A great team for women: How to make it work Slido: #IPAAWA Location: BelleVue Ballroom 1

Please note the coloured dots on your name badge represent the sessions you have pre-selected. These correspond with the sessions above. Please refer to the information on the stage screen's slides and the flyers on your table for the locations of each session. The number of seats in each room are limited, so we kindly ask you to remain with your choices to ensure others don't miss out.

Engage Actively
During the conference, you can ask questions and vote on other questions using the online platform, slido. As we have concurrent sessions, there are multiple slido codes – read below to ensure you are using the correct one.

1. Go to slido.com
2. Enter the following SLIDO codes:
   - For the concurrent sessions, please refer to information above.
   - For all the other sessions not listed above, please enter the following code - #IPAAWA

2026 IPAA WA Women in Public Service Leadership Conference

Introductions

WELCOME TO COUNTRY



Kerry Stack
Goolamwiin Consultant

Kerry is a Nyungar woman born to Nyungar parents and she is recognised and accepted as such by her Aboriginal community. Her family ties originate from the Wheatbelt and South West regions of Western Australia. She has connections with the Whadjuk, Wilman, Ballardong, Yued and Wardandi clans of Western Australia. She is a wife, mother and grandmother.

Her professional career spans over 26 years with experience working in Aboriginal Community Controlled organisations, government departments of Education, Health and Child Protection and Family Support. She was also a member of the Indigenous Women's Congress. Kerry has a Diploma in Business Management. Her passion is her family and her Nyungar people. She enjoys watching AFL and playing basketball and netball.

PARLIAMENTARY OPENING ADDRESS



The Honourable Alanna Clohesy MLC
President of the Legislative Council of Western Australia

Hon Alanna Clohesy MLC currently serves as President of the Legislative Council of Western Australia, having first been elected to the role in 2021 and re-elected in 2025. She is only the second woman to serve as President of the Legislative Council in its 194-year history.

In addition to overseeing the chamber, a significant part of the role as President involves the management of Parliament. Alanna approaches this leadership role with a deep understanding of the importance of building and maintaining strong relationships founded in respect.

Alanna has worked extensively in social policy, human rights, human service delivery and organisational management. Her career reflects a longstanding championship of women's rights and leadership both inside and outside of the Parliament.

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW



Morgan Marsh MIPAA
Vice President, IPAA WA
Executive Director, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority

Morgan Marsh has been the Executive Director of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority since September 2024, and responsible for the care and management of Kings Park and Botanic Gardens and Bold Park.
She has over 20 years' experience in the Western Australia public sector with roles in the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection, Disability Services Commission, Commerce, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (and its predecessors) and the Ombudsman WA.

Morgan has undertaken pivotal roles in leadership, innovation, governance, strategy, corporate services, and change management.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Kate Jenkins AO
President, Australian Red Cross

Kate Jenkins AO is a leader, lawyer, trusted adviser and educator who has led cultural reform and advanced diversity, inclusion and performance in Australian workplaces, sport, the arts, parliament, security forces and education.

Kate is Chair of the Australian Sports Commission, President of the Australian Red Cross and Chair of the Creative Workplaces Council.

Kate is highly sought after as a keynote speaker, leadership coach and consultant to organisations, boards and executive teams.
In 2023, Kate completed her 7-year term as the Australian Sex Discrimination Commissioner. As the author of the landmark Respect@Work report on workplace sexual harassment and the Set the Standard Review into Commonwealth Parliament, Kate has unique insight into the positive duty laws and expertise on leading change.

Prior to joining the Commission, Kate spent three years as the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commissioner, 20 years as an employment lawyer and lead equal opportunity partner with Herbert Smith Freehills and many years serving on the boards of Berry Street Victoria, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Play by the Rules and the Carlton Football Club.

2026 IPAA WA Women in Public Service Leadership Conference

1A: **Leadership lessons from the culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD)**

This session discusses the continuing challenges facing CaLD women at work and how you can help and be helped by those from backgrounds that are different from yours. You will hear the personal and lived experiences of CaLD public service leaders, those bringing diverse women into our workforce, and how our public service is supporting your female CaLD peers to rise to their full potential.

FACILITATOR



Umi Joshi

Senior Project Officer, Economic Regulation Authority

Umi Joshi has a people-centred approach to project delivery, change management and stakeholder engagement, she combines practical experience with postgraduate qualifications in project management, PMP certification and certification as a coach. Since migrating to Australia in 2016, Umi has continued to grow professionally while balancing full-time work and family life. She is passionate about coaching, mentoring, and creating inclusive spaces where people feel supported to build confidence, strengthen capability and lead authentically.

SPEAKERS



Andrea Creado

CEO, Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Services

Andrea Creado is an award-winning executive leader, advocate, and governance professional with more than 25 years' experience advancing multicultural health, family and domestic violence, mental health, and community development. She has served as Chief Executive Officer of Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Services for more than 19 years. It is a leading multicultural not-for-profit organisation delivering services to women and families from more than 80 cultural backgrounds. A first-generation migrant from India, Andrea is a respected voice for multicultural policy and equitable access to professional interpreting and translating. She serves on the boards of the Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing and the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters. Recognition for Andrea's work includes her 2012 Zonta Woman of Achievement Award, Soroptimist International Woman of Achievement Award and the Social Impact Leadership Australia Scholarship, both in 2023, and a WA Local Government Merit Award this year.



Kate Rowlands

Assistant Director General, Office of Multicultural Interests

Kate Rowlands has more than 20 years' experience leading strategy, policy, community engagement, communications and funding programs across the Western Australian public sector and major government enterprises. She has extensive experience in leading multidisciplinary teams, managing significant public investment programs, and building productive partnerships across government, industry, not-for-profit organisations and culturally and linguistically diverse communities. As Executive Director of OMI, Kate provides strategic leadership across multicultural policy, programs and partnerships, ensuring cultural and linguistic diversity is recognised and leveraged as a key driver of social, economic and civic prosperity in Western Australia.



Maryann Tsai

Founder/Board Chair, Reach Her Inc

Maryann Tsai is an award-winning social entrepreneur, gender equality advocate and Founder & Board Chair of Reach Her Inc., a Perth-based not-for-profit empowering women from multicultural and under-represented backgrounds through employment, mentorship, entrepreneurship and leadership. With more than two decades of senior leadership experience across the public, private, government, mining, technology, education and not-for-profit sectors, she brings a wealth of experience in strategy, impact and community leadership. She is a TEDx speaker and #1 bestselling co-author of Ignite. Her work has been recognised through numerous awards, including Community Citizen of the Year, UNAAWA Gender Equality Award and Swan Woman of the Year, alongside finalist recognition for WA Volunteer of the Year and WA Volunteer Excellence in 2026.



Henrietta Podgorska

Community Advocate, Former CEO Multicultural Aged Care

Henrietta Podgorska is a values-led leader with more than 11 years' experience across community services, government, policy advocacy and sector capability building. She has led diverse, culturally and linguistically diverse workforces and worked closely with communities to strengthen participation, service delivery and influence. Her experience spans frontline service delivery, government engagement, policy and reform, and building the capability of people and organisations to navigate change and growth. Henrietta is particularly interested in how leadership, culture and opportunity shape the progression of culturally diverse women into leadership.

1B: Talking about our generations: Equity as the workforce demographic changes

How does the public service adapt to the changing workforce and the expectations about work among its multiple generations? What will the workforce look like if our national birthrate at 1.48 births/woman continues to fall? Women of reproductive age have dropped from an all-time high of 25.5% of the population in the 1990s to 23.5% now. With a tightening and ageing pool of workers, is it easier for women to be more powerful in our workforce?

FACILITATOR



Kaylene Gulich PSM

CEO, Western Australian Treasury Corporation (WATC)

Kaylene has extensive experience in public policy, knowledge of financial markets and expertise in the Western Australian economy. Kaylene is the CEO of Western Australian Treasury Corporation, the central borrowing authority of the State of Western Australia managing over AU$50 billion in financial assets and liabilities for the State. Kaylene has previously held senior roles within the Western Australian Department of Treasury.

As well as being a Fellow of CPA Australia and a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD), Kaylene currently holds Director positions on the Australian Financial Markets Association, Synergy and the not-for-profit Backing Gecko Arts, Western Australia's premier children's theatre company. Kaylene was awarded a Public Service Medal in 2021 for outstanding public service to Western Australia through a range of roles.

SPEAKERS



Dr Alison Preston

Winthrop Professor of Economics, University of Western Australia

Alison is a Professor of Economics in the University of Western Australia Business School. Her research explores gendered aspects of the labour market, employment and economic security across the life course. Her research interests include wage determination, working time and employment arrangements, retirement incomes and financial literacy. She is President of the Economic Society of Australia (WA Branch), an Associate Editor of the Industrial Relations Journal and serves on the Editorial Board of The Economic Record. Alison is passionate about promoting the discipline of economics and encouraging the next generation of economists.



Dr Nancy Pavisich

Director, Reframe WA Consulting

Dr Nancy Pavisich is a sought-after keynote speaker, leadership strategist, author and Founder of Reframe WA Consulting, helping leaders reframe how they communicate and lead with purpose. Combining executive experience, academic rigour and relatable delivery, she creates measurable improvements in leadership confidence, workplace culture and performance. Across health, education, local government and mining, Nancy strengthens leadership capability, psychosocial safety and human-centred communication.

With a PhD in Mentoring and credentials in Leadership, Business Management and Strategy, she translates evidence and experience into practical action. A multi-award winner, Dr Nancy's transformative keynotes leave audiences feeling seen, challenged and equipped to lead with integrity, build trust and create workplaces where people thrive.



Paris McNeil

CEO and Founder, Thriving Futures Co

Paris McNeil is a keynote speaker, facilitator and lawyer who helps organisations navigate the generational shifts reshaping communication, leadership and the workplace. As a Gen Z speaker working across government, education and industry, Paris challenges assumptions about younger employees and explores what different generations really need from work, leadership and each other. Her work is focused on creating clarity, starting better conversations and helping multigenerational teams work together more effectively.

2A: **Inside running: Making the most of early careers**

Now that previous generations have led the way, this session gives early-career women an opportunity to discuss the current battles they may still face, what they have experienced, and what still needs to be done for gender equity. This is an exploration of what it still takes to succeed - whether it is an ability to 'manage up', or how to gain confidence while dealing with senior leaders for the first time. We will remember the path to leadership made by others and consider the new road lying ahead.

FACILITATOR



Paula Della Gatta

Project Manager, Office of Major Infrastructure Delivery

Paula Della Gatta is a Project Manager on the New Women's and Babies Hospital Project at the Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure. She commenced her public sector career through the Department of Finance Graduate Program, following several years in private architectural practice working across affordable housing, civic infrastructure and mass timber construction. A recipient of the 2024 E.G. Cohen Medal, Paula holds a Master of Architecture from the University of Notre Dame Australia and has a strong interest in the intersection of architecture, infrastructure and human behaviour.

Paula is passionate about delivering people-centred, fit-for-purpose infrastructure and believes that strong collaboration and positive workplace culture are fundamental to achieving meaningful outcomes for the Western Australian community.

SPEAKERS



Vicky-Lea Munro

Director Business Services, Arts and Culture Trust

Vicky has 19 years' experience in the WA Public Sector leading transformational change in organisations. Informed by her BA in Psychology and intersectional feminism, she is passionate about the ways systems, norms and rules can assist with, or hinder equality in public sector workplaces.



Lorissa Kelly

Acting CEO, DevelopmentWA

Lorissa is the Acting Chief Executive Officer of DevelopmentWA, accountable for the strategic direction, leadership and performance of a significant statewide portfolio of projects, delivering commercial and social outcomes. She has a diversity of experience in areas such as legislation development, property acquisition and operations, public policy, strategic planning, public relations, crisis communications, and stakeholder management.

Before joining DevelopmentWA in January 2022, Lorissa spent six years at the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage as an Assistant Director General in Business and Corporate Services, then Strategy and Engagement. Lorissa has previously been seconded from the public service to work as Chief of Staff for the former Minister for Planning, where she was involved with key projects including the new museum, Perth City Link and Elizabeth Quay. Her qualifications include a Bachelor of Commerce (First Class Honours) from Curtin University and an Executive Master of Public Administration from the Australia New Zealand School of Government.



Sacha Arthur

Executive Manager, Western Australia Police Force

Sacha Arthur is the Executive Manager of the Business Development Unit at WA Police Force, where she leads a team supporting strategic initiatives, governance and organisational improvement.

Beginning her career in retail and hospitality, Sacha transitioned into business analysis before commencing her public sector career with Victoria Police. After relocating to Western Australia in 2023 and joining the WA Police Force, she progressed from business analysis and project roles into a leadership position.

Sacha holds qualifications in business, design and executive leadership, and has undertaken study, work and professional development experiences across Australia, Germany, Malaysia and Vietnam. She is passionate about identifying the right problems, creating clarity from complexity, and enabling better outcomes for frontline policing and the community.

2B: **A great team for women: How to make it work**

Some leaders just get it right at work and have a great office for women and a diverse staff. We can all take a lesson or tip from what they have done. This session is for experienced female leaders and male champions of women to step forward and show us all how it's done. This isn't just an opportunity to talk about why, but also examine the process, what worked and what didn't. We can take something from this session and use it at our own workplace later.

FACILITATOR



Christine Thompson MHRM EMPA FLWA MIPAA
Executive Director, Clinical Workforce and Leadership, Department of Health

Christine is an experienced public sector leader with a commitment to improving public service value during more than 30 years of service across various agencies. She has a passion for diversity, mental wellbeing and women's health. Her current position allows her to combine those interests as the Executive Director, Clinical Workforce and Leadership at the Department of Health, supporting the WA Health system's 75,000 staff in the delivery of services to the community.

Previously the Director of Workforce Strategy at the Public Sector Commission, Christine led the WA Public Sector Diversification and Inclusion Strategy to improve the representation and inclusion of diverse workforces in the WA Public Sector.

SPEAKERS



Rebecca Maccario
Manager Strategy and Sustainability, City of Joondalup

Rebecca Maccario has worked in the local government sector for over 20 years. Currently she is Manager Strategy and Sustainability at the City of Joondalup where she has driven strategic and organisational change within the City. Rebecca's current portfolio includes overarching guidance and management in the areas of strategic planning, corporate reporting, environmental planning and approvals, policy development, community consultation, organisational development and grants.
As an advocate for women, Rebecca has successfully led initiatives to support women in their career progression as well as coaching and mentoring the next generation of female leaders through ongoing participation in the Future Female Leaders Program. Rebecca is the inaugural winner of the 2024 Rhonda Hardy Women of Excellence Local Government Award.



Mike Rowe
Director General, Department of Communities

Mike is Director General of the Department of Communities in Western Australia. Prior to joining Communities in May 2021, Mike was Director General at the Western Australian Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and, Department of Water. Mike has worked in the Western Australian public sector for more than 30 years across multiple portfolios and in diverse leadership, policy, advisory and delivery roles. These include human services, regional development, Aboriginal affairs, natural resources management, agriculture, environment, water, and Premier and Cabinet. Mike holds a Bachelor of Environmental Science and has also completed postgraduate qualifications in social research and program evaluation and public sector management.



Justine Colyer AM
CEO, Rise Network

Justine has 35 years' experience in the government, private and non-profit sectors in Australia, the UK and Europe, doing everything from running a pub to running a prison. Since being in Australia, she has worked to support and promote the needs and rights of some of the most marginalised and vulnerable people in our community. For the past 15 years, Justine has been the CEO of Rise which offers services for people with mental health issues, a disability, the aged, youth at risk, and those dealing with family and domestic violence or homelessness. She worked in the WA public service for 15 years in the areas of environment, justice, housing and communities and a couple of years ago was seconded back into the Department of Communities for a year.



Helen De Brito
CEO, Legal Aid WA

Helen De Brito was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Legal Aid WA in January 2024, after serving as Interim Chief Executive Officer from May 2023. She has built an extensive career with the agency since joining in 2005. An accomplished criminal lawyer, she has held a range of senior leadership positions, including Acting Solicitor in Charge of the Fremantle office, Manager of the Legal Practice Development Division, and Director of the Criminal Law Division. She has been a longstanding member of Legal Aid WA's Reconciliation Action Plan Committee and has overseen both the Graduate Program and Country Lawyers' Program, helping to develop and support the next generation of legal professionals. She holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws with First Class Honours from Murdoch University.

2026 IPAA WA Women in Public Service Leadership Conference

AI's impact on women: Ethics, leading through the revolution

How can we lead through the AI revolution without losing sight of our humanity? This session looks at how to tackle AI's impact on working and career women, without ignoring its benefits. We can ask a philosopher about what ethics teaches us to do during the AI tsunami, find out what policies are needed when your hard work is being used by the machines for their output. With AI likely to most greatly affect the early-career, part-time and lower ranking roles in which women can predominate, how do you as the leaders of women ensure work in the public's service does not just serve the 'bots?

FACILITATOR



Emma Forrest
Assistant Director, Licensing and Customer Protection
Economic Regulation Authority

Since starting her public sector career in the Wageline call centre in 2006, Emma has worked on social and strategic policy projects at the Department of Communities, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and Treasury WA. For the past six years she has worked at the Economic Regulation Authority and is the Assistant Director, Licensing and Customer Protection. The ERA is Western Australia's independent economic regulator. Through the licensing framework, Emma's team regulates the customer protections obligations for the approximately 100 private companies and government trading enterprises licensed to provide electricity, gas and water services. Emma has served on the IPAA WA Council since 2013 and as Secretary since 2021.

SPEAKERS



Dr Jacqueline Boaks
Philosopher-in-Residence, WA Data Science Innovation Hub, Curtin University

Dr Jacqueline Boaks is the Curriculum Lead with the Curtin Centre for Applied Ethics and Philosopher-in-Residence at the WA Data Science Innovation Hub. She is Vice President of the Australian Association of Professional and Applied Ethics, editor of Research into Ethical Issues in Organizations (Emerald), founder of the WA Ethics Outside Philosophy group, co-editor of Leadership and Ethics (Bloomsbury) and a member of the editorial board of the journal Philosophy of Management (Springer).

Her most recent research addresses and the question of dirty hands in leadership, and the impact of Artificial Intelligence in CSR decision making in organisations. She is regularly featured in media on the ethics of artificial intelligence, leadership, and business ethics.



Owen Whittle
CEO, West Australian Music (WAM)

Owen has been CEO of West Australian Music since late 2024. Prior to this he spent over a decade in trade union leadership as Secretary and Assistant Secretary of UnionsWA between 2012 and 2024 leading significant campaigns on workplace safety and public sector pay. Owen is currently a member of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, Chairperson of the Work Health and Safety Commission, Director of the McKell Institute WA Advisory Committee and was previously Chairperson of the Welfare Rights and Advocacy Service and a Non-Executive Director of WorkCoverWA.



Nina Skewes
Privacy Deputy Commissioner, Office of the Information Commissioner

Nina Skewes was appointed as Privacy Deputy Commissioner in January 2026. Nina has over 14 years' experience in privacy and regulatory leadership across both the public and private sectors, specialising in data protection, regulatory governance and emerging technology risk. Prior to commencing her role as Privacy Deputy Commissioner, Nina was the Chief Privacy Officer (Asia Pacific) for a professional services company. She has also held senior regulatory, legal and privacy roles in Australia. Prior to her recent private sector experience, she worked at the federal privacy regulator in the privacy practice and technology branch. She has also worked as an economist with the Reserve Bank of Australia. Nina holds a Master of Innovation Law with Excellence from the University of New South Wales and Bachelor of Law and Economics (first-class Honours) from the University of Western Australia.



Dr Juliana Peloche
Co Founder, Women in AI - Senior Curriculum Designer, Edith Cowan University

Dr Juliana Peloche is a Senior Curriculum Designer at Edith Cowan University's Centre for Learning and Teaching, where she oversees curriculum development for the School of Engineering and leads AI literacy initiatives across the institution. She holds a doctorate in AI in education from the University of Wollongong, with research focused on how educational stakeholders perceive and adapt to emerging technologies. Originally from Brazil, Juliana has taught across three continents and brings an international perspective to her work at the intersection of AI, gender, and education.
She is also co-founder of Women in AI Australia, an organisation dedicated to empowering women to learn, lead, and thrive in an AI-enabled world.
Her work consistently asks who benefits from AI, and who gets left behind.

2026 IPAA WA Women in Public Service Leadership Conference

On the couch: Where are we 10 years later?

Our popular panel discussion with senior female leaders from across the public sector. It will examine what has been discussed during the panel sessions and the changes since Women in Public Service Leadership became a conference 10 years ago, such as parental leave laws, workplace flexibility, working from home, workforce participation changes, and quotas. We remember the progress that has been made by women in the past and ask how Australia can maintain its highest-ever eighth ranking in the Global Gender Gap Report announced in September.

FACILITATOR



Kaylene Gulich PSM

CEO, Western Australian Treasury Corporation

Kaylene has extensive experience in public policy, knowledge of financial markets and expertise in the Western Australian economy. She is the CEO of Western Australian Treasury Corporation, the central borrowing authority of the State of Western Australia managing over AU$50 billion in financial assets and liabilities for the State. Kaylene has previously held senior roles within the Western Australian Department of Treasury.

SPEAKERS



Sue McCarrey FIPAA (WA)

CEO, National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority

Sue commenced her role as Chief Executive Officer in February 2023, representing both NOPSEMA and OIR. Prior to this, she served for eight years as the Chief Executive at the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator.

A career of over 40 years in government, Sue has held a range of roles across education, including time as a school principal, the Public Transport Authority and as Deputy Director General of Policy, Planning and Investment at the WA Department of Transport.

Sue holds a Bachelor of Law from Murdoch University, a Master of Education from Edith Cowan University, and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Sue is a member of the National Association of Women in Operations, Women in Decommissioning and is a Fellow of the Institute of Public Administration Australia.



Joanne Abbiss

CEO, City of Armadale

Joanne Abbiss is an accomplished Chief Executive Officer with over 20 years of experience shaping the future of Western Australia's fastest growing local governments. She holds a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) from the University of Notre Dame and a Bachelor of Science (Distinction) from Curtin University. As CEO of the City of Armadale, Joanne oversees a $160 million annual operating budget, $32 million in capital works, $2 billion in assets and a workforce of 800 staff serving over 110,000 residents.

Her leadership spans strategic infrastructure delivery, economic development, environmental sustainability, social policy and community engagement. She has held ministerial appointments to State boards and advisory committees, contributed to local government reform, and has been recognised internationally for her achievements in strategic planning. Joanne has extensive expertise in governance and public administration and is a sought-after speaker on leadership and organisational transformation. In 2015, she was named WA Telstra Business Woman of the Year (Government and Academia).



Dr Ashley McGrath

CEO, CEOs for Gender Equity

Dr Ashley McGrath is a gender equity trailblazer on a mission to bridge the gap between awareness, intention and action. Ashley leads CEOs for Gender Equity, a for-purpose organisation which seeks to accelerate gender equity through CEO leadership. Ashley received a Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) for her research which aims to increase the inclusion and diversity of women in the mining industry.

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UPCOMING IPAA WA TRAINING COURSES



This practical course equips participants with the tools and knowledge to use artificial intelligence effectively in modern workplaces. Suitable for all experience levels, it explores generative AI, machine learning and natural language processing.

Through case studies and group discussions, participants discover how AI can enhance productivity, support decision-making and enable responsible innovation while addressing ethical and safety considerations.



This practical workshop equips participants with the skills to translate complex ideas into clear, compelling messages for diverse audiences. Explore common communication barriers, develop audience-focused messaging strategies and learn to maintain accuracy while simplifying specialist information.

Through practical examples and planning frameworks, participants will build confidence in communicating complex concepts effectively across reports, presentations, emails and other formats.



This practical course builds a shared understanding of psychosocial hazards, risk management and harm prevention in the workplace. Participants explore common psychosocial hazards, learn how to identify and assess risks, and apply prevention-focused controls.

Designed for leaders, HR professionals and HSEQ teams, the course clarifies role-based responsibilities and supports a consistent approach to managing psychosocial safety.

UPCOMING IPAA WA EVENTS





2027 IPAA WA EVENTS CALENDAR

IPAA WA is pleased to bring you an exciting program of events in 2027. From conferences to award ceremonies, our program is designed to promote excellence, strengthen connections and share knowledge across the Public Service. **Save the Date. Visit our website for more information.**

FEBRUARY		
	19	2027 Young Professionals Conference
APRIL		
	9	2027 W.S. Lonnie Awards
MAY		
	21	2027 Budget Briefing
JULY		
	22	Integrity and Accountability Conference
AUGUST/ SEPTEMBER		
	3 Aug to 5 Aug	2027 Policy in Practice (Week 1)
	31 Aug to 2 Sep	2027 Policy in Practice (Week 2)
NOVEMBER		
	12	2027 Women in Public Service Leadership Conference
DECEMBER		
	10	2027 Achievement Awards

* Dates subject to change. Please check www.ipaawa.org.au for latest information.

IPAA WESTERN AUSTRALIA
INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AUSTRALIA



2026/27 PREMIER AND GOLD PARTNERS

PREMIER

EY Building a better working world

Murdoch University

CommonwealthBank

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Department of **the Premier and Cabinet**

Department of **Treasury and Finance**

Public Sector **Commission**

Transport and Major Infrastructure Portfolio

Department of **Transport and Major Infrastructure**

Main Roads Western Australia

Public Transport Authority

GOLD

Deloitte.

workday.

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Department of **Communities**

Department of **Housing and Works**

Department of **Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety**

Department of **Mines, Petroleum and Exploration**

EXCELLENCE IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

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