

# CONFERENCE DAY 1

WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 2024

Time: 9:00 AM – 9:20 AM

COMMENCEMENT, WELCOME TO COUNTRY, OPENING REMARKS

Time: 9:20 AM – 10:20 AM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS [DR TRACY WESTERMAN AM](#)

Time: 10:20 AM – 10:50 AM

MORNING TEA

Time: 10:50 AM – 12:30 PM

CONCURRENT SESSION 1:



## SESSION 1A

**'WORKING UPSTREAM':**  
**The structural prevention of homelessness**

In recent years, there has been a notable shift in service and government responses to homelessness prevention – but more needs to be done. This session will explore effective prevention-focused policies and programs, as well as how we can build a comprehensive framework to guide our efforts to make homelessness RARE.

- Lucy Phelan, Manager- Advocacy Research and Policy Unit, Community Restorative Centre
- Leo Patterson Ross, Chief Executive Officer, Tenants Union of NSW
- Lorna Robinson, Lived Experience & Project Coordinator, The Constellation Project
- David Maher, Turool Kore Program Lead, Bungree Housing Services

## SESSION 1B

**'SHELTER FROM THE STORM?'**  
**Reducing the impacts of trauma in navigating the homelessness system**

This session will examine comprehensive approaches to trauma-informed care across all facets of addressing homelessness, including within government policy and systems. Speakers will showcase examples across a range of settings, including a focus on addressing the distinct needs of groups like asylum seekers and First Nations people experiencing homelessness.

- Marina Camarao, Intensive Support Coordinator, Asylum Seekers Centre
- Chris Hartley, Research Fellow, City Futures Research Centre, UNSW
- Vicki Johnston and Jan Christie from Moving Forward DFV Case Management Services Incorporated.

## SESSION 1C

**'UNVEILING INEQUITY':**  
**Discrimination as a cause and consequence of homelessness**

This session will investigate the ways in which discrimination contributes to and is a consequence of homelessness, with a specific focus on the ramifications of discriminatory practices at both governmental and service delivery levels. Speakers will highlight the discrimination faced by people with disabilities, those from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, and First Nations Australians and will focus on the roles we can play as individuals, in services, academia and in government in countering this bias.

- Erin Longbottom, Nursing Unit Manager, St Vincent's Health Network Sydney
- Susan Farrar, Client Services Manager, Twenty 10

LUNCH

PLENARY WORKSHOP SESSION

CULTURAL COMPETENCY  
Dr Tracy Westerman, AM

In this session Dr Westerman will explore the foundations and socio-political context of cultural competency in our service system, and share her extensive knowledge on building cultural competency in services.

AFTERNOON TEA

CONCURRENT SESSION 2:



SESSION 2A

**PARADIGM SHIFT:**  
Rethinking homelessness as a public health imperative

This session will explore the far-reaching health implications of homelessness and emphasise the urgent need for a paradigm shift in our current approaches. Presentations will focus on innovative approaches to address the critical public health challenges posed by homelessness.

- Dr Deb Batterham, Swinburne University of Technology
- Dr Cathy O'Callaghan, Research Fellow, UNSW and Paul Clenaghan, Program Director Homelessness, Sydney LHD
- Jade Brown and Jodie Madigan, Uniting
- Shannon Richardson, Safe & Healthy Families Mngr, Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network

SESSION 2B

**NAVIGATING CRISIS:**  
Exploring the intersections of disaster resilience, climate change, and homelessness

As climate-related disasters and extreme weather events become more frequent and severe, the vulnerability of homeless populations will increase. This session will explore the unique challenges faced by those experiencing homelessness in the context of environmental crises and showcase effective approaches to improve preparedness and resilience in communities.

- Jenni-Beetson Moritmor, CEO, Northern Rivers Community Gateway
- Niki Gill and Narel Shearer, Uniting.
- Matt Larkin, Manager St Vincent's Homeless Health Service and Jon Swain, Manager, City of Sydney Homelessness Unit

SESSION 2C

**BEYOND CITY LIMITS:**  
Understanding and addressing regional and remote experiences of homelessness.

This session will spotlight the unique experiences and barriers encountered by those experiencing homelessness and specialist homelessness services in regional and remote communities. Speakers will offer innovative strategies to tackle homelessness tailored to the specific needs of regional and remote communities.

- Kimeaka Bermingham, CatholicCare
- Lynda Townsend and Emily Phillips Tamworth Family Support Services
- Madeleine Neely and Ian Lynch, Pacific Link Housing
- Seema Sanghi, Coordinator, Housing Older Persons Project, Newcastle

DAY 1 CLOSE

GALA DINNER

at Noah's on the Beach, Newcastle East