

AGEC National Forum 2026

Backlash and Beyond: Progress and Participation

2-3 MARCH 2026

Day 1 – Monday, 2 March

9:00 am - 9:30 am Registration & Networking Breakfast

9:30 am - 9:45 am Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country

9:45 am - 10:00 am **Opening Address**
Speaker: Coral Ross | Chair, AGECE

10:00 am - 10:30 am **Keynote: The Arc of DEI - Lessons from the last 15 Years**
Speaker: Terrance Fitzsimmons | Managing Director, AGECE

10:30 am - 11:15 am **Keynote: Is DEI a Tick-Box Exercise? Rethinking Practice and Impact**
Speaker: Niki Vincent | Public Sector Gender Equality Commissioner for Victoria

11:15 am - 11:45 am Morning Tea

11:45 am - 12:15 pm **Fireside Chat: Closing the Gender Health Gap**
Speaker: Sally Hasler | CEO, Women's Health Victoria

12:15 pm - 1:00 pm **Panel: Women, Money & Power: The Economics of Gender Equality**
Speakers:

- Mary Delahunty | CEO, ASFA The Voice of Super
- Ella Melican | Policy Advisor, Women in Super

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Networking Lunch



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Day 1 – Monday, 2 March

2:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Keynote: Men, Allyship & the Backlash

Speaker: Prof. KateFitz-Gibbon | Chair, Respect Victoria

2:30 pm – 3:15 pm

Panel: Housing & Homelessness Crisis

Speakers:

- Tanya Corrie | Chair, Victorian Women's Housing Alliance
- Beverly Baker | President, Older Women's Network

Facilitator:

- Andrea Alvis | Vice Chair, Probus Women's Housing Association of Victoria

3:15 pm – 3:45 pm

Afternoon Tea

3:45 pm – 4:30 pm

Fireside Chat: What's Working – Catalysts of Progress in Gender Equality

Speaker: Micaela Drieberg | CEO, Gender Equity Victoria (GENVIC)

4:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Closing Remarks & Thank You



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Day 1 – Cocktail Evening, Monday, 2 March

5:30 pm – 6:00 pm Registration & Networking Drinks

6:00 pm – 6:15 pm Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country

6:15 pm – 6:45 pm **Opening Address and Keynote**
Speaker: Terrance Fitzsimmons | Managing Director, AGECE

6:45 pm – 7:00 pm Deakin University Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)

7:00 pm – 8:15 pm **Panel: The Role of Leadership in Gender Equality - What Kind of Leaders Do We Need?**

Speakers:

- Katherine Ellis | CEO, Leadership Victoria
- Cr. Kylie Spears | Chair, Australian Local Government Women's Association
- Fabiola Campbell | Founder and CEO, Professional Migrant Women

Facilitator:

- Terrance Fitzsimmons | Managing Director, AGECE

8:15 pm – 8:30 pm Closing Remarks & Thank You



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Day 2 – Tuesday, 3 March

8:30 am - 9:00 am Registration and Networking Breakfast

9:00 am - 9:15 am Welcome Back & Day 1 Recap

9:15 am - 9:45 am

Panel: Women & the Future of Work: Risks & Opportunities

Speakers:

- Lisa Heap | Chair, Equal Workplaces Advisory Council (EWAC) - Victorian Government
- Dhara Shah | Associate Professor in Human Resource Management, Deakin Business School

9:45 am - 10:30 am

Panel: Why DEI Isn't Delivering the Change We Expect - Evidence & Reform Pathway

Speakers:

- Dr Samone McCurdy | Executive Manager, Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA)
- Sapphire Parsons | Co-Chair Law Reform Committee, Victorian Women Lawyers

10:30 am - 10:45 am Morning Tea

10:45 am - 12:00 pm

Member Showcases:

Presenting Organisations:

- Women in Defence Australia (WiDA)
- Women & Leadership Australia (WLA)
- Women In Super (WIS)
- Women in Resources Alliance, Australian Energy and Resources Employer Association (AREEA)
- National Rural Women's Coalition (NRWC)



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Day 2 – Tuesday, 3 March

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Workshop 1: Identifying Key System Barriers

Facilitator: Fara Azmat | Professor, Deakin Business School

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Networking Lunch

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Workshop 2: Prioritising Barriers & Setting Workstreams

Facilitator: Dhara Shah | Associate Professor in Human Resource Management, Deakin Business School

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Afternoon Tea

4:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Collective Action: 2026–27 Commitments

Facilitators:

- Louise Weine | Deputy Chair

4:15 pm – 4:30 pm

Closing Remarks & Thank You



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