

2025 Volunteering NSW State Conference

Protect, Preserve, Progress Volunteering in NSW

Disclaimer: All times and speakers are subject to change. Regional delegates will view the main plenary room only.
Broken Hill timing will be 30mins earlier than listed times.

Thursday 5 June - Doltone House, Darling Island Wharf, Pyrmont

8.00am - 8.45am	Registration and Arrival Tea & Coffee		
8.45am - 8.46am	Opening: Gemma Rygate, CEO, The Centre for Volunteering		
8.46am - 8.55am	Welcome to Country: Yvonne Weldon AM, Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council		
8.55am - 9.05am	Minister's Address: The Hon Jodie Harrison MP		
9.05am - 9.10am	Introduction: Gemma Rygate, CEO, The Centre for Volunteering		
9.10am - 9.50am	Keynote: Wendy Harmer		
9.50am - 10.15am	Progressing Volunteering in NSW: Thinking Differently – The Who, How and What of Change: Kellie May, Department of Communities and Justice		
10.15am - 11.00am	Valuing Volunteers: Clint Bertenshaw, The Centre for Volunteering with Melissa Green, Legacy; Christina Gilio, St Vincent de Paul; Gail Easton, Odyssey House NSW; David Luck, St John Ambulance Australia (NSW) and Michelle Gillard, Western Sydney University MATES Mentor Program		
11.00am - 11.15am	MORNING TEA - Main Wharves (Main Plenary Room)		Exhibition Stalls Open
	Main Wharves (Main Plenary Room)	Parkview Rooms 1 & 2	Parkview Rooms 3 & 4
11.15am - 11.55pm	Supporting Mental Health and Resilience in a Changing Volunteer Landscape: Insights from the Australian Breastfeeding Association: Ellen Gulson, Australian Breastfeeding Association (NSW)	The Power of Lived Experience: Lara Mansfield, Intellectual Disability Rights Service	Volunteer Family Connect: Structured social support and early intervention for families of young children experiencing isolation and adjusting to parenting roles: Leeanne Bratel, Karitane
11.55pm - 12.00pm	Delegate Transfer Window		
12.00pm - 12.40pm	Strength in Community: Supporting Youth Mental Health Through Volunteering: Riley Petherbridge, Newcastle Surf Life Saving Club	The Volunteer Difference: Leading with Purpose and Passion: Bethany Langford & Marion Campbell, The Community Transport Company	Leading with Impact: Revitalising Volunteer Programs in a Healthcare Setting: Kylie Elliott, NSW Health, Auburn and Westmead Hospitals
12.40pm - 12.45pm	Delegate Transfer Window		
12.45pm - 1.25pm	Essential Skills for Managing Difficult Conversations or Unreasonable Behaviour: Five responses that are sure to escalate conflict and how to replace them with a more productive approach: Steve Lancken and Lynette Edwards, Voluntas	Providing Value, Feeling Valued: Attracting & Supporting Volunteers: Christine Ireland, Wesley Mission	Finding the Sweet Spot for our Volunteers: Niv Srivastava, Catholic Healthcare
1.25pm - 2.05pm	LUNCH - Main Wharves (Main Plenary Room)		Exhibition Stalls Open
2.05pm - 2.25pm	Information Session: Steve Gholab, Office of the Children's Guardian and Shelfa Dignan, NSW Police		
2.25pm - 3.10pm	Stages of Empathy: Rebus Theatre		
3.10pm - 3.50pm	Volunteering in an Emergency: NSW Rural Fire Service Commissioner, Rob Rogers AFSM. Panel: Daniel Murray, Empathic Consulting; Sarah Muston, Northern Rivers Community Gateway and Marian Casey, St John Ambulance Australia (NSW)		
3.50pm - 4.00pm	AFTERNOON TEA - Main Wharves (Main Plenary Room)		Exhibition Stalls Open
4.00pm - 4.30pm	The Future of Volunteering: Paul Muller, Link Education with Stephanie Georgy, Camden Council; Carole Schlessinger, Kids Giving Back; Salwa Salwa, Study NSW Australia and Rebecca Ju, 2023 Young Volunteer of the Year		
4.30pm - 5.00pm	Leadership Innovation: Daniel Murray, Empathic Consulting		
5.00pm - 5.00pm	Event Close: Gemma Rygate, CEO, The Centre for Volunteering		
5.00pm - 6.30pm	NETWORKING & DRINKS - Signorelli Gastronomia		