



# 2024 | Aboriginal Staff Forum

## PROGRAM

Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 May  
Adelaide Festival Centre

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Government  
of South Australia

Office of the Commissioner  
for Public Sector Employment

FORUM

# Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 May

9:00am to 4:30pm

Adelaide Festival Centre

Banquet Room

NETWORKING EVENT

# Monday 20 May

*begins 5:00pm*

The Government of South Australia acknowledges Aboriginal people as the first peoples and nations of South Australia.

The South Australian Government and public sector recognise and respect their cultural connections as the traditional owners and occupants of the land and waters of South Australia and that they maintain a unique and irreplaceable contribution to the state.

# Inform. Engage. Grow.

The **Public Sector Aboriginal Staff Forum**, is a professional development event for Aboriginal public sector employees to connect, learn and thrive.

Access interactive sessions tailored to your experiences and interests, learn from colleagues, build relationships and acquire tools to help navigate your way through work-life balance.

Grow your confidence and career within the South Australian public sector and hear from presenters who will share their stories, knowledge and wisdom.

Facilitated by Shouwn Oosting (KSJ Consulting Service) and Rebecca Wessels (Ochre Dawn).

Ease into the day, listening to leaders across the public sector and spend the afternoon with panel discussions and breakout sessions. These will be facilitated by a dynamic selection of Aboriginal professionals.

Enliven your tastebuds with delicious food created by Something Wild.

**Open to: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander public sector employees only and encouraged from regional and remote areas across SA.**

Places are limited, so register early to secure your place at the 2024 Aboriginal Staff Forum.

*The Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment (OCPSE) is focused to enhance the public sector's Aboriginal workforce capability, cultural safety and inclusion. The forum is presented by Aboriginal Workforce Partnerships team at OCPSE and the Institute of Public Administration Australia (IPAA).*

# Keynote speakers



## **The Hon. Kyam Maher MLC**

Attorney General, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs,  
Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector

Kyam Maher, South Australia's first Aboriginal Attorney-General, served as Aboriginal Affairs Minister in the Weatherill Labor Government guiding important reforms such as being the first State in Australia to commence Treaty negotiations with Aboriginal Nations and implementing a Stolen Generations reparations scheme.



## **Erma Ranieri PSM**

Commissioner for Public Sector Employment

Erma Ranieri was appointed Commissioner in 2014, leading sector-wide reform to modernise the public sector and build on its value and service to the South Australian community. With a key focus on diversity and gender equality in leadership as business imperatives for the public sector, Erma continues to challenge cultural and structural barriers to drive innovative, collaborative and connected services for the community.



## **April Lawrie**

Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People

April Lawrie (Mirning / Kokatha) is dedicated to creating generational change for all children. For more than 30 years, April has led systemic reform in Aboriginal health, justice, education and child protection. For over 30 years, April Lawrie has contributed to policy, service and innovation regarding Aboriginal health, education, child and family welfare, foster care, and youth justice services across metropolitan and regional areas, including rural and remote South Australia.

# Facilitators



## **Shouwn Oosting**

Principal Consultant KSJ Consulting Service

Shouwn Oosting (Waanyi Garrwa) is an Aboriginal engagement consultant that has over 25 years' experience working in both the federal and state public sector with a strong focus on Aboriginal affairs, policy coordination and program delivery. His expertise includes the development and delivery of Aboriginal engagement and economic participation plans, Reconciliation Action Plans and public participation plans. Shouwn is also a current Board Member with the South Australian Film Corporation and Country Arts SA and holds membership on several RAP working groups and committees.



## **Rebecca Wessels**

Founder and CEO Ochre Dawn

Rebecca Wessels (Ngarrindjeri/Perarmangk) founded Ochre Dawn Creative Industries, was former Chair of Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute and is currently Board Member for Ronald McDonald House Charities SA and South Australia's Entrepreneurship Advisory Board. With years of experience in community services, IT and youth work, Rebecca works collaboratively with the private sector, government and not for profit organisations to drive sustainability, authenticity and innovation.

# Presenters and panellists

## **Nerida Saunders**

Executive Director of Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Attorney-General's Department

Nerida Saunders (Murri) was awarded the Public Service Medal in 2016 for her outstanding public service in the provision of leadership and advocacy in Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation. Her previous positions include Director of Culture and Heritage in the Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division, General Manager of the Aboriginal Housing Authority and Executive Director of Children Youth and Family Services within the Department of Families and Communities. Nerida has a long involvement with social justice issues and was previously a member of the Aboriginal Justice Consultative Committee.

## **Tanya McGregor**

CEO Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia

Tanya McGregor, (Yaruwu) has more than 10 years' experience at a senior and executive level developing state-wide Aboriginal health strategy and policy across South Australia and the Northern Territory. Tanya represented Aboriginal Health in the role of Chief Aboriginal Health Officer for SA Health and in this role, she engaged community and collaborated with partners in system wide policy and planning to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal people and their communities. Tanya has extensive experiences on Committees, Boards and Ministerial Councils.

## **Marnie O'Meara**

Strategic Project Officer, SA Health

Marnie O'Meara (Arrente) is a Strategic Project Officer at SA Health and was finalist for the Women's and Childrens Health Network Young Professional of the Year Award.

## **Tyrone Hughes**

Senior Project Officer, Aboriginal Workforce Projects, SA Health

Tyrone Hughes (Arunt/ Yorta Yorta and Mutti Mutti) career in government started as a trainee with the former Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure and was Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Finalist in 2019.

**Nikiesha McNamara**

Manager, First Nations Partnerships and Reconciliation, Department for Environment and Water

Nikiesha McNamara serves as the Manager of First Nations Partnerships and Reconciliation at the Department for Environment and Water. Her role involves fostering meaningful relationships with First Nations communities, recognizing their rights, interests, and obligations to speak for their Country.

**Eugene Warrior Junior**

Program Manager Aboriginal Language Interpreting Services, Department of Human Services

Eugene Warrior Junior (Wirungu Kokatha Bungala) is a former professional AFL player and has worked in government for over 17 years in event planning, project management and leadership.

**Lauren Letton**

Principal Business Coordinator Trade, Department for Trade and Investment

Lauren Letton (Ngarrindjeri/Narungga) has worked across government in project management, media and auditing. An MBA graduate from the University of South Australia, Lauren has held positions with the Women's and Children's Health Network, SA Police and former Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

**Tamara Young**

Founder Wonky Lines Counselling

Tamara Young, (Kamilaroi/ Bigambul) is the founder of Wonky Lines Counselling (WLC) in Adelaide's Northern Suburbs on Kurna Country. Overcoming personal challenges, Tamara's journey, fuelled by the power of storytelling, positions her as an advocate for personal empowerment. As a qualified Narrative Therapist, Tamara is dedicated to guiding individuals to find their own solutions, fostering resilience and helping people break Intergenerational Trauma Cycles one day at a time.

# Breakout session information

On the registration form you will be asked to select four career & professional development workshops (from a choice of six different workshops). Please note there are a limited number of places for each workshop, and every effort will be made to meet your preferences.

## **Session 1: Using your Performance Development Plan for your professional development**

Your Performance Development process is a tool for your professional development and career path. It's the opportunity to get feedback on your performance at work and enhance your professional relationship with your line manager. Learn how to get the most out of this to ensure this process works for you.

## **Session 2: Future focus – identify your career goals**

What do I want my work and community contributions to be? How do I get there? Explore the blockers and enablers to your career goals. Discuss strategies to deal with these to ensure you are on the career path of your choice.



### **Session 3: Finding your voice and telling your story with confidence**

Story telling has been a strength of community since time immemorial. In this interactive session, explore the power of storytelling as both a tool for educating as well as a tool for presenting your best self. Tamara Young will work with participants to:

- Craft a compelling storyline
- Embrace authenticity
- Use vivid imagery and descriptive language
- Involve your audience

### **Session 4: Taking charge of my career progression – developing your CV and cover letter**

Your curriculum vitae and cover letter are often the first tool at hand for winning that next job. Learn to write your CV to ensure it provides evidence of your knowledge, skills and experience. Learn what to include and what not to include and learn how to use language that clearly illustrates who you are and what your strengths are.

### **Session 5: Clarifying my purpose – what's my why?**

Knowing what we do professionally and how we do it is important. Understanding your WHY will help you align your career with your purpose and increase job satisfaction. This session will walk you through a process to help you clarify your personal WHY statement.

### **Session 6: Using LinkedIn to promote your career**

LinkedIn has become the Facebook of the professional world with many professionals securing their next job via this platform. Learn how to:

- set-up your profile to clearly illustrate the professional strengths you have.
- effectively network on LinkedIn and develop new connections.
- post and promote your work.

# Schedule overview

## DAY 1

TIME	PROGRAM DETAILS	PRESENTERS
8:45am to 9:30am	Arrivals and registration	
9:30am to 10:00am	Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony	<b>Uncle Mickey Kumatpi O’Brien</b> Senior Kurna Man
10:15am to 10:30am	Minister’s Address	<b>The Hon. Kyam Maher MLC</b> Attorney General, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector
10:30am to 11:00am	Morning tea	
11:00am to 12:15pm	Keynote and Panel Discussion: Leadership – Walking in Two Worlds	<b>April Lawrie</b> Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People
12:15pm to 1:00pm	Lunch	
1:00pm to 4:15pm	Breakout sessions	
4:20pm to 4:30pm	Day 1 close	
5:00pm to 6:00pm	Networking event (pre-register)	

## DAY 2

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TIME	PROGRAM DETAILS	PRESENTERS
8:45am to 9:15am	Arrivals	
9:15am to 10:00am	Keynote speaker	<b>Erma Ranieri PSM</b> Commissioner for Public Sector Employment
10:00am to 10:30am	Celebrating the successes of Aboriginal public sector employees	
10:30am to 11:00am	Morning tea	
11:00am to 12:30pm	Interactive workshop: Changing the Narrative – Rewriting Our Stories	<b>Tamara Young</b> Founder Wonky Lines Counselling
12:30pm to 1:15pm	Lunch	
1:15pm to 2:30pm	Panel Discussion: Navigating Your Career	
2:45pm to 4:00pm	Where to from here?	
4:00pm	Day 2 close	

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# Aboriginal Workforce Partnerships

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for Public Sector Employment**

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