



**Western
Australia**

Safety Symposium

2026



EVENT PROGRAM

**Embed, innovate,
collaborate: where
work health and
safety goes next**

AIHS WESTERN AUSTRALIA BRANCH · FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2026 · EAST PERTH

Regulators, researchers, industry leaders and practitioners in one room, on the priorities reshaping the profession.

A full day built on three pillars — embed, innovate and collaborate. You will hear where WHS policy and regulation are heading in Australia and Western Australia, what current research and programs are changing in practice, and which capabilities the next decade of the profession will ask of you.

DATE AND TIME

Friday 20 November 2026
Registrations from 7.30 am
8.30 am to 5.00 pm, networking to
6.00 pm

CPD

Eight points
Lunch, morning and afternoon tea
included

VENUE

Beaumonde On The Point
306 Riverside Drive, East Perth WA
6004

Attend

FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2026 · BEAUMONDE ON THE POINT, EAST PERTH



WHEN

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WHERE

Beaumonde On The Point
306 Riverside Drive
East Perth WA 6004

INCLUDED

Eight CPD points
Morning and afternoon tea
Lunch
Networking drinks

REGISTRATION

Early bird — until 30 October 2026

AIHS member \$335.50
Non-member \$544.50

Standard — from 31 October 2026

AIHS member \$386.10
Non-member \$617.10

All pricing includes GST. Eight CPD points, recorded against your AIHS member profile. Lunch, morning and afternoon tea and networking drinks are included. Not a member yet? Join before you register and the member rate applies.

[Register now »](#)

aihs.eventsair.com/2026-aihs-wa-symposium

Program

FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2026 · BEAUMONDE ON THE POINT, EAST PERTH

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
7.30 am	Registrations open	
8.30 am	Welcome and opening	Alastair Milne, MC
9.00 am	AIHS update	Julia Whitford, CEO, AIHS
9.15 am	EMBED Regulatory directions and strategic vision Regulators and decision-makers on the policy and strategic priorities shaping WHS in Australia and WA. Panel and audience Q&A.	Sally North Rebecca Harris Owen Whittle Alena Titterton Facilitator: Celia Antonovsky
10.30 am	Morning tea	
11.00 am	Platinum sponsor presentation (3 minutes)	Epigroup
11.00 am	INNOVATE Driving change The MARS Program on preventing psychosocial hazards, and the AIHS Fellows and mentors advancing the profession.	Kate Blackwood Marcus Cattani Ian Counsell, mentee and mentor panel
12.35 pm	Lunch and networking	
1.35 pm	COLLABORATE Essential skills for the modern WHS practitioner Critical thinking, networking, human factors, systems thinking and stakeholder engagement.	Bill Byrne Rob King
3.00 pm	Afternoon tea	
3.35 pm	COLLABORATE Bridging research, practice and the Body of Knowledge How practitioners, regulators and industry shape the evidence, including new research on redesigning systems for psychological safety.	Marcus Cattani Elena Lennox
4.45 pm	Wrap up and closing remarks	Alastair Milne, MC
5.00 pm	Networking drinks, until 6.00 pm	

Program and speakers are subject to change.

9.15 AM

Regulatory directions and strategic vision

PANEL DISCUSSION AND AUDIENCE Q&A

A front-row view of the policy, regulatory and strategic priorities shaping the future of work health and safety.

This opening discussion sets the tone for the program. Framed by the Safe Work Australia strategy and the collective goal of reducing fatalities and serious harm, you will hear directly from regulators and decision-makers on the initiatives driving change across Australia and Western Australia.

The panel and audience Q&A is where the session earns its place: an opportunity to engage with the leaders influencing WHS reform, and to take away practical ideas to apply in your own organisation.

ON THE PANEL

Sally North

WorkSafe Commissioner, WorkSafe WA

Rebecca Harris

Acting CEO, WorkCover WA

Owen Whittle

Chairperson, Work Health and Safety Commission

Alena Titterton

Partner, Johnson Winter Slattery

Facilitated by **Celia Antonovsky**, Chair, AIHS

11.00 AM

Driving change

RESEARCH, PROGRAMS AND THE PEOPLE ADVANCING THE PROFESSION

Innovation sits at the heart of safer, healthier workplaces. This session shows what is already changing practice.

You will get a close look at the Mental Awareness, Respect and Safety (MARS) Program, a WorkSafe WA initiative focused on preventing psychosocial hazards and building respectful, mentally healthy workplaces.

The session also puts the work of AIHS Fellows and mentors in front of you — leadership, expertise and knowledge sharing that continues to shape where the profession goes. Together these presentations show how research, innovation and professional collaboration drive measurable improvement in WHS outcomes.

PRESENTERS

Kate Blackwood

Associate Professor and Acting Director, MARS Centre, Edith Cowan University

Marcus Cattani

Board member and Chair, College of Fellows, Australian Institute of Health & Safety

Mentee and mentor panel

The AIHS mentoring program, in practice, with Ian Counsell ChOHSP FAIHS

1.35 PM

Essential skills for the modern WHS practitioner

CAPABILITY, CURRENCY AND INFLUENCE

As work changes, so must the skills of the people responsible for making it safe.

This session looks at how practitioners stay current, adaptable and influential in an increasingly complex environment. Critical thinking and professional networking are the entry points into the competencies shaping the profession: human factors, systems thinking and stakeholder engagement.

You will leave with a clearer view of how collaboration, continuous learning and strong professional connections help you anticipate change and build capability rather than react to it.

PRESENTERS

Bill Byrne

Director and Principal Consultant, P3RSS

Rob King

Human factors and ergonomics consultant, and Director, Coretex Consulting CPE

3.35 PM

Bridging research, practice and the Body of Knowledge

EVIDENCE INTO PRACTICE

The profession's knowledge is not built in universities alone. It is built by practitioners, regulators, industry and professional networks.

This closing session brings those perspectives together to identify emerging challenges, test current approaches and shape future directions — and to look at how your own practice contributes to the OHS Body of Knowledge.

Elena Lennox presents the research behind the white paper *Systems that cause harm in the workplace: how to redesign them for psychological safety*, covering how the study was conducted across sixteen practitioner interviews, four case studies and a measured pilot study, and the six redesign principles it established for preventing harm rather than processing it.

PRESENTERS

Marcus Cattani

Professorial Research Fellow, Minerals Industry Safety and Health Centre, University of Queensland

Elena Lennox

CEO, DevelopMental Safety & Wellbeing, and Founder, Courageous Women

Speakers

THE PEOPLE YOU WILL HEAR FROM



Alastair G. Milne BSc, PgC, PgD

Principal and Director, Fearless Teams

Alastair is a multidisciplinary educator in the fields of mental health, WHS, leadership and Resilience. He specialises in creating psychological safety to facilitate learning on behalf of several credible organisations. He has a bachelor's in environmental science with post graduate qualifications in analytical chemistry, business psychology and is currently studying teaching for higher education.

Across a near 30-year career, Alastair has worked across a variety of disciplines including chemistry, oil and gas, sales, OHS leadership, consulting and facilitation. He is an experienced WHS Manager, Fellow of both the Australian Institute of Management (AIMWA) and Australian Institute of Health and Safety (AIHS), Mental Health First Aid instructor, ICF Coach, certified AIHS OHS practitioner and Psychological Safety practitioner.

Alastair is co-author of the AIHS Body of Knowledge (BoK) chapter on Mental Health for Occupational Road Users and developed the Fearless Teams program for health, safety and performance.



Julia Whitford

Chief Executive Officer, Australian Institute of Health & Safety

Julia brings more than 25 years of experience in membership-based organisations, primarily in the not-for-profit sector, and was previously Chief Operating Officer at the Australian HR Institute. Her track record covers member experience and loyalty, commercial growth, and customer and stakeholder relationships.

She has built and executed business strategy, and provides the leadership and vision to grow organisations and secure their financial strength. Julia holds an MBA from the Australian Institute of Business.



Sally North

WorkSafe Commissioner, WorkSafe WA

Sally North is the WorkSafe Commissioner for Western Australia, leading the state's work health and safety regulator with a strong focus on prevention, integrity, and community impact. With a background in chemistry, OSH, occupational hygiene, and business administration, she brings deep knowledge and practical experience from both industry and regulatory roles. Sally is a passionate advocate for evidence-based decision-making and values-driven leadership to create safer, healthier workplaces.



Rebecca Harris

Acting CEO, WorkCover WA

With over 15 years as a senior executive, Rebecca Harris is a high performer with a focus on strengthening workers compensation and injury management to achieve positive results for workers and employers.

Rebecca has led and delivered on major reform agendas with a focus on public sector regulation and compliance, leadership and capability, and workforce practice and diversity. She has a proven track record of successfully leading teams and implementing complex legislative and policy projects.

As the A/CEO of WorkCover WA, Rebecca leads the strategic direction of the Western Australian workers compensation scheme - driving reform to improve outcomes for injured workers, employers and the community while strengthening system performance and sustainability.

Rebecca holds a Master of Education and Master of Public Administration and Management.



Owen Whittle

Chairperson, Work Health and Safety Commission

Owen was appointed Chairperson of the Work Health and Safety Commission in June 2025. Before that he was a member of the Commission for nearly a decade, a member of the Ministerial Advisory Panel into Work Health and Safety Reform, and a non-executive director of WorkCover WA.

As Secretary and Assistant Secretary of UnionsWA between 2012 and 2020 he campaigned extensively for workplace safety reform, spearheading the union movement's campaigning to establish protections for psychosocial safety, industrial manslaughter laws and improved resourcing for safety regulators.

He is currently Chief Executive Officer of West Australian Music, the peak advocacy body for contemporary and live music, and a member of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal.



Alena Titterton

Partner, Johnson Winter Slattery

Alena Titterton is a partner at the law firm Johnson Winter Slattery where she leads the firm's health and safety practice nationally. Dual qualified in law and psychology, Alena has been practicing in health and safety for 20 years, focused on enabling success in operations through system design and review, officer due diligence and capability building with her clients as well as providing empathic legal support when things go wrong through her work in 24/7 incident response, investigation, coronial inquests, and defendant representation in health and safety prosecutions.



Celia Antonovsky

Chair, AIHS

Celia is a health and safety professional whose career spans oil and gas, mining, construction and transport. In recent years she has been responsible for worker and passenger safety outcomes on a large public transport contract in Western Australia.

She joined the AIHS WA Committee in 2016 and has since held the roles of Young Safety Professionals Coordinator, Branch Secretary and Deputy Chair, and for the past four years Chair of the WA Branch. She is in her second term as a Non-Executive Director on the national board. She advocates for the profession by coordinating AIHS submissions to government on draft legislation, representing industry in the development of university courses, and hosting education and networking events.

Celia believes in evidence-based practice and the value of strong, cohesive peer networks. With the WA Committee she has overseen monthly safety sundowners, quarterly Body of Knowledge breakfasts and the annual safety symposium. She holds a Bachelor of Psychology and a Master of Occupational Health and Safety, and is a Fellow of the AIHS.



Associate Professor Kate Blackwood

Acting Director, MARS Centre — an ECU Industry Collaboration Centre for the mining sector

Associate Professor Kate Blackwood is Acting Director of the Mental Awareness, Respect and Safety (MARS) Centre at Edith Cowan University, funded through the WA Government's MARS Program. Her research focuses on creating mentally healthy, safe, and respectful workplaces, with particular expertise in psychosocial risk management and the prevention of workplace bullying. Kate works closely with industry partners to translate research into practical, evidence-based solutions that improve worker wellbeing, psychosocial safety, and organisational performance. Before joining Edith Cowan University, she was based at Massey University in New Zealand, where she co-directed the Healthy Work Group. Her research has been published in leading academic and industry outlets, including *Personnel Review* and *Safety Science*, and she has secured approximately AU\$3.5 million in external research funding. Through her research, industry engagement, and leadership, Kate is committed to supporting organisations to build healthier, safer, and more productive workplaces.



Marcus Cattani

Professorial Research Fellow, Minerals Industry Safety and Health Centre, Sustainable Minerals Institute, University of Queensland

Marcus Cattani is a researcher focussing on the prevention of workplace injuries, disease and fatalities. He is a Professorial Research Fellow in the Sustainable Minerals Institute's, Minerals Industry Safety and Health Centre at the University of Queensland. His expertise concerns the management of organisational injury and incident risk, managing exposure to workplace hazards and modelling safety data and information to improve the communication of risk. Marcus is an Australian Institute of Health and Safety Board member and Chair of the College of Fellows.



Ian Counsell

Freelance HSEQ professional
ChOHSP, FAIHS

Ian has been an AIHS member for 30 years and a Fellow since 2009. A freelance HSEQ professional, he holds a Master of Health & Safety and a Graduate Certificate in Mental Health and Neuroscience.

He is passionate about health and safety, lifelong learning and helping the next generation of safety professionals succeed.



William (Bill) Byrne

Director and Principal Consultant, P3RSS
FAIHS, MOHS, GradCert-OHS, BScChem

Bill is a seasoned WHS/OHSE professional with over 35 years' experience across resources, construction, utilities, health services, local government and academia. At P3RSS he delivers strategic OHS management system solutions and long-term improvement programs.

His career spans all levels of WHS/OHSE roles, complemented by expertise as a consultant, integrated management system auditor, and trainer in WHS management systems, due diligence and ICAM investigations.

An adjunct lecturer in postgraduate OHS studies, Bill has co-authored research on fishing industry fatalities and completed his Masters research on safe work method statements. His academic work has earned national recognition, including the AIHS Postgraduate Education Award (2021) and the WHS Law Excellence Award (2017).

A committed advocate for safety, Bill serves on the AIHS WA Branch Committee, is past coordinator of the Perth Safety Symposium, and was recently accepted into the AIHS College of Fellows.



Elena Lennox

Principal Consultant, DevelopMental Safety & Wellbeing
Founder, Courageous Women

Elena Lennox is Principal Consultant of DevelopMental Safety & Wellbeing and Founder of Courageous Women. An educator with a Postgraduate Certificate in Human Resources, she works with boards, executive leaders, WHS and HR professionals to strengthen psychosocial safety, manage operational risk and build sustainable performance across complex organisations.

Her research examines how lawful, well-intended organisational systems can unintentionally create psychological harm, increasing both people risk and operational exposure. Her white paper, *Systems that Cause Harm in the Workplace: How to Redesign them for Psychological Safety*, integrates practitioner insight, WHS obligations and contemporary research to bridge the gap between compliance, culture and performance.

Elena designs and leads implementation-focused programs that translate psychosocial safety requirements into practical governance and leadership action. Using the Working with Resilience toolbox, she also builds capacity within teams, equipping people with evidence-based strategies to manage demands and sustain wellbeing at work. Her work supports organisations to move beyond policy statements and awareness initiatives, embedding system-level change that reduces harm, strengthens accountability and improves organisational resilience.

Sponsors and exhibitors

THANK YOU TO THE ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTING THE DAY

Visit our sponsors and exhibitors during morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea to see the products and services supporting safer, healthier workplaces in Western Australia.

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