

The Past, Present and Possibilities of Government Law

AGLS Conference
Thursday, 24 September 2026
Hotel Realm Canberra

Program

9:00am **Welcome and Housekeeping**
Tim Shaw
Master of Ceremonies

9:05am **Welcome to Country**
Paul House
Ngambri-Ngunnawal Elder

9:15am **Opening Address**

9:30am **Keynote: From Lawyer to Leader:
What I Learnt about Leadership from Mountain Biking**
Meredith Leigh
First Parliamentary Counsel, Office of Parliamentary Counsel

10:30am Morning break

11:00am **From Policy to Referendum – the Voice to Parliament**
David Lewis
General Counsel (Constitutional), Office of Constitutional Law
Attorney-General's Department

12:00pm **Promoting Worker Wellbeing in Government Legal Practice**
David Cherry
Clinical and Forensic Psychologist

1:00pm Lunch

2:00pm **Panel: Legal Ethics and Integrity in Modern Government Practice**
Andrew Walter
First Assistant Secretary, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Kilifoti Eteuati
Executive General Counsel, Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
Melissa Purdy
Acting General Counsel, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

3:15pm Afternoon break

3:45pm **Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Government Law**
Professor Jeannie Paterson
Director, Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Digital Ethics
Dr Rebecca Azzopardi
Acting Assistant Secretary, Department of Home Affairs

4:45pm **Closing address**