**Waste 2024 Conference Abstract Submission**

**(for face-to-face Conference which includes live broadcast)**

Circular Economy Fashion Recycling Program

*My presentation is relevant to the following topic area(s).*

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| [ ]  | **Aboriginal community waste management** (projects, results, planning, what else to be done) | [ ]  | **National waste policies & programs** (new schemes, opportunities & recent results) |
| [ ]  | **CDS** (new schemes, new containers, innovations) | [ ]  | **Organics** (food only vs FOGO, implementation strategies, new services) |
| [x]  | **Circular economy** (case studies, right to repair, trials, new materials targeted) | [ ]  | **Plastics** (plastics recycling, plastics recovery schemes, small and large scale plastics projects) |
| [ ]  | **Climate change** (new innovations, strategies & policies) | [ ]  | **Problem & hazardous waste** (asbestos, clinical & medical, illegally dumped hazardous waste, systems for managing hazardous materials) |
| [ ]  | **Collections** (innovations, new systems, vehicles, challenges) | [ ]  | **Procurement** (recent process developments, case studies, planning) |
| [ ]  | **Disaster waste management** (bushfires, floods, pandemic) | [ ]  | **Project Planning** (projects currently planned, challenges and barriers, planning controls and conditions, project management) |
| [ ]  | **Economics** (business cases, data gathering, planning for financial impacts, reviews & analyses) | [ ]  | **Product stewardship & extended producer responsibility** (current & planned schemes, new materials to be captured by schemes, local schemes for recovery) |
| [ ]  | **Education** (behaviour change, community engagement, social media, planning FOGO education) | [ ]  | **Recycling & resource recovery** (post China Sword, and export bans, market insights & updates) |
| [ ]  | **Energy from Waste** (projects, case studies) | [ ]  | **Regional issues** (regional responses to waste settings, collaboration, joint projects) |
| [ ]  | **Grants** (major waste grants, outcomes & processes) | [ ]  | **Social enterprise** (new entrants, recent endeavours, case studies) |
| [ ]  | **Infrastructure & planning** (FOGO capacity, new material recovery planning) | [ ]  | **State based issues** (policies, strategies, responses & challenges, border transitions) |
| [x]  | **Innovative projects** (sustainability innovations, artificial intelligence, case studies) | [ ]  | **Strategic waste planning & policy** (stakeholder engagement, strategy development, waste policy impacts and opportunities) |
| [ ]  | **Landfill & facility management** (facility operations management, strategic planning, facility budgeting) | [ ]  | **Technology** (innovations, must haves, how technology will improve or assist with waste responsibilities, AI) |
| [ ]  | **Legislation, regulations & levies** (major updates, monitoring & enforcement, response to changes in regulations) | [ ]  | **Tenders & contracts** (planning, implementation, contract management, innovations, systems & approaches) |
| [x]  | **Litter & illegal dumping** (prevention, new management systems & innovative & smart initiatives, surveillance) | [x]  | **Waste projects** (planned waste infrastructure, how to plan & scope, budgeting, understanding what is required, governance & process planning, case studies) |
|  |  | [x]  | **Other** |

[ ]  **Proposed Panel Discussion** -Proposed topic & participants suitable for key issues that may be addressed by a Panel of presenters. For this category suggest your topic & who you will arrange to attend and present (maximum of 5 panel members).

**Presenter information**

**Presenter name:** Fiona Glenn

**Presenter position:** General Manager

**Presenter organisation:** The Sebastian Foundation

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**Biography**

E-Thread is an environmental and social enterprise that transforms fashion waste into valuable resources and promotes sustainable living. Founded in 2022, E-Thread in conjunction with its local government and charity partners has developed a circular economy model that rescues clothing from landfills and transforms them into new products. E-Thread also educates consumers and businesses about the environmental impact of fashion and encourages them to adopt more mindful and responsible consumption patterns. In 2023, E-Thread partnered with Campbelltown City Council, Sebastian Foundation, and Open Parachute to launch the Circular Economy Fashion Recycling Program, a groundbreaking initiative that combines environmental responsibility with youth mental health awareness. Our shared vision is to create a world where fashion is a force for good, not environmental, or social harm.

**Abstract Summary**

The Circular Economy Fashion Recycling Program is a pioneering Australian Recycling project that addresses the environmental and social challenges posed by fashion waste. The program rescues clothing from landfills and transforms them into valuable resources, while educating consumers and businesses about the environmental impact of fashion. The program also integrates mental health and wellbeing initiatives into Australian schools through partner charities. This program is a collaborative effort between Campbelltown City Council, E-Thread, Sebastian Foundation, and Open Parachute. The program exemplifies environmental leadership and demonstrates the positive impact of local governments and partners on building resilient and environmentally and socially conscious communities.

**Abstract**

Lead in with short video highlighting the Program.

Fashion and textile waste poses a significant environmental and social challenge that requires innovative solutions and collaborations. This abstract presents the Circular Economy Fashion Recycling Program, a pioneering Australian project that aims to address the environmental and social impact of fashion waste.

The program is a collaborative and ground breaking initiative between program partners Campbelltown City Council, E-Thread, Sebastian Foundation, and Open Parachute.

The program adopts a circular economy approach that rescues clothing from households and landfills and transforms them into valuable resources, such as yarn, fabric, insulation, and furniture.

The program also aims to educate consumers and businesses about the environmental implications of fashion and promotes second-hand clothing and responsible consumption. Furthermore, the program integrates mental health and wellbeing initiatives to vulnerable youth in Australian schools through our partner charities, the Sebastian Foundation and Open Parachute creating a holistic approach to community health and well-being.

The presentation will discuss the program's objectives, methods, outcomes, and challenges, and highlight its contribution to environmental leadership and community resilience.

This program demonstrates the positive impact that local governments and partners can have on building environmentally and socially conscious communities through meaningful partnerships and initiatives.