

VICTORIA CONFERENCE PROGRAM 2026

Day 1: Thursday 21 May 2026

6:00–

Welcome reception

Sponsored by:



7:30pm

📍 Samphire Bar, RACV Cape Schanck Resort

👤 Host: Susan Accary, Victoria President, Australian Lawyers Alliance

Day 2: Friday 22 May 2026

8:15am

Registration/exhibitor floor opens

Coffee cart opens

📍 RACV Cape Schanck Resort

Plenary Chair: Susan Accary, Victoria President, Australian Lawyers Alliance

Plenary Sessions 📍 Great Southern Ballroom

8.45am

Welcome to Country



8.50am

Welcome address



Susan Accary, Victoria President, Australian Lawyers Alliance and Head of Legal Transformation, Slater and Gordon Lawyers



Ian Murray, National President, Australian Lawyers Alliance and Partner, The Law Office of Conrad Curry

9:15am

Keynote address:



9:45am

Morning break (30 minutes)

Chair:

Plenary Sessions 📍 Great Southern Ballroom

10:15am

How we change the law: TAC Panel



Megan Caines, Principal and Director, Polaris Lawyers



Jeremy King, Principal, Robinson Gill Lawyers



Geraldine Collins, In-House Counsel, Principal Lawyer, Maurice Blackburn Lawyers



Lauren McKirdy, General Manager Resolutions Group, Transport Accident Commission

11:15am	The Future of Law is Distinctly Human: Skills for the great lawyers of tomorrow 👤 Ellen Hooper, Founder, Ellen Hooper Coaching & Consulting	
12:00pm	Networking lunch (60 minutes)	
	Stream A: Institutional Abuse Intensive Stream 📍 Great Southern Ballroom 1	Stream B 📍 Great Southern Ballroom 2
	Chair:	Chair:
1:00–2:15pm	Panel: Recent updates in institutional abuse – Non-delegable duty, vicarious liability, deed cases and more 👤 Michael Magazanik, Partner, Rightside Legal 👤 Jay Chandramohan, Barrister, Lennon’s List 👤 David Seeman, Lennon’s List Barristers 👤 Katharine Gladman, Foleys List Barristers	1:00–1:40pm An Evidence Masterclass: Hearsay, Admissibility of related convictions and a close look at Order 44 👤 Gabriel Chipkin, Barrister, Victorian Bar 👤 Alice Robinson, Principal Lawyer & Director, Polaris Lawyers 👤 Viola Katotas, Barrister, Devers List
		1:40–2:15pm Serious Injury Applications – Causation What needs to be established in the context of <i>Findlay v TAC</i> 👤 Maria Pilipasidis SC, Barrister, Lennon’s List
2:15pm	Afternoon break (25 minutes)	
	Chair:	
	Plenary Sessions 📍 Great Southern Ballroom	
2:40pm	Workers compensation panel 👤 Alisha Muscara, Senior Practice Leader, Slater and Gordon Lawyers 👤 Lisa Paul, Principal Lawyer, Robinson Gill Lawyers	



👤 Divina Moodley, Principal Lawyer & Director, Polaris Lawyers

3:40pm



The future of law

👤 Kai Riemer, Professor of Information Technology & Organisation, Co-Director, Sydney Executive Plus, The University of Sydney Business School

👤 Associate Professor Sandra Peter, Co-Director, Sydney Executive Plus, The University of Sydney Business School

4:25pm

AI use – Case discussion

👤 Nick Mann, Founder and Principal, Polaris Lawyers

👤 Estelle Petrie, Senior Associate, Robinson Gill Lawyers

👤 Felix Ralph, criminal defence lawyer and Partner, MJR Criminal and Migration Lawyers

5:10pm

Conference close

7:00–

11:00pm

Conference dinner

📍 RACV Cape Schanck Resort

Host:

👤 Susan Accary, Victoria President, Australian Lawyers Alliance

Dinner speakers:

👤 Tom Ballantyne, Principal Lawyer, Maurice Blackburn Lawyers and LIV
Deputy President

👤 Fiona Ryan SC, Barrister and President, Victorian Bar

Sponsored by:



Day 3: Saturday 23 May 2026

8:30am	Registration/exhibitor floor opens 📍 Coffee cart opens		
	Stream A 📍 Great Southern Ballroom 1	Stream B: 📍 Great Southern Ballroom 2	Stream C 📍 Flinders 1
	Chair:	Chair:	Chair
9:00–9.45am	Brain and spine injuries in the medicolegal arena: A neurosurgeon’s guide to diagnosis, prognosis, and pitfalls for personal injury lawyers 🗣️ Professor Richard Bittar, Neurosurgeon, Medicolegal Express	The Snakes and Ladders adventure of 130 week weekly payment terminations 🗣️ Lisa Paul, Principal Lawyer, Robinson Gill 🗣️ Nadia Grech, Legal Counsel, Slater and Gordon Lawyers	Identifying liability in plant and machinery incidents – when a view matters 🗣️ Roger Lewis, Senior Consulting Engineer, Dohrmann Consulting 🗣️ James McDonald, Forensic Engineer, Dohrmann Consulting
9:45–10:30am	Understanding the nature of Chronic Pain 🗣️ Dr Nick Christelis, Director, Pain Specialists Australia 🗣️ Dr Symon McCallum, Pain Specialist and Anaesthetist, Medicolegal Express & Precision Brain Spine and Pain	The Split Decision: Abandoning economic loss with a Both Heads Certificate 🗣️ Sha Hotchin, Senior Legal Counsel, Work and Road Claims, Slater and Gordon Lawyers 🗣️ Ashleigh Kemp, Senior Managing Solicitor, Law Partners	TPD and why the party tricks are drying up: A personal injury lawyer’s guide to the evolving world of disability insurance law 🗣️ Josh Boyes, Special Counsel, Margalit Injury Lawyers

10:30am

Morning break (30 minutes)


Plenary Chair:


Plenary Sessions  Great Southern Ballroom

11:00am



An interactive legal ethics panel


 John Valiotis, Barrister, Lennon's List Barristers


 Stephen Jurica, Barrister, Lennon's List Barristers

12:00pm



Case review panel

 Ben Hill, Barrister, Lennon's List Barristers

 Tim Tobin SC, Barrister, Lennon's List Barristers


 Emily Anderson, Barrister, Lennon's List Barristers

 Jessie Taylor, Barrister, Victorian Bar

 Yusur Al-Azzawi, Barrister, Greens List Barristers

1:00pm

Closing address and prize giveaways

 Susan Accary, Victoria President, Australian Lawyers Alliance

1:05pm

Conference close

Total CPD 9.5

The program is subject to change without notice



Ethics and Professional
Responsibility



Practice Management and Business
Skills



Professional Skills



Substantive Law