







## Wednesday 27 May 2026

11.45-2.30pm	<p><b>NAEN Members' Luncheon</b>  <u>MC: Tom Emeus, CEO, NECA Training &amp; Apprenticeships</u></p> <p>Brought to you by our Partner, Apprenticeship Employment Network NSW &amp; ACT</p>	 <p>Arnguli Grill &amp; Restaurant, Desert Gardens Hotel</p>
<p>12.25pm</p> <p>12.50pm</p> <p>1.20pm</p> <p>1.30pm</p>	<p><b>KEYNOTE:</b> Group training and apprenticeship outcomes: Trends, insights and what's changed, <b>Dr Melissa Banelis</b>, Chief Product and Data Officer, National Centre for Vocational Education Research</p> <p><b>KEYNOTE:</b> <b>Belinda Campbell</b>, Department of Employment and Workplace Relations</p> <p><b>KEYNOTE:</b> Leading reform: Scaling apprenticeship innovation in South Australia, <b>Commissioner Cameron Baker</b>, Chair of the South Australian Skills Commission, South Australian Skills Commission</p> <p><b>STATE OF THE STATES:</b></p> <p><b>Jason Sultana</b>, AEN NSW and ACT  <b>Craig Westwood</b>, AEN QLD and NT  <b>Matt Lowe</b>, AEN SA  <b>Stuart Diepeveen</b>, on behalf of AEN WA  <b>Gary Workman</b>, AEN Victoria</p>	
6.00-8.00pm	<p><b>Welcome Reception</b>  Including Q&amp;A session with NITA graduates and students</p> <p>Brought to you by our Partner Apprenticeship Employment Network QLD &amp; NT</p>	 <p>Poolside, Sails in the Desert</p>

**Thursday 28 May 2026**

8.00-8.30am	Arrival tea and coffee	Pre-Function Area, Uluru Meeting Place
<b>8.30-10.00am</b>	<b>Opening plenary</b> MC: <b>Craig Randazzo, For Purpose Consulting</b>	<b>Tjungu Ballroom, Uluru Meeting Place</b>
8.30am	<u>CULTURAL WELCOME:</u> <i>To be announced</i>	
8.45am	<u>CEO WELCOME:</u> <b>Dianne Dayhew, CEO, National Apprentice Employment Network</b>	
8.55am	<u>FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ADDRESS:</u> <b>The Hon. Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Skills and Training</b>	
9.25am	<u>STATE OF THE NATION:</u> <b>Deborah Kelly, AustralianSuper</b>	
9.45-10.15am	Morning tea and exhibition	Wanari Room, Uluru Meeting Place
<b>10.15-11.45</b>	<b>Plenary 2</b> MC: <b>Craig Randazzo, For Purpose Consulting</b>	<b>Tjungu Ballroom, Uluru Meeting Place</b>
10.15am	<u>KEYNOTE:</u> An apprentice's search for meaning, <b>Evie Rushforth, 2025 Australian Apprentice of the Year Address</b>	
10.30am	<u>JSA COMMISSIONER ADDRESS:</u> <b>Professor Barney Glover AO, Commissioner of Jobs and Skills Australia</b>	
11.00am	<u>KEYNOTE:</u> Work has changed — but so have they, <b>Alison Pennington, Chief Economist, The McKell Institute</b>	
11.45-12.45pm	Lunch and exhibition Book signing with Alison Pennington	Wanari Room, Uluru Meeting Place
<b>12.45-1.45pm</b>	<b>Plenary 3</b> MC: <b>Craig Randazzo, For Purpose Consulting</b>	<b>Tjungu Ballroom, Uluru Meeting Place</b>
12.45pm	<u>PANEL:</u> What's going on with apprenticeships? Facilitator: <b>Claire Field, Claire Field &amp; Associates</b> Panelists: <b>Aaron Hines, Director, Training Products and Projects, Service and Creative Skills Australia</b> <b>Emma King OAM, CEO, HumanAbility</b> <b>Adrian Lea, Executive Director, AUSMASA</b> <b>Anthea Middleton, CEO, Powering Skills Organisation</b> <b>Dugald Murray, CEO, Skill Insight</b> <b>Sharon Robertson, CEO, Manufacturing Industry Skills Alliance</b> <b>Brett Schimming, CEO, BuildSkills Australia</b>	
1.35pm	<u>SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT</u>	
1.45-2.15pm	Afternoon tea and exhibition	Wanari Room, Uluru Meeting Place

2.15-4.00pm	<b>Plenary 4</b> MC: <b>Craig Randazzo</b> , For Purpose Consulting	<b>Tjungu Ballroom, Uluru Meeting Place</b>
2.15pm	<u>KEYNOTE WORKSHOP</u> : Micro-storytelling, <b>Jason van Genderen</b> , 11eleven	
3.45pm	<u>MC REFLECTION</u> : <b>Craig Randazzo</b> , For Purpose Consulting	
3.50pm	<u>LUCKY DOOR PRIZE</u> : <b>Dianne Dayhew</b> , National Apprentice Employment Network	
<b>CLOSE OF DAY 1</b>		
5.00pm	Meet the buses for the Sound of Silence Dinner <i>Pick-ups from: Sails in the Desert (including The Lost Camel) and Desert Garden Hotel</i>	
5.30-9.00pm	<b>Sounds of Silence Dinner</b>  Brought to you by our Partners NECA Education & Careers and NECA Training and Apprenticeships	 
9.00-10.00pm	Optional: Join us for a night-cap at the lively Outback Hotel	Outback Hotel

<b>Friday 29 May 2026</b>		
8.15-8.45am	Arrival tea and coffee and exhibition	Wanari Room, Uluru Meeting Place
8.45-11.00am	<b>Plenary 5</b> MC: <b>Craig Randazzo</b> , For Purpose Consulting	<b>Tjungu Ballroom, Uluru Meeting Place</b>
8.45am	<u>MC RECAP</u> : <b>Craig Randazzo</b> , For Purpose Consulting	
8.50am	<u>ANNOUNCEMENT</u> : NAEN 2027 announcement, <b>Dianne Dayhew</b> , National Apprentice Employment Network	
8.55am	<u>LIFE MEMBER PRESENTATION</u> : <b>Tom Emeleus</b> , CEO, NECA Training & Apprenticeships	
9.05am	<u>FEDERAL OPPOSITION ADDRESS</u> : <b>Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price</b> , Shadow Minister for Skills & Training, (invited)	
9.35am	<u>KEYNOTE</u> : Walking strong in two worlds, <b>Michael Liddle</b> , Central Australian Aboriginal Congress	
10.15am	<u>PANEL</u> : AI on the tools: What it means for apprenticeships Facilitator: <b>John Liddicoat</b> , Founder, Octossure Panelists: <b>Lord Ben Bardon</b> , CEO, National Australian Apprenticeships Association <b>Saf Flatters</b> , Project Support Lead, National Apprentice Employment Network <b>Brett McCroary</b> , Senior Manager, Operations (Construction), TAFE NSW <b>Dr Peta Skujins</b> , Future Skills Organisation	
10.45am	<u>PANEL</u> : Fix the system, not the woman: Reforming workplace culture	

	<p>Facilitator: <i>To be announced</i></p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p><b>Johnathan Cook</b>, National Organiser, Australian Workers Union  <b>Cayla Johnston</b>, NECA Training &amp; Apprenticeships, Barnwell Cambridge  <b>Kaitlyn McMahon</b>, Zeal Futures  <b>Kit McMahon</b>, Women In Adult and Vocational Education  <b>Ian Said</b>, Bendigo Kangan Institute of TAFE  <b>Chelsea Watt</b>, Community Solutions, Cassowary Coast Regional Council</p>	
11.15-11.45am	Morning tea and exhibition	Wanari Room, Uluru Meeting Place
<b>11.45-12.45pm</b>	<b>Closing plenary</b> MC: <b>Craig Randazzo</b> , For Purpose Consulting	<b>Tjungu Ballroom,</b> <b>Uluru Meeting Place</b>
11.45am	<u>PANEL:</u> Understanding culture at the Heart Facilitator: To be announced Panelists: <b>Anthony Lew-Fatt</b> , Cultural Journeys <b>To be announced</b>	
12.30pm	<u>KEYNOTE:</u> Micro-storytelling playback, <b>Jason van Genderen</b> , 11eleven	
12.40pm	<u>LUCKY DOOR PRIZE WINNER ANNOUNCED:</u> <b>Dianne Dayhew</b> , National Apprentice Employment Network	
12.45-1.45pm	Networking lunch and exhibition	Wanari Room, Uluru Meeting Place
<b>CLOSE OF NAEN 2026</b>		