



Celebrating a decade of
leadership, innovation
and excellence

2025 LGITSA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

25-26 September 2025
Adelaide Convention Centre



Day 1 – Speakers

Thursday, 25 September 2025

Keynote Speakers



Dr Catherine Ball

Associate Professor
(Honorary)

*The Australian National
University*

An academic, company director, bestselling author, futurist and visionary, Associate Professor, Dr Catherine Ball works across global projects where emerging technologies meet humanitarian, education and environmental needs. Having been called a 'social architect', Catherine also likes to create businesses and champion movements, search for unicorns, collaborate with peers, and advise current and future game-changers.

A champion of diversity and inclusion, Catherine believes we need points of difference to truly innovate and curate the changes we want to see in the world. Working to protect the natural environment and empowering all members of society through mutual education and respect are core aspects of her chosen projects. As well as supporting Australian start-ups and leaders from all generations; Catherine is particularly passionate about social mobility and equity.

Catherine is proud to be an advisor to a broad range of enterprises and philanthropic organisations; i.e. an international advisory board member for the Schmidt Ocean Institute, and an XPRIZE visionary and member of their Global Brains Trust.

Catherine's latest business ventures span angel investments and advisory across the broad emerging technology sector, from insect protein to personalised brain health through AI and neuroscience. Her internationally recognised work on drones and robotics community engagement via the World of Drones and Robotics Global Congress continues and is evolving. Catherine is also proud to be a member of Australia's Robotics Advisory Council.

Catherine holds a BSc Honours (Environmental Protection), and a PhD (Spatial Ecology, Descriptive and Predictive Statistics) both from the University of Newcastle- upon-Tyne in the UK, and recently was awarded a DSc (Doctor of Science Honoris Causa) from Worcester Polytechnic in Massachusetts, USA Catherine lives in Sydney, Australia, with operations out of Los Angeles and London.



Todd Sampson

Entrepreneur,
TV Presenter and
Everest Summiteer

The eclectic life of Todd Sampson began on Cape Breton Island, off the north east coast of Canada. He grew up in modest circumstances. His father was a factory worker for Coca-Cola and his mother a checkout girl for KFC. While neither of them had any formal education, Todd entered university on full scholarship studying biology and economics and then went on to complete an MBA by age 24.

Todd was the national CEO of Leo Burnett Australia - one of the world's leading communication companies - they were recently ranked as the 7th most creative company in the world. He is the co-creator of the Earth Hour initiative - the largest environmental movements in history - reaching over 1.4 billion people in over 5500 cities.

The Financial Review and News Limited ranked him as one of the most influential executives in Australia. He has won CEO of the Year twice and has featured on the cover of BRW magazine. Todd is also the breakout star and co-host of the smash hit ABC show The Gruen Transfer. This unique show is one of the most watched programs on Australian TV - winning multiple international awards including the prestigious Rose d'Or Award for entertainment. He is also a regular host on the Channel 10 news show The Project and has featured on CNN and Sky News.

Todd recently handed his brain over to science to become host and 'human lab rat' in a ground breaking science documentary series called Redesign My Brain. It was one of the most watched Australian science documentaries of all time and won the ACCTA Award (Australian Oscars) for Best TV Documentary of the Year. It's now being shown around the world on the Discovery Channel.

Todd is undoubtedly one of Australia's freshest and interesting TV personalities with the ability to combine intelligent insight, with humility. One reviewer colourfully captured his unique 'science-adventurer' style, "If Bear Grylls had a love child with Brian Cox, it would be Todd Sampson".

He's also climbed to the top of Mount Everest, unguided.

Day 1 – Program

Thursday, 25 September 2025

8:45am - 9:20am	Arrivals and Registration	
9:20am - 9:30am	Welcome and President's Address <i>Naomi Molloy, LGITSA President</i>	
9:30am - 10:00am	10 Years of LGITSA <i>Presidents Panel</i>	
10:00am - 10:45am	Launch AI Toolkit <i>Karin Swiatnik, Consultant & Director, Strategy in the City</i>	
10:45am - 11:15am	Morning Tea	
11:15pm - 11:30pm	Platinum Sponsor Presentation	
11:30am - 12:30pm	Roundtables	Roundtables <i>RIMPA</i>
12:30pm - 1:45am	Keynote Presentation <i>Todd Sampson, CEO, Leo Burnett</i>	
1:45pm - 2:45pm	Lunch	
2:45pm - 3:00pm	LGITSA AGM	
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Case Studies	Case Studies <i>RIMPA</i>
3:30pm - 4:30pm	Keynote Presentation <i>Dr Catherine Ball, Associate Professor (Honorary), The Australian National University</i>	
4:30pm - 4:45pm	Wrap Up and Close	
4:45pm - 6:00pm	Pre Dinner Networking	
6:00pm - 7:00pm	Pre Dinner Nibbles and Drinks	
7:00pm - 11:45pm	Gala Awards Dinner	

Note, this program is subject to change

Day 2 – Speakers

Friday, 26 September 2025

Keynote Speakers



Samantha Gash

Founder & CEO
Her Trails

Samantha Gash is one of Australia's most influential speakers, captivating audiences with her unique blend of heartfelt gripping stories and actionable insights. With vibrant energy and a delivery both relatable and profound, Samantha has been speaking globally for over 15 years. Her talks are curated for each audience and she leverages her varied roles as an adventurer, entrepreneur, mother, social advocate, and former corporate lawyer. She shows that true success is more about building personal confidence, resilience, and purpose than about having innate talent, influencing both personal growth and team dynamics.

Samantha doesn't merely recount a single event but offers a comprehensive tapestry of a career marked by world-class expeditions, impactful social campaigns and corporate insights. She dives into the crux of resilience, transformative growth, and what it entails to be a leader and collaborator with purpose.



Dr Fiona Kerr

Founder & CEO
The NeuroTech Institute

Dr Fiona Kerr is at the forefront of shaping a future that is technology powered and human centred. As founder of The Neurotech Institute, she combines unique expertise across cognitive neuroscience, anthropology, psychology, engineering, and complex system dynamics to address how we use emerging technology, when not to technologise, and ethical practices.

Her trailblazing research debunked the assumption that humans exhibit the same level of complex and moral decision-making when interacting with trusted autonomous systems as they would with another human in close proximity. This critical discovery holds implications for defence personnel, doctors, surgeons, analysts, CEO's and first responders and how they work with technology. Fiona is a trusted advisor on ethical use of artificial intelligence, serving a range of board and organisational roles. She is also a skilled science communicator, delivering numerous keynotes annually.

Day 2 – Program

Friday, 26 September 2025

8:30am - 9:00am	Arrivals and Registration	
9:00am - 10:00am	Breakfast and Welcome	
10:00am - 10:15am	Platinum Sponsor Presentation	
10:15am - 10:45am	Panel Presentation	
10:45am - 11:45am	Guest Speaker Presentation	
11:45am - 1:00pm	Keynote Presentation <i>Samantha Gash, Founder & CEO, Her Trails</i>	
1:00pm - 2:00pm	Lunch	
2:00pm - 2:15pm	Platinum Sponsor Presentation	
2:15pm - 2:45pm	Guest Speaker Presentation <i>Mark Eldridge, Whitehat OT</i>	Guest Speaker Presentation <i>State Records</i>
2:45pm - 3:15pm	Guest Speaker Presentation	Case Studies <i>Local Governments</i>
3:15pm - 3:45pm	Afternoon Tea	
2:30pm - 3:15pm	Keynote Presentation <i>Dr Fiona Kerr, Founder & CEO, The NeuroTech Institute</i>	
4:00pm - 5:00pm	Conference Close and Networking	

Note, this program is subject to change

Registration

Registration for the 2025 LGITSA National Conference is open now. Early registration is encouraged, as spots are limited.

Register online via the [LGITSA website](#).

The 2025 LGITSA National Conference is open to LGITSA members, local government employees, local government organisations, and sponsors.

Pricing

Conference and Dinner Member	\$880.00
Conference (no dinner) Member	\$758.00
Conference One Day Only Member	\$376.00
Dinner – Member	\$127.00
Conference & Dinner Non Member	\$1,204.00
Conference (no dinner) Non Member	\$1,008.00
Conference One Day Only Non Member	\$504.00
Dinner – Non Member	\$197.00

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