AIHS

Safety Symposium

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Learning from Experience, Leading with Insight

Welcome

Discover how new ideas, shared experiences, and professional insight can shape the future of workplace health and safety. This event brings together leaders, practitioners, and innovators to explore emerging challenges, reflect on the profession's journey, and showcase approaches that drive meaningful change.

Be inspired by thought-provoking talks, gain practical takeaways you can apply in your work, and connect with others committed to advancing safer, healthier, and more respectful workplaces.

Key details

Thursday
16 October 2025

9am–5pm
Networking 5–6pm

QT Canberra
1 London Cct, Canberra

GETTING THERE

QT Canberra is located in the heart of NewActon, just a short walk from Canberra's CBD and only 15 minutes' drive from Canberra Airport. The hotel has limited on-site parking available for guests, with additional paid parking options nearby. Taxis, rideshare, and airport shuttle services are also convenient and widely available.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Transport Canberra buses run regularly through the city, with stops along London Circuit and nearby Marcus Clarke Street, only a few minutes' walk from the hotel. Services connect easily to Canberra Airport, City Interchange, and major precincts across the city. For timetables and route details, visit transport.act.gov.au

Program

TIME	SESSION
8:30am	**REGISTRATIONS OPEN**
9:15	**WELCOME & INTRODUCTION** Xin Li – *ACT Branch Chair, AIHS*
9:30	**KEYNOTE: HALF A CENTURY IN SAFETY – A PROFESSIONAL REFLECTION OF A HIGH PROFILE AIHS LIFE FELLOW** David Segrott – *Director, Australian Health & Safety Services*
10:00	**SAFE WORK AUSTRALIA EVIDENCE AND WHS DATA REPORTING** Phillip Wise – *Director, Data Improvement & Analysis, Safe Work Australia*
10:40	**MORNING TEA / NETWORKING**
11:00	**MEETING 'THE BAR' IN AUSTRALIA'S PSYCHOSOCIAL LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK** Patrick Ritchie – *Senior Associate, MinterEllison National*
11:50	**SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT – ADVANCING THE POSITIVE DUTY TOWARDS REDUCING HARMFUL BEHAVIOURS** Penelope Twemlow – *COO, Safety & Risk Specialist, Phinteq*
12:30	**LUNCH / NETWORKING**
1:30	**DESIGNING-OUT DANGER: PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR MANAGING WORK-RELATED VIOLENCE AND AGGRESSION** Panel facilitated by Rachael Taylor – *Principal Consultant, Work Science*

Note: Program subject to change. Issued 17/09/25.

TIME	SESSION
2:50	**AFTERNOON TEA / NETWORKING**
3:10	**TAKING A LEARNING TEAMS APPROACH TO PSYCHOSOCIAL INCIDENTS** Georgina Poole – *Co-Founder & Director, Event Learning Australia*
4:40	**WRAP UP & CLOSING REMARKS** Xin Li – *ACT Branch Chair, AIHS*
5:00	**NETWORKING HOUR**

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Register Now

www.aihs.org.au/symposiums

Speakers

Michelle Boundy (EMCEE)

FOUNDER,
SHE INSPIRES ME (AUSTRALIA)

Michelle has over 30 years in Government roles and is a nationally recognised expert in Workplace Safety, Wellbeing and Culture. She has led award-winning wellbeing programs that set new standards across the public sector and beyond.

As Community Kindness Champion for the Stay Kind Foundation, she spearheaded initiatives like the 50 Walks Project, raising awareness and funds for mental health—work recognised in NSW Parliament. In 2023, she founded She Inspires Me and launched the viral Tell Your Story initiative, later expanding into the She Has the Courage to Lead podcast.

With more than 27,000 LinkedIn followers, Michelle continues to inspire change, empower women, and champion safer, more respectful workplaces nationwide.

Please see aihs.org.au/events for full bio.

David Segrott

DIRECTOR, AUSTRALIAN HEALTH
& SAFETY SERVICES

David Segrott, has worked in the safety field in a number of senior roles over the last 50 years and currently is Director and Principal Consultant of Australian Health and Safety Services, a consultancy service he started in 2000.

Coming from an operational management background David's focus on safety is ensuring that it is embedded into how the business operates on a day to day basis. His philosophy is "I won't do it to you, I won't do it for you, I will do it with you"

David has a very broad client base, from cultural institutions, schools, commercial printing, construction and even thoroughbred horse racing.

David has been an AIHS member for more than 30 years and is a Life Fellow.

Phillip Wise

DIRECTOR, DATA IMPROVEMENT &
ANALYSIS, SAFE WORK AUSTRALIA

Phillip is the Director of Data Improvement and Analysis at Safe Work Australia.

His team is responsible for building and maintaining a national evidence base on work health and safety and workers' compensation issues to inform policies that shape healthier, safer and productive workplaces. This includes producing data on work-related fatalities, injuries, illnesses, and return-to-work experiences, as well as reporting and insights into the work health and safety trends affecting workers and employers.

Prior to joining Safe Work Australia, Phil worked in Labour Market Research and Analysis for the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and the Census program at the Australian Bureau of Statistics. He holds a Mathematics degree from the University of Wollongong with honours in Applied Statistics.

Patrick Ritchie

SENIOR ASSOCIATE,
MINTERELLISON

Pat is a senior workplace lawyer with broad domestic and international experience across employment, industrial relations, and workplace health and safety (WHS).

He advises public and private sector clients on complex matters including WHS prosecutions, unfair dismissal, adverse action, discrimination claims, and workplace investigations. Known for his strategic insight and litigation expertise, Pat brings a practical, solutions-focused approach to both advisory and contentious workplace issues.

Georgina Poole

**CO-FOUNDER & DIRECTOR,
EVENT LEARNING AUSTRALIA**

Georgina is a respected health and safety leader, keynote speaker, and advocate for Human and Organisational Performance (HOP), with over 17 years of experience helping organisations improve safety culture and outcomes.

A doctoral researcher in Safety Science and host of the Leading Safely podcast—streamed in over 100 countries—Georgina is known for her practical insights on building learning organisations and creating systems that support people to fail safely. She is the co-founder of Event Learning Australia and recently co-authored her first book with Professor Sidney Dekker, *Random Noise - Measuring Your Company's Safety Performance.*

Penelope Twemlow

**COO, SAFETY & RISK SPECIALIST,
PHINTEQ**

Penelope is a multi-degree qualified professional with over 25 years' experience in strategic and operational management, program and project delivery, risk, safety, governance and compliance. She brings strong people leadership, cultural and communication skills across diverse sectors, including service in the Australian Defence Force.

Currently Chief Operations Officer and Principal Consultant at Phinteq, Penelope advises Commonwealth government, Defence, mining, energy and resource clients nationally and internationally. With recent studies in Nuclear Regulatory Law, she also provides specialist expertise in nuclear safety, policy and regulation.

Recognised as an innovator and leader, Penelope combines resilience, stamina and humour with vision and entrepreneurship. Her accolades include the Queensland Telstra Business Women's Award for Social Enterprise and Not-For-Profit, three Women in Industry Awards, APAC CEO of the Year, Canberra's Women of Spirit Award and the Women in Defence Award for People and Culture.

Please see aihs.org.au/events for full bio.

Rachael Taylor

**PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT,
WORK SCIENCE**

Rachael is an AIHS Chartered OHS Professional with proven expertise in safety, health, wellbeing, injury management, and workers' compensation premium management across a range of industries including government, transport, property, manufacturing, and retail. She is skilled at assisting clients to enhance business health and safety performance by developing effective strategies that focus on building leadership capability, streamlining safety management systems, implementing critical processes, and driving risk mitigation initiatives. Rachael is a respected leader and adviser to management who is recognised for her integrity, energy, and enthusiasm, underpinned by a strong technical knowledge base.

Panellists

Jacqui Agius

Work Health Safety and Labour Hire Licencing Commissioner. With a wealth of experience in workplace health and safety, Jacqui Agius brings invaluable expertise in WHS Law and Regulation to the discussion. As the WHS and LHL Commissioner, she spearheads initiatives to ensure compliance and promote safety across various sectors.

Peta Mercieca

Peta has worked in healthcare for over 18 years, specialising in the prevention and management of work related violence and aggression for the last 7 years. Peta is a certified OHS Professional with AIHS. She has been involved with the AIHS ACT Branch committee for the previous 3 years. Peta is passionate about WHS, specifically psychosocial safety. Holding a Masters Degree in WHS and currently studying Psychology.

Prof. Gary Mortimer

Professor Gary Mortimer is an active researcher in the areas of retail marketing and consumer behaviour. Gary has spent over 25 years working with some of Australia's largest general merchandise and food retailers. He has worked closely with the National Retail Association (NRA) on multiple industry research projects and the Australian Retailers Association (ARA) as Chair of the Consumer Research Advisory Committee. Gary has spent the last 15 years with Queensland University of Technology (QUT). As an active researcher in consumer behaviour and retail marketing, he has published almost 70 peer reviewed, international publications.

PLEASE SEE FULL BIOS ONLINE AT **WWW.AIHS.ORG.AU/EVENTS**

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