

2025 National
Forum on
Australia's
Wellbeing

THIRD NATIONAL FORUM ON AUSTRALIA'S WELLBEING



Wellbeing in Action

An economy that enables
people, communities, business,
and nature to thrive

October 21-23 2025

Ann Harding Conference Centre,
Canberra & Virtual

The 3rd National Forum on Australia's Wellbeing acknowledges the Ngunnawal people, traditional custodians of the lands where the University of Canberra's Bruce Campus is situated. We wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of Canberra and the region. We also acknowledge all other First Nations Peoples on whose lands we gather.

ABOUT THE FORUM

The National Forum on Australia's Wellbeing is the leading event for researchers, policymakers, industry professionals, practitioners, and advocates working to build an economy that enables people, communities, business, and nature to thrive. Now in its third year, the Forum brings together diverse voices from government, business, community, and academia to share insights, explore innovations, and strengthen the growing movement for wellbeing-centred decision making.

In 2025, the Forum shifts from setting the wellbeing agenda to putting it into action. It will explore best practices Australia could adopt across the community, business, and government sectors to create thriving wellbeing for people and the planet.

3 *Key* THEMES FOR 2025



COMMUNITIES AND GRASSROOTS ACTION

How communities are driving systems change to shape wellbeing



REDEFINING BUSINESS

How the private sector and social enterprise can contribute to increasing wellbeing



GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY

How wellbeing can be embedded in policy, budgeting, and regulatory frameworks

THIRD NATIONAL FORUM ON AUSTRALIA'S WELLBEING

2025 National
Forum on
Australia's
Wellbeing

DAY 1 PROGRAM

Tuesday, 21 October, 8:30am-6:30pm

REGISTRATION (8.30-9.00 AM), FOYER

ALL SESSIONS ON DAY 1 WILL BE IN HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM

- 9:00-9:10 AM WELCOME TO COUNTRY**
Aunty Violet Sheridan
- 9:10-9:20 AM WELCOME & INTRODUCTION TO CONFERENCE**
The Honourable Bill Shorten, Vice-Chancellor and President, University of Canberra
- 9:20-9:50 AM THE CURRENT STATE OF WELLBEING IN AUSTRALIA**
Jacki Schirmer (University of Canberra) & TBC
Chair: Simon Faivel (Social Ventures Australia)
- 9:50-11:00 AM KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**
SETTING THE SCENE: A VISION FOR THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY, BUSINESS, AND GOVERNMENT IN CREATING AN ECONOMY THAT ENABLES WELLBEING FOR ALL
Lorenzo Fioramonti (NATIVA); Chair: Simon Faivel (Social Ventures Australia)

MORNING TEA (11.00-11.30 AM), FOYER

- 11:30-12:30 PM SESSION 1: WHOLE GOVERNMENT POLICY - LESSONS LEARNED**
Kinga Tshering (Founder of the Institute of Happiness, Bhutan), Matt Donoghue (Department of Treasury and Finance, Victoria State Government), Angela Jackson (Australian Government Productivity Commission); Chair: Andrew Hudson (Centre for Policy Development)

LUNCH (12:30-1:15 PM), FOYER

- 1:15-2:30 PM SESSION 2: FUTURE GENERATIONS - HOW DO WE PROVIDE THE FOUNDATIONS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS WELLBEING?**
Taylor Dee Hawkins (Foundations for Tomorrow), Sophie Scamps MP (Federal Member for Mackellar), Angelica Ojinnaka-Psillakis (Future Healthy Countdown 2030), Amie Furlong (Foundations for Tomorrow); Chair: Taylor Dee Hawkins (Foundation for Tomorrow)
- 2:30-3:00 PM KEYNOTE PRESENTATION (VIRTUAL)**
Carrie Exton (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, OECD); Chair: Mike Salvaris (University of Melbourne)
- 3:00-4:00 PM PANEL: WHAT IS THE ROLE OF GROWTH IN THE ECONOMY? DO WE NEED GROWTH? IF SO WHAT TYPE OF GROWTH?**
Katherine Trebeck (The Next Economy), Richard Denniss (The Australia Institute), Angela Jackson (Australian Government Productivity Commission); Chair: Warwick Smith (Centre for Policy Development)

NETWORKING (4:00-4:30 PM), FOYER

- 4:30-6:30 PM "PURPOSE" MOVIE SCREENING + Q&A**
Lorenzo Fioramonti (NATIVA), Katherine Trebeck (The Next Economy); Chair: Di Bowles (Centre for Policy Development)

THIRD NATIONAL FORUM ON AUSTRALIA'S WELLBEING

2025 National Forum on Australia's Wellbeing

DAY 2 PROGRAM

Wednesday, 22 October, 8:30am-9:00pm

REGISTRATION (8.30-8.50 AM), FOYER (MOVE TO CONFERENCE ROOM AT 8.50AM FOR CONFERENCE START)

9:00-10:00 AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS 1

SESSION 1.1: ECONOMIC MODELS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE (CONFERENCE ROOM)

Kaj Löfgren (Regen Melbourne), Martin Geissdoerfer (Monash Sustainable Development Institute), Lachlan Feggans (Brambles); Chair: Alejandra Mendoza Alcantara (Monash University)

SESSION 1.2: COMMERCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH AND WELLBEING (GOOD AND BAD) - SETTING THE PRIORITIES FOR A NEW TRANSLATION CENTRE (SEMINAR ROOM)

Sharon Friel (Australian National University), Gary Sacks (Deakin University), Bonnie Matheson (VicHealth); Chair: Jonathan Finighan (Social Ventures Australia)

MORNING TEA (10:00-10.30 AM), FOYER

10:30-11:30 AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS 2

SESSION 2.1: IMPROVING CHILD WELLBEING AND REINVENTING SCHOOLS FOR WELLBEING (CONFERENCE ROOM)

Sharon Goldfeld (Murdoch Children's Research Institute), Lindsay Oades (University of Melbourne), Angelica Ojinnaka-Psillakis (Future Healthy Countdown 2030); Chair: Angelica Ojinnaka-Psillakis (Future Healthy Countdown 2030)

SESSION 2.2: BUSINESS INCORPORATING SOCIAL VALUE MEASURES AND TARGETS (SEMINAR ROOM)

Justin Vaughan (Indigenous Business Australia), Justine Felton (Stockland), Daniel Marlay (Ernst & Young) and Regan Lu (Department of Veterans' Affairs); Chair: Siobhan Henderson (Australian Unity)

11:30-12:30 PM

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

WELLBEING IN SCHOOLS AND FOR YOUTH (CONFERENCE ROOM)

Gweneth Leigh (University of Canberra), Emma Knight & Paul Campbell (Australian National University), Paul Campbell (Australian National University); Chair: Sharon Goldfeld (Murdoch Children's Research Institute)

FILLING THE GAPS IN WELLBEING MEASUREMENT (SEMINAR ROOM)

Franka Vaughan (University of Melbourne), Matthew Iasiello (BeWell Co/University of Adelaide), Marketa Reeves (University of Western Australia); Chair: Jacki Schirmer (University of Canberra)

LUNCH (12:30-1:20 PM), FOYER

1:20-2:20 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS 3

SESSION 3.1: HOW WELLBEING BUDGETS OR FRAMEWORKS ARE TRANSFORMING OUTCOMES ACROSS EACH STATE? (CONFERENCE ROOM)

Matt Donoghue (Department of Treasury and Finance, Victoria State Government), Xuan Deng (NSW Treasury), Eleanor Williams (Australian Centre for Evaluation); Lauren Clift (ACT Government, Wellbeing Branch) Chair: Nicole Ducker (Centre for Policy Development)

SESSION 3.2: BUILDING WELLBEING INTO LOCAL COMMUNITY INITIATIVES (SEMINAR ROOM)

Kate Sollis (Bega Valley Data Collective), Shayne Hyman (Stratford Community Association), Lexi Randall-L'Estrange/Melina Chan (Castlemaine Institute), Brydie Leigh-Bartleet (Creative Change Project & Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University); Chair: Geoff Woolcock (University of Southern Queensland)

2:20-3:20 PM

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

COMMUNITIES & GRASSROOTS ACTION (ROOM 22B14)

Jodie Cooper (Positive Psychology), Michelle Macaskill (Hauraki Opportunity Case Study, NZ; Huber Social), Annie Smits (Neighbourhood Economics) & Alison Holloway (SGS Economics and Planning); Chair: Kim Houghton (University of Canberra)

GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC POLICY (SEMINAR ROOM)

Adelajda Soltysik (Centre for Policy Development), Joanne Rathbone (Australian National University), Chelsea Hunnisett (Australian National University), Jane Body (Think Forward); Chair: Ryan Martin (Centre for Policy Development)

REDEFINING BUSINESS (CONFERENCE ROOM)

Vanessa Pilla (Pathmaker), Natalie Paine (ANZ), Emilie Perrot (WeInclusive), Darren Coppin (Azurum Pty Ltd); Chair: Min Seto (Australian Social Value Bank)

AFTERNOON TEA (3:20-3:40 PM), FOYER

3:40-4:40 PM WORKSHOP: SELLING AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET TO AUSTRALIANS (CONFERENCE ROOM)

Melissa Coade (The Mandarin), Lachlan Williams (The Shape Agency), Andrew Reeves (The Royals); Chair: Melissa Coade (The Mandarin)

6:00-10:00 PM CONFERENCE DINNER (THE MARION, BARRINE DR, PARKES) HOW TO MAKE WELLBEING A POLITICAL PRIORITY

Benson Saulo (The Torch), Adam Vise (Australian Unity); Chair: Simon Faivel (Social Ventures Australia)

THIRD NATIONAL FORUM ON AUSTRALIA'S WELLBEING

2025 National
Forum on
Australia's
Wellbeing

DAY 3 PROGRAM

Thursday, 23 October, 8:30am-2:30pm

REGISTRATION (8.30-9.00 AM)

9:00-9:30 AM

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION (CONFERENCE ROOM) **PREVENTING PLANETARY HEALTH INEQUITY: A KEY PATHWAY TO WELLBEING**

Professor Sharon Friel (Director, Planetary Health Equity Hothouse, Australian National University)

9:30-10:30 AM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 4

SESSION 4.1: TRANSFORMATIONAL FUNDING MODELS FOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING (CONFERENCE ROOM)

Sarah Hardy (Philanthropy Australia), Ian Bird (Community Foundations Australia), Natalie Egleton (Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal); Chair: Melissa Kennedy (Deakin University)

SESSION 4.2: THE ROLE OF DATA - HOW WE DRIVE THE MEASUREMENT OF WELLBEING FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET (SEMINAR ROOM)

Jacki Schirmer (University of Canberra), Kinga Tshering (Founder of the Institute of Happiness, Bhutan), Andrew McDonald (Productivity Commission), Katherine Trebeck (The Next Economy); Kristi Mansfield (Seer Data and Analytics); Chair: Jacki Schirmer (University of Canberra)

MORNING TEA (10:30-11.00 AM)

11:00-12:00 PM

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION (CONFERENCE ROOM) **LIVING WELL WITH NATURE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN LAW, POLICY AND BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE**

*Pastor Ray Minniecon (Scarred Tree Ministries), Liam Smith (Monash Sustainable Development Institute), Erin O'Donnell (University of Melbourne)
Chair: Kate Sollis (University of Tasmania)*

12:00-1:00 PM

WORDS TO ACTION: SHAPE THE FUTURE OF WELLBEING IN AUSTRALIA (CONFERENCE ROOM)

Simon Faivel (Social Ventures Australia)

LUNCH (1:00-2:00 PM)

2:00-2:30 PM

CONFERENCE CLOSE (CONFERENCE ROOM)

Simon Faivel (Social Ventures Australia)

THE THIRD NATIONAL FORUM ON AUSTRALIA'S WELLBEING:

Is supported by a collaborative organising committee from University of Canberra, Australian Unity, Deakin University, Australian National Development Index, Australian Social Values Bank, Centre for Policy Development, Monash Sustainable Development Institute, and University of Tasmania.

And made possible through our valued partners:

PLATINUM SPONSOR



GOLD SPONSOR



SILVER SPONSORS



BRONZE SPONSORS



MONASH
University

MONASH
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE



DEAKIN
UNIVERSITY