

Conference Program



NATIONAL SAFETY CONFERENCE

2026

Sofitel Wentworth Sydney | 17 - 19 March 2026

Explore ways to get involved as a sponsor or exhibitor [here](#)

Platinum Partner



Gold Partners



Silver Partners



Bronze Partners



Exhibitors



Welcome Reception Partner



nationalsafetyconference.com.au



Health and Safety Engagement Software for Tomorrow's Best Workplaces

ecoPortal is a purpose-built software solution that creates engaged safety cultures and healthier environments.

In the 2025 EHS Green Quadrant, independent research and advisory firm Verdantix recognised ecoPortal as an engaging, easy-to-use solution for global enterprises, highlighting its “safety-focused functionality” and “excellent user interface”.



Need more reasons to choose ecoPortal?



The engagement revolution

Our software makes safety engaging and easy to digest, transforming perceptions of health and safety once and for all.



Mobile, at your fingertips

Whether you're reporting an incident or completing an audit, our mobile app has you covered with full offline capabilities to easily complete any form or workflow on the go.



AI-powered features

Unlock smart, AI-powered features that help break down engagement barriers to ensure you deliver quality, real-time data and extract the insights that matter most.



In-house support

We provide in-house support throughout your entire ecoPortal journey — from implementation to organisational transformation.



Single, unified platform

Built on a single platform for truly integrated data and reporting, ecoPortal connects seamlessly with the tools you use every day.



Real-time analytics

Access smart solutions that deliver quality, real-time data, helping you extract the insights that matter most.

We'd love to show you more!

Engage your team and redefine their safety - scan the QR code to get started.

ecoportal.com



Discover new insights at THE NATIONAL SAFETY CONFERENCE



It is with great pleasure and excitement that we extend a warm welcome to all of you to the **National Safety Conference 2026!**

This annual gathering promises to be a remarkable event that will bring together the best minds and passionate individuals from around the country, dedicated to enhancing safety in the workplace.

Our primary aim this year is to create an environment that fosters learning, inspiration, and collaboration within the safety community.

We firmly believe that by sharing knowledge, experiences, and innovative ideas, we can collectively advance the field of workplace health and safety. Together, we have the power to create safer and healthier work environments for all.

This conference will serve as a touchstone for safety innovation, where experts will discuss the latest trends, research, and best practices.

It will be an invaluable opportunity to gain insights from industry leaders, participate in thought-provoking discussions, and network with like-minded professionals who share the same commitment to safety excellence.

We hope you enjoy this year's conference. Let us come together, learn from one another, and leave with renewed energy and determination to make workplaces safer for everyone.



Bernie Doyle

Chief Executive Officer | Chairman & President
NSCA Foundation





NSCA Foundation is a **not-for-profit, member-based association** with a vision focused on helping organisations protect your most important asset — your people.

Since 1927, we have continued to engage, educate and inspire the Australian work health and safety profession to create and sustain safe and healthy workplaces.

We enable professional development through in-person events, webinars, latest updates on industry developments through the Safe-T-Bulletin, National Safety Online, networking opportunities, and online resources.

National events that we proudly hold include the National Safety Awards of Excellence alongside a series of interstate forums and member connect events.



2026 PROGRAMME



Tuesday 17 March

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

1.00pm – 5.00pm

(separate registration required)

Wednesday 18 March

CONFERENCE DAY ONE

8.00am Registration

8.30am - 5.00pm

Welcome Reception

5.00pm - 7.45pm

Thursday 19 March

CONFERENCE DAY TWO

8.00am Registration

8.30am - 5.00pm

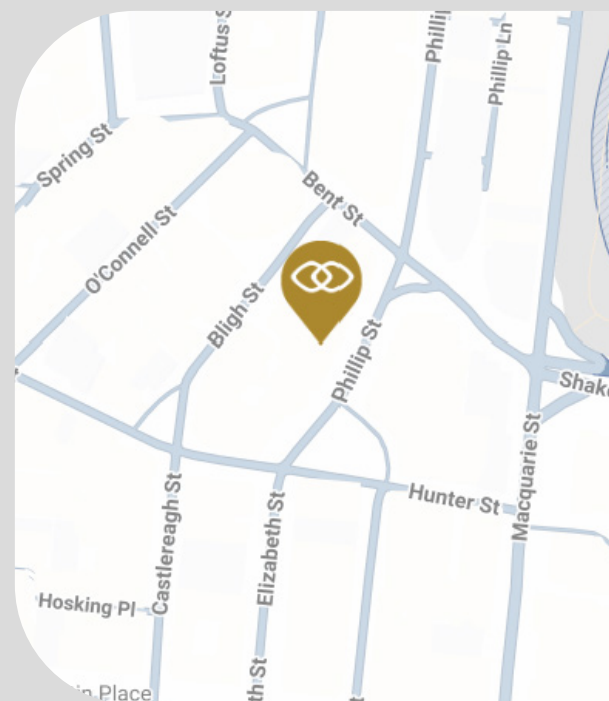
Exhibitor Bump Out
from 5.00pm



THE VENUE

101 Phillip Street
Sydney NSW 2000

SOFITEL
SYDNEY WENTWORTH



PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

TUESDAY, 17TH MARCH 2026

Turning Insight Into Impact Through Data and Digital Learning

In a rapidly changing world of work, the next generation of WHS leaders will need to think differently, using data, technology, and evidence-based insights to build safer, healthier, higher-performing workplaces.

This interactive workshop explores how safety leaders can move beyond intuition and compliance to lead with confidence, clarity, and measurable impact. Participants will learn how to use data to drive decision-making, accountability, and cultural improvement, and experience firsthand how integrated digital tools are reshaping the future of safety leadership.

Sofitel Sydney, Wentworth

Tuesday, 17th March 2025, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Afternoon Tea Included in the workshop

Presented by:



Key Takeaways

- The role of data and benchmarking in shaping modern WHS leadership
- How to connect leading indicators (trust, engagement, wellbeing) to meaningful outcomes
- How digital learning ecosystems create scalable, future-ready capability

Workshop Facilitator

Luke Beeston | Group Director, Client Solutions | [HSE Global](#)



Luke leads flagship offerings including the Global Safety Index, HSE Global Academy and 1HSE, while driving strategic growth across international markets. A transformative HSE leader, he has shaped safety strategy for ASX-listed and high-risk organisations, building high-performing teams and delivering measurable cultural change.

Beginning his career in the UK's top-tier construction and engineering sector, Luke relocated to Australia in 2010. He has since partnered with major organisations — Rio Tinto, BHP Billiton, Coles, Woolworths, Viva Energy, Anglo American, Orica and more — consistently elevating safety performance and leadership capability.

A sought-after risk specialist and trusted advisor to leading law firms, Luke is recognised for his expertise in complex incident investigations and regulatory response. His work centres on robust control management and empowering leaders to create safer, healthier workplaces.

CONFERENCE DAY ONE

WEDNESDAY, 18TH MARCH 2026

8:00 AM

Registration and Exhibition Opens

8:30 AM

Welcome to 2026 National Safety Conference on behalf of the NSCA FoundationBernie Doyle | Chairman & President | [NSCA Foundation](#)

8:50 AM

Platinum Partner Plenary AddressDr Manuel Seidel | CEO | [ecoPortal](#)Natalee Johnston | Director | [NSCA Foundation \(MC\)](#)Health and Safety
Engagement Software

9:10 AM

Keynote Session

**The Physiological Changes Leaked by Those With Violent Intent:
Catch The Violence Before It Catches You**

Backed by over 30 years of operational security experience, Taylor's keynote explores the behavioural patterns, physiological shifts, micro-expressions and nonverbal cues displayed by individuals with violent intent. His proven methodologies have helped organisations identify threats early, including cases where edged-weapon carriers were detected before the weapon was drawn—leading to safer outcomes for staff and the public.

Scott Taylor | Managing Director | [Praesidium Group](#)

9:40 AM

Keynote Session

Harnessing AI to Close Safety Gaps and Strengthen Safety Culture

From breaking down literacy barriers with voice-to-text tools to strengthening risk management with AI-powered video analysis, he'll demonstrate how AI can summarise data, spot trends, and recommend next actions, all while reinforcing the importance of an employee-led approach to safety.

Dr Manuel Seidel | CEO | [ecoPortal](#)

10:20 AM

Morning Tea

10:50 AM

Innovation &
Technology**Fireside Chat - From Data To Decisions:
Preparing Today's Workforce For Tomorrow's Risks**

This presentation explores how strengthening organisational capability across Systems, Customs, and People can address emerging workplace risks. It also challenges delegates to consider what their data reveals about future capability needs and safety strategy.

Rick Fox | Co-Founder | [FR&NK Capability](#)Naomi Kemp | Co-Founder | [FR&NK Capability](#)Presented by [HSI Donesafe](#)

11:20 AM

Innovation &
Technology**AI-Driven Safety: The Emerging Opportunities for WHS**

Discover key insights from Rapid Global's survey of WHS leaders and frontline workers on AI, safety tech, and compliance - revealing where the biggest opportunities lie in modern safety management.

Ezequiel Gonzalez | Head of Growth | [Rapid Global](#)

11:40 AM

Innovation &
Technology**Applying AI in Pre-Employment Medical Risk Management
to Prevent Workplace Injuries and Claims**

This presentation explores how AI-driven pre-employment screening transforms risk management, using one year of real-world PredictFit data from Protech to demonstrate measurable injury and claim prevention outcomes.

Zac Lowth | Head of Growth & Customer Success | [Carelever](#)

12.10 PM

Incident Investigation

Fireside Chat - The Challenge With How We Investigate and Learn from Incidents

A thought-provoking discussion of the role leadership, culture, and organisational context play in shaping what is learned after an incident. It explores how these factors influence not only the immediate response, but also the long-term capability of an organisation to adapt, improve, and prevent future harm.

Luke Beeston | Group Director, Client Solutions | [HSE Global](#)Richard Turner | Head of Global Safety | [Toll Group](#)

CONFERENCE DAY ONE

WEDNESDAY, 18TH MARCH 2026

12:30 PM

Incident Investigation

Rethinking Safety Controls: Evidence-Based Insights from 680+ sifp Incidents

Based on a 4-year global study of 680+ SIFp incidents, this session shares evidence-based insights into why safety controls fail, and how organisations can strengthen governance and verification.

Alex Fernando | Director, Strategy and Risk Advisory | [Incident Analytics](#)

Warren Smith | Director, Data Science and Research | [Incident Analytics](#)

12:50 PM

Incident Investigation

Stop Colouring, Start Controlling: Making Risk Assessments Deliver

This session presents a standards-aligned, scenario-based alternative that evaluates control quality and demonstrates SFARP (so far as is reasonably practicable), ensuring assessments effectively reduce exposure rather than merely produce paperwork.

Mark Alston | Director | [Investigations Differently](#)

1:10 PM

Networking Lunch

2:10 PM

Keynote Session

Beyond The Black Box

Natalee will explore how aviation practices and investigations can be applied to workplace incidents and accidents to shift towards a more proactive culture to improve safety. Using real-life case studies to demonstrate what questions need to be asked to shift beyond the what and into the why.

Natalee Johnston | Director | [Skillful Decisions](#)

2:40 PM

Incident Investigation

Incident Investigation Panel

Attendees will explore why controls fail, how to strengthen risk assessments, what effective investigations reveal, and how to better manage real-world risks—drawing on lessons from serious incidents, improving systemic learning, and bridging innovation, regulation, and operational reality.

Luke Beeston | Group Director, Client Solutions | [HSE Global](#)

Alex Fernando | Director, Strategy and Risk Advisory | [Incident Analytics](#)

Mark Alston | Director | [Investigations Differently](#)

Moderator: Natalee Johnston | Director | [Skillful Decisions](#)

3:10 PM

Networking Afternoon Tea

3:40 PM

Keynote Session

The Human Side of Safety

Alan, having lost his right dominant arm to a conveyor belt accident, spent many years in recovery and rehabilitation. He now presents to groups the effects of his workplace accident and the impact on him, his family and work colleagues.

Alan Newey | Director | [Chat Safety](#)

4:10 PM

Occupational Health & Safety

Preparing for Emerging Energy Risks: Emergency Readiness in a Changing Workplace

Steve McLeod | CEO | [Fire & Safety Australia](#)

4:30 PM

Occupational Health & Safety

Strategy to Reality - Overcoming the Challenges

This presentation will focus on move towards proactive removal of the estimated 6.2 million tonnes of asbestos still in the built environment, while delivering a coordinated national response to silica safety.

Jodie Deakes | CEO | [Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency](#)

4:50 PM

Occupational Health & Safety

Future-Proofing your Workplace: Managing Hygiene Hazards Ahead of the 2026 Workplace Exposure Limits (wels) Legislation

With new Workplace Exposure Limits (WELs) set to take effect in December 2026, now is the time to ensure your organisation is ready. This presentation will break down the updated legislation, highlight common occupational hygiene risks, and offer actionable steps to meet the new standards with confidence.

Jason Green | Principal Hygiene Consultant | [HIBBS](#)

4:55 PM

Conference Day One Closing Statements

Bernie Doyle | Chairman & President | [NSCA Foundation](#)

5:00 PM

Welcome Reception

Enjoy a two-hour premium beverage package complemented by a selection of gourmet canapés, sponsored by Rapid Australia.



CONFERENCE DAY TWO

THURSDAY, 19TH MARCH 2026

8:00 AM

Registration and Exhibition Opens

8:45 AM

Welcome to 2026 national safety conference on behalf of the NSCA Foundation

Ray Thurlow | Director | [NSCA Foundation](#)

8:50 AM

Platinum Partner Plenary Address

Dr Manuel Seidel | CEO | [ecoPortal](#)Ray Thurlow | Director | [NSCA Foundation](#)

9:00 AM

Regulator Panel

Regulator Discussion Panel

A practical update on new safety laws, emerging psychosocial risk rules, rising personal accountability, and how technology and data are shaping the next stage of workplace regulation, including industrial manslaughter, the future of psychosocial risk oversight, and the role of digital tools in modern compliance.

Glenn Farrell | Executive Director | [SafeWork SA](#)Simon Nicholson | CEO and WHS Prosecutor | [Office of the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor](#)Clarence Brown | Director Policy, Practice and Programs | [SafeWork NSW](#)Dr Anna Cody | Human Rights Commissioner | [Australian Human Rights Commission](#)

10:00 AM

Keynote Session

Leading a safety obsessed culture across a large global and diverse workforce

The keynote will examine how senior leaders influence safety culture through values-driven actions, visible leadership, and clear communication. Using Richard's experience at Toll Group, it will showcase real-world examples of cultural transformation, behaviour-based safety, and the pivotal role leadership plays in achieving strong safety performance in complex operations.

Richard Turner | Head of Global Safety | [Toll Group](#)

10:30 AM

Networking Morning Tea

11:00 AM

Leadership & Management

Workplace fatalities and family impact: Industry Lessons for Better Communication, Care and Prevention

An evidence-based review from the Centre for Construction Safety and Wellbeing examining how families are affected by workplace fatalities and how organisations respond. The presentation highlights opportunities to improve communication, strengthen trauma-informed support, and enhance industry learning to prevent future harm.

Kurt Warren | Head of HSEQ & Sustainability | [Hansen Yuncken Pty Ltd](#)

11:20 AM

Leadership & Management

The courage to speak up: A contemporary approach to safety leadership

Discover how leading organisations handle dynamic risk in complex high risk work environments. This session unpacks practical leadership strategies that strengthen psychological safety, and trust. The essential elements required to build high reliability teams. Learn how these teams harness their collective safety leadership to amplify and address weak (danger) signals associated with real-time dynamic change.

Craig Doherty | CEO/Founder | [Fusion Safety](#)

11:40 AM

Leadership & Management

The Leap of Leadership

Jess Daly | Chief Engagement Officer | [Everyday Massive](#)

Everyday Massive's Jess Daly explores why doing and leading require different mindsets, skillsets and toolsets — and why many new leaders get stuck in the doing. Drawing on programs in high-risk industries, Jess highlights how progressive organisations help people grow into leaders who elevate culture, performance and safety.

12:10 PM

Risk Management

Limbic risk: Why inattention is the hidden cause of incidents and what to do about it

This session reveals how brain science explains everyday inattention and human error in safety. Learn how to manage "Limbic Risk" and design systems that reflect how people really think.

Nada Wentzel | CEO | [Jonah Group](#)

CONFERENCE DAY TWO

THURSDAY, 19TH MARCH 2026

12:30 PM

Risk Management

Using Sleep Science to Enhance Safety performance, Health and Wellness, and Driving Performance: Making Wonderful People Even More Wonderful

This session will outline how the science of sleep can enhance people's workplace safety and driving performance. Armed with the appropriate education, people can learn how to seriously improve their health, wellness & longevity. And when the 20% of employees contribute 80% of the fatigue incidents, we can learn how to read and manage the data to apply sleep improvement programs to the betterment of the whole worksite.

Dr Nicholas Mabbott | Fatigue Risk Management Specialist | [Beyond Midnight](#)

12:50 PM

Networking Lunch

1:40 PM

Keynote Session

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention in the Construction Industry

This session will outline how the science of sleep can enhance people's workplace safety and driving performance. Armed with the appropriate education, people can learn how to seriously improve their health, wellness & longevity. And when the 20% of employees contribute 80% of the fatigue incidents, we can learn how to read and manage the data to apply sleep improvement programs to the betterment of the whole worksite.

Jorgen Gullestrup | CEO | [Mates in Construction](#)

2:10 PM

Mental Health & Well Being

AI Psychosis and Cognitive Safety: The new frontier for mental health at work

Generative AI tools like ChatGPT are now embedded in everyday work and life. With more than a billion weekly users, even rare adverse events scale quickly. We are beginning to see a pattern where intensive chatbot use contributes to cognitive drift, delusional thinking and, in some cases, self-harm and suicide. This has direct implications for psychosocial risk, duty of care and how organisations deploy AI.

Jamie Malinder | Safety and Critical Risk Management | [Forwood & RUOK Ambassador](#)

2:30 PM

Mental Health & Well Being

Unseen Risks: A Real Psychosocial Risk Case

A real case revealing how pressure and poor controls cause harm, and how trauma-informed, practical steps can prevent psychosocial risks and build a safer, stronger workplace.

Sarah Hellwege | Principal Psychologist and Director | [Psychgroup Training & Advisory](#)

2:50 PM

Mental Health & Well Being

Case Studies From Psychosocial Safety Improvement Programs

An investigative view of psychosocial safety failures, then clinical guidance on tackling poor behaviour and improving wellbeing through better investigations, smarter work design and stronger mental health support.

Kristen Raison | Co-Founder | [HUMN](#)

3:10 PM

Afternoon Tea

3:30 PM

Mental Health & Well Being

Mental Health and Well Being Discussion Panel

A concise exploration of emerging workforce trends, this session examines how generational shifts, wellbeing as a core business metric, ethical AI and digital mental health tools, and the rise of hybrid and flexible work models are reshaping modern organisations. Together, these factors highlight new opportunities to strengthen culture and build healthier, more resilient workplaces.

Liz Tully | Workplace Mental Health Specialist | [Mental Health at Work](#)

Dr Tessa Bailey | CEO | [The Opus Centre](#)

Jamie Malinder | Safety and Critical Risk Management | [Forwood & RUOK Ambassador](#)

Sarah Hellwege | Principal Psychologist and Director | [Psychgroup Training & Advisory](#)

Moderator: Christian Frost | Director | [Christian Frost Consulting](#)

4:10 PM

Mock Trial

Step Into The Courtroom

Experience the Drama of the Courtroom: A live mock trial presented by Sparke Helmore Lawyers

Presented by [Sparke Helmore Lawyers](#)

5:00 PM

Conference Concluding Statements

Bernie Doyle | Chairman & President | [NSCA Foundation](#)



NSCA Foundation MEMBERSHIP

MEMBER BENEFITS



FINANCIAL SAVINGS

Receive exclusive discounts on conferences, forums, training courses, and our popular webinar series.



ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

Stay updated on regulatory and compliance changes with our bulletins and newsletters.



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

An organisational membership supports the professional development of your health and safety team.



DEDICATED SUPPORT

Members have access to a helpline for expert guidance on compliance, health, and safety



RECOGNITION AND BRANDING

Establish your organisation as a top employer committed to workplace safety.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Foster a safety culture that benefits both your workplace and the community.

JOIN TODAY & Be apart of a thriving community!

If you are a non-member contact our Membership Manager Nicoletta Mrcavic on **02 8875 7820** or email **membership@nscafoundation.org.au** and join us today!

GET IN TOUCH

P : 02 8875 7820
E : membership@nscafoundation.org.au

PO Box 6307,
North Ryde NSW 2113

NATIONALSAFETYCONFERENCE.COM.AU

