

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND THE LAW CONFERENCE Thursday 23rd October, 2025

DAY 1	CRIMINAL JUSTICE
9.00am	Acknowledgement of Country: Dean of Law, David Heilpern
	Welcome: Professor Thomas Roche, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Southern Cross University
Keynote Address: Maggie Blanden	
10.15am	Panel 1: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children in the Criminal Justice System – Addressing Over-representation and Inter-generational Trauma
	Maggie Blanden Co-Founder, Naarm Law Students Sue-Anne Hunter National Commissioner Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children & Young People Thelma Schwartz Executive Director Legal, QIFVLS
	Moderator: David Heilpern Dean of Law, Southern Cross University
11.15am	Morning Tea
11.45am	Panel 2: Ending physical violence against children: corporal punishment
	Sophie Havighurst Professor, University of Melbourne Anne Hollonds National Children's Commissioner Linda Savage Lawyer and Child Rights Advocate Moderator: Meri Oakwood Associate Lecturer, Southern Cross University
1.00pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Panel 3: Upholding the Rights of Children with disabilities in contact with the Criminal Justice System
	Taylor Budin Lived Experience Educator Sally Robinson Professor, Disability & Community Inclusion, Flinders University Jane Sanders Principal Solicitor, The Shopfront Youth Legal Centre Moderator: Matthew Keeley Executive Director and Solicitor, Youth Law Australia
3.00pm	Afternoon tea
3.30pm	Panel 4: Pathways Forward – Comparative approaches, looking overseas
	Bruce Adamson Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh Luke Fitzmaurice-Brown Senior Lecturer, Victoria University of Wellington David McGuire CEO, Diagrama Foundation Christian Whalen Adjunct Professor, UNB Law Moderator: Yvette Holt Lecturer and 1st Year Co-ordinator, Southern Cross University
4.30pm	'Family Law 4 Kids' Official Launch Anne Hollonds, National Children's Commissioner



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DAY 2	FAMILY LAW, CHILD PROTECTION AND OUT-OF-HOME CARE
9.00am	Welcome: Mr Ben Roche, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Southern Cross University
Keynote Address: Commissioner Anne Hollonds	
10.15am	Panel 1: Is the child protection and out of home care system protecting children?
	Paul Gray Professor, Jumbunna, University of Technology Sydney
	Paul Hayes Magistrate of the Children's Court of NSW
	Shelley Henāre Youth Ambassador and Survivor Advocate
	Janise Mitchell CEO, Australian Childhood Foundation
	Moderator: Lynne McPherson Chair, Out of Home Care Research, Southern Cross University
11.15am	Morning Tea
11.45am	Panel 2: Understanding the impacts of coercive control on children
	Jay Lived Experience Advocate
	Carolyn Jones Principal Solicitor (Harm Practice), Youth Law Australia
	Biljana Milosevic Centre Director, Jannawi Family Centre
	Mary Ronayne Community and Culture Manager
	Moderator: Lizette Twisleton Centre Manager, Men and Family Centre, Northern Rivers, NSW
1.00pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Panel 3: Are the Family Law Reforms producing safer outcomes for children?
	Natasha Anderson Lived Experience Consultant
	Rebekah Mannering Legal Practitioner Director
	Conor Pall Deputy Chair of the Victim Survivors' Advisory Council
	Moderator: Georgina Dimopoulos Associate Professor, Southern Cross University
3.00pm	Afternoon Tea
3.30pm	Panel 4: Meaningful engagement with children to improve the Child Protection and Family Law System
	Natasha Anderson Lived Experience Consultant
	Geordie Armstrong Lived Experience Consultant
	Rebecca Ketton Acting State Director, 54 Reasons
	Conor Pall Deputy Chair of the Victim Survivors' Advisory Council
	Moderator: Georgina Dimopoulos Associate Professor, Southern Cross University
4.30pm	Closing remarks: David Heilpern Dean of Law, Southern Cross University