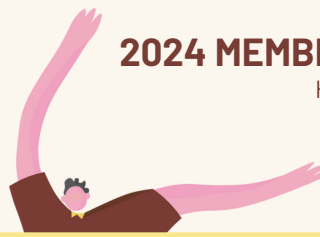


# Day 1 Program

2024 MEMBERS CONFERENCE TUES 7 MAY

HopgoodGanim Office: Level 8, Waterfront Place  
1 Eagle Street, Brisbane



Check-in 8:30am

## Welcome to Country & Conference Welcome

Welcome to Country will be delivered by Shannon Ruska (Managing Director, Tribal Experiences) and Welcome to Delegates will be presented by Genevieve Bolton (EJA Chair), Kate Allingham (EJA CEO) and Kara Cook (BRQ CEO).

9:00 - 9:30am

## Have the 2023 changes to DSP Impairment Tables made a difference?

This session will begin with a 5-minute overview of the 2023 changes (Donna Flood, WRC), then involve discussion facilitated by Linda Forbes (EJA) about members' experiences applying the changes, particularly whether they've improved access to DSP. It will also include consideration of Service Australia's new DSP letters, and will provide a forum for members to raise ongoing concerns about administrative and legal barriers to DSP.

9:30 - 10:10am

Morning tea 10:10 - 10:30am

## Just how special is special? Best approaches to Special Circumstances arguments

This session will consider best approaches to special circumstances arguments for cases involving debts, compensation preclusion periods and Child Care Subsidy, and substantial change of circumstances for newly arrived residents waiting periods. It will include insights on interviewing distressed clients and collecting evidence, reference to recent casework and case law, and encouraging AROs and AAT members to think outside the proverbial box.

10:30am - 12:00pm

The session will be presented by a Principal Solicitors panel comprising Catherine Eagle (WRAS), Laura Jordan (SSRV), and Natalie Ross (WRC). The formal presentation will be followed by a Q&A session facilitated by Sally Cameron (EJA).

Lunch 12:00 - 1:00pm

## How to lobby government effectively

This session will be presented by Kate Allingham (EJA CEO) and cover key principles and practices for lobbying government to achieve policy and legislative change, and secure funding.

1:00 - 1:30pm

## Lessons from casework outreach

This session will outline the experience of members providing outreach casework services. It will include issues of funding, program structure, and casework practice. Following formal presentations by Shane Foyster (NAAJA), Sam Tracy and Jack Margaritis (BRQ), and Anusha Goonetilleke (CCL), members will be invited to speak about their casework outreach experiences from the floor, facilitated by Simone Casey (EJA).

1:30 - 3:00pm

Afternoon tea 3:00 - 3:30pm

## Ongoing challenges addressing the intersection of FDV and social security policy: reform beyond member of a couple rules

This session, presented by Sally Cameron (EJA) and facilitated by Linda Forbes (EJA), will check in with members regarding any noticeable changes to decision-making on the basis of the 2023 FDV revisions to the Guide, and explore areas of ongoing frustration.

3:30 - 4:30pm

## Automated Decision-Making in Social Security - Project Update

This session, presented by Simone Casey (EJA), will be a soft launch of the ADM in Social Security report, and provide an overview of the key findings and insights.

4:30 - 5:30pm

Conference dinner at Toscano Bar & Kitchen (2 Edward St, Brisbane City)

6:30 - 9:30pm

# Day 2 Program



**2024 MEMBERS CONFERENCE WED 8 MAY**

HopgoodGanim Office: Level 8, Waterfront Place  
1 Eagle Street, Brisbane

## Services Australia session

This session will be presented by Services Australia representatives and facilitated by Kate Allingham (EJA CEO) on the topics of Proof of Identity and the Advocates Channel.

8:30 - 9:30am

## Insiders' insights: lessons from lawyering for Services Australia

This session will be presented by Julie Edwards and Anthony Parker from Uniting Communities and facilitated by Tori Edwards (EJA).

9:30 - 10:00am

## Morning tea

10:00 - 10:30am

## When social security issues become criminal issues

This session, presented by Dr Scarlet Wilcock (USYD) and Catherine Eagle (WRASWA) and facilitated by Taylah Bell (EJA), will explore approaches to casework practice when administrative appeal rights intersect with risk of criminal prosecution. It will update members about CDPP's current social security prosecution guidelines and practice, consider the profile of recent prosecutions, and address casework issues including balancing the right to seek administrative review and the risk of self-incrimination.

10:30 - 11:30am

## No really, can we expand social security support beyond specialist CLCs?

We all have too much to do, and even in casework, a lot of it isn't strictly legal practice. This session, facilitated by Sally Cameron (EJA) and presented by Taylah Bell (EJA), Liz Divers (SSRV), Donna Flood & Katherine Boyle (WRC) and Farzana Choudhury (CCL), will consider models for expanding community access to social security support services by increasing targeted service providers' capacity. It will include an overview of current EJA-external support options (and seek suggestions from participants), outline two projects developed by EJA members working with community service providers to better support their clients dealing with social security issues, and conclude with a presentation on CLE innovation addressing client engagement and inclusion of lived experience.

11:30am - 12:30pm

## Lunch

At the end of lunch, delegates will be directed to move to the Clayton Utz Brisbane office (Level 28, Riparian Plaza, 71 Eagle St) (approx. 3 min walk) for the final two conference sessions.

12:30 - 1:30pm

## Just Hearing

Just Hearing is an interactive training presentation that explores issues faced by people with lived experience of mental ill-health and their interactions with the legal system. Just Hearing is a collaboration between Canberra Community Law, Legal Aid ACT and Rebus Theatre.

1:30 - 3:00pm

## Has researching the needs of women in 4R Australia taught us anything?

This session will be presented by Taylah Bell (EJA) and provide a brief snapshot of tentative findings from EJA's research into barriers to social security access for women in 4R Australia. It will highlight a number of findings and seek members' input on key questions requiring further discussion before the reports' finalisation.

3:00 - 3:50pm

## Conference close

3:50 - 4:00pm

EJA would like to thank Hopgood Ganim and Clayton Utz for their sponsorship of this event, and Basic Rights Queensland for their support as hosts.



CLAYTON UTZ