



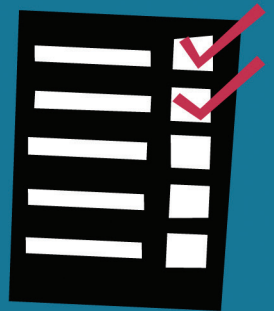
Building a

Climate



Resilient

Community



Sector

Adapt and prepare your organisation and the people you support

Thursday 5 May
Adelaide Convention Centre



OUR PLANET IS WORTH SAVING, AND SO ARE WE.

DR KATE WYLIE

Dr Kate Wylie is a GP who is passionate about climate action to improve health. She chairs the RACGP's Climate and Environmental Special Interest Group, and is a board member of Doctors for the Environment Australia. She is delivering our morning conference keynote.



Dear Delegate

Welcome to the 2022 SACOSS Conference *Building a Climate Resilient Community Sector*. The theme of this year's conference is climate change and disaster preparation. The recent floods in Queensland and NSW, and in our own state's north, have really brought home the need for all community service organisations to build response and recovery into part of their everyday work.

We must continue to help shape our future by pursuing climate mitigation strategies wherever we can, but extreme events such as floods, heatwaves and bushfires are now a part of that future. It's essential we factor these challenges in to our planning, and knowing how to effectively work together with government, sector partners and emergency service providers to achieve the best outcomes, is paramount.

The flooding in NSW has underlined yet again how natural disasters always have a more devastating impact for people with limited resources. Housing in flood-prone areas might be cheaper, but it often comes with unaffordable

insurance premiums if any at all. This leaves those people completely exposed to losing everything and thus falling into serious poverty when disasters like floods strike. And of course the rental affordability crisis is made even more acute with homeowners and renters alike, finding themselves with nowhere to go.

But it's not sudden catastrophes that are the only part of this problem. What are the wider implications for community members' health in these disturbed ecosystems and what can we do about it? What about the particular impacts on First Nations communities? These issues are tackled front and centre in our keynote presentations today because climate change affects everyone across so many life areas. And because of this, we also know our community sector organisations must themselves prepare and start to become climate resilient to ensure we will be well positioned to be able to provide the support people and communities need as these issues become more pressing.

The conference provides a great opportunity to network and connect with your colleagues as well as hear from expert speakers. Alongside the need to pursue the most effective strategies to reduce emissions, we need clear-sighted planning about how to cope with extreme weather and lessen the burden of such disasters, especially for people experiencing poverty, the elderly, people living with disabilities and those whose first language is not English.

We've assembled first responders and experts from across communities to share their insights into how to create a safer future. Today is an opportunity to build awareness and identify strategies for recognising and addressing climate risk for our organisations and the people and communities we work for and with.

Yours sincerely

Ross Womersley
CEO, SACOSS

AM

9.00 **Welcome - Dr David Panter, SACOSS Chair**

9.15 **Welcome to Country - Taylor Power-Smith**

9.25 **Morning Keynote:**
Climate and health - scene setting, risks and actions we can take
 Keynote speaker: **Dr Kate Wylie - Climate Medicine**

10.40 **MORNING TEA**

11.00 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

Valuing collaboration in reducing risk

Nicole Linsell
 Centacare Catholic Country SA

Facilitated by
Kathy Mickan

Using a spectrum of initiatives to address climate change and its impacts

Lee Sauerwald
 Uniting Communities

Facilitated by
Rebecca Law

Climate driven emergency scenario (aged and disability service organisations)

Shanti Ramasundram
 Australian Red Cross

Facilitated by
Dr Catherine Earl

12.00 **LUNCH**

12.45 **Afternoon Keynote:**
Climate impact for Aboriginal communities - issues and actions
 Keynote speakers: **Dr Veronica Matthews - University Centre for Rural Health**
Priscilla Larkins - Umoona Tjutagku Health Service

PM

1.50

PARALLEL SESSIONS

The 4 Cs of success: consultation, cooperation, communication, collaboration**Karen Cook**

South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission

Facilitated by

Kathy Mickan**Person-centred emergency planning (PCEP)****Tara Baird**

Purple Orange

Facilitated by

Ross Womersley**Insurance implications for organisations and people more at risk****Toby Freeman**

SACOSS

Willis Insurance

Facilitated by

Dr Catherine Earl

2.50

AFTERNOON TEA

3.10

Perspectives on disaster preparation, response, recovery and resilience: what's important and what works**Panellists:**

- **Andrew Brackman** ac.care
- **Oshanna Alexander** South Australian State Emergency Service
- **Mary Hajistassi** Australian Red Cross
- **Alex Zimmerman**

Facilitated by

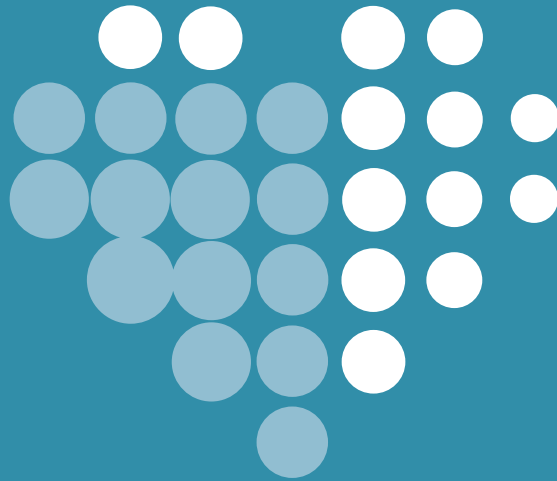
Ross Womersley

4.10

Wrap Up: Ross Womersley SACOSS CEO

4.30

Conference close



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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



DR KATE WYLIE

Dr Kate Wylie is a GP who is passionate about climate action to improve health. Based in Adelaide, Dr Wylie chairs the RACGP's Climate and Environmental Special Interest Group, is a board member of Doctors for the Environment Australia and facilitates their After Hours webinar series. She is a member of the Climate Reality Leadership Corp having completed training with Al Gore.

Dr Wylie has founded Climate Medicine (www.climatemedicine.net), an advocacy project whereby she presents to community groups on the health effects of climate change.

In all her work, Dr Wylie applies a medical model to the climate crisis and as such offers a treatment plan for climate change. She seeks to activate her audience so they can become more involved in creating the paradigm shift that we need to combat the climate crisis.

"Our planet is worth saving, and so are we."



DR VERONICA MATTHEWS

Veronica is a proud Quandamooka woman, passionate about health of Country and wellbeing of community. Her work centres Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of thinking and being, taking a holistic view of health systems that encompass connections to community, culture and Country. She co-leads the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Knowledges theme of the Healthy Environments and Lives (HEAL) Network, a national collaboration that brings together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wisdom, public health, epidemiology, sustainable development, and data science and communication to address environmental change and its impacts on health. She co-leads the Centre for Research Excellence in Strengthening systems for InDigenous healthcare Equity (CRE-STRIDE) a multi-disciplinary quality improvement network aiming to strengthen primary health care systems and its interconnections to other sectors that impact on health and wellbeing.



PRISCILLA LARKINS

My name is Priscilla Larkins, my family ties are connected to the Ngarrinderi, Kokatha, Antikarinja, Pitjantjatjara, Yankuntjatjara women from Coober Pedy. I have a French background through my grandfather on my father's side.

I'm originally from Ceduna on the west coast and have travelled around south Australia as a Diabetes Educator. I have lived in Coober Pedy for 18 years as a Registered Nurse and CEO for Umoona Tjutagku Health Service. I have a passion for continuing and supporting research in improving the lives of Aboriginal People in remote areas. I was nominated the Nursing Midwifery award in 2013. I love a challenge and I believe with the 16 years at Umoona Health I was able to push through so many barriers to improve the lives of our people. Umoona Tjutagku Health Service was the first Aboriginal Health Service in SA to gain ISO accreditation. I have a passion for improving the lives of our younger generation and to empower them to take on the challenges faced by the Indigenous people of this Country. Our younger generation is important and we must all continue to provide them greater support and pathways to become successful with whatever they attempt to achieve in the future.

SPEAKERS



OSHANNA ALEXANDER

Oshanna Alexander has over 10 years' experience working within Emergency Services, building disaster resilient communities and businesses across South Australia. Currently working as the Community Engagement Coordinator with the South Australian State Emergency Service, Oshanna is a subject matter expert in Heatwave, Flood & Storm. With the increasing frequency & severity of extreme weather events, there is a need to build knowledge and capacity within communities, so they are better able to prepare for, respond to and recover from extreme weather events. Working from a strengths-based approach, where everyone can play some role in disaster preparedness her goal is to increase understanding and knowledge of local risks and empower individuals and businesses to take preventative action.



TARA BAIRD

Tara currently supports the Disability Inclusion Training project at Purple Orange, which allows external organisations to challenge attitudes and their own unconscious bias towards people living with a disability in a safe space. Tara also works with the Australian Red Cross as a Community Development and Operations Officer and supports the operationalising of key emergency services initiatives and capacity building activities across South Australia. She also is studying a Master of Global Development at Griffith University with a focus on disaster management and public health. She is excited to meet new people and listen and learn about their experiences and stories. She is drawn towards this work because she believes in the benefit of participatory approach by engaging with individuals and communities to build resilience and capacity.

**ANDREW BRACKMAN**

Andrew Brackman spent his early career in community development and working with rough sleepers on the streets of Sydney. After completing a Master's Degree in Policy, he spent 8 years at Australian Red Cross, where he worked at a senior management level leading national projects across both community and corporate services. During this time, he also supported numerous Emergency Services activations, responding to major disasters across the country. Since then, he has joined the Executive team at Anglican Community Care (ac.care), where he works as the Executive Manager - Planning, Finance and IT. Responsible for risk management, Andrew leads the agency's pandemic response and has established the policies and procedures to support agency Emergency Relief operations in partnership with SAHA.

**KAREN COOK**

Karen Cook is a Logistics Specialist with 25 years' experience in the field of logistics and emergency management and operations. Currently employed with the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission as the Logistics Functional Support Group Coordinator.

Karen came to SAFECOM with 20 years' broad experience gained from working in emergency management sectors including SAPol and Local Government. Karen has written Logistical Plans for both operations and strategic planning including business continuity planning; in addition to these plans Karen has developed and delivered specialised logistics training programmes to the State Logistics Functional Support Group Team Members.

During operational periods Karen is responsible for co ordinating an effective state-wide Logistics capability ensuring that resources required by any emergency service, are available where and when needed.

Following the Kangaroo Island fires of 2020 Karen was engaged by State Recovery Office to provide specialist logistics advice for the delivery of emergency mobile accommodation to devastated families having lost their homes in the fires. Delivering a capability such as the Logistics Functional Support Group sees Karen undertaking extensive collaboration with organisations and businesses across the state in both the private sector, Local, and State Governments.

**DR TOBY FREEMAN**

Dr Toby Freeman has conducted research on health and social equity at the Southgate Institute for Health, Society, and Equity, Flinders University for over 12 years. He joined SACOSS in 2021 to work on a project examining innovative funding models to improve access to home, contents, and vehicle insurance for people on low incomes.

**MARY HAJISTASSI**

Since commencing at Australian Red Cross in 2019, Mary has worked across the emergency services department coordinating both the Red Cross Recovery Program in the aftermath of the Black Summer fires and in her current role, leading the coordination of the Red Cross Community Resilience Program across South Australia.

As Coordinator, Community Resilience, Mary has designed and developed the Community-Led Emergency Resilience Project. The project design takes a whole of community approach to disaster planning, drawing on community strengths, leadership and the mobilisation of community members to realise their own community-led disaster reduction action plans. Piloted in Kangarilla and Gumeracha the project has now expanded to include 18 locations across South Australia.

Prior to working for Australian Red Cross, Mary worked at Together SA, using the framework of Collective Impact to deliver positive outcomes for children in the Southern Suburbs of Adelaide.

**NICOLE LINSELL**

Nicole is a social worker by profession and worked for 14 years in child protection. During this time, the Department was responsible for leading recovery centres post emergency. Nicole was one of the local senior staff to perform that role as well as attending zone emergency meetings as a Functional Liaison Officer.

Nicole then moved to the community health setting for 9 years where she represented Health at the Zone Emergency Support Team as the Functional Liaison Officer.

More recently, Nicole has taken up the Manager role at Centacare Catholic Country SA based in Port Lincoln.

Nicole and her family own farmland in central and Lower Eyre Peninsula and have lived experience of drought and fires on their own properties.

**SHANTI RAMASUNDRAM**

Shanti has a background in electrical engineering, having worked in planning and designing cellular networks for major telecommunications companies globally. A consulting project in New York set the scene for landing in the midst of the 9/11 Twin Towers disaster. Deployed within hours to design an emergency stand up network to enable emergency responders to operate in the vicinity of the tragedy, it became the catalyst for Shanti to move into operations and project management.

On migrating to Australia with her family a couple of years ago, she joined Emergency Service at Australian Red Cross and is now involved in building disaster resilience capacity in communities, businesses and organisations. Working alongside various communities in South Australia has shaped Shanti's approach to disaster resilience, influencing a paradigm shift that she hopes to share with others in the sector.

**LEE SAUERWALD**

As a Fellow CPA MBA, Lee specialises in social, environmental and financial sustainability. His Executive responsibility for Uniting Communities includes the Corporate Services portfolio as well as the Net Zero Carbon Emission Program.

Lee has led Uniting Communities' carbon reduction journey over the past 10 years including becoming Certified Carbon Neutral in 2015 - the first Australian Registered Charity and first South Australian organisation to do so.

Uniting Communities recently celebrated this 10 year journey by announcing its intention to become a net zero organisation by 2035 at their first ever certified carbon neutral event - 'Driving a Sustainable Future' held at their 6 Star Green Star rated U City development in Adelaide's CBD. The event brought together leaders from government, industry, and the private sector to share their commitment to sustainable practices and advocate for action against climate change.

As the Inaugural Ambassador and a Founding Partner of Carbon Neutral Adelaide, Uniting Communities is happy to share their journey and now invites others to follow their lead towards a sustainable future.

**ALEX ZIMMERMAN**

Alex has worked with SAPOL for many years and has seen his fair share of disasters. One of the key things he has learnt through his experience is that community resilience is an important factor in community preparation and recovery from disasters.

FACILITATORS

**ROSS WOMERSLEY**

Ross is the CEO of the South Australian Council of Social Service (SACOSS) and has been extensively involved for many years in community services. Ross has a formal background and qualifications in Psychology and is driven by the idea that we should live in a community in which everyone is included.

Ross continues to deepen and extend his understanding of many of the issues he has always been passionate about, including the social determinants of health, as he works to assist SACOSS fulfill its aspirational vision - that there is justice, opportunity and wealth for all South Australians.

**DR DAVID PANTER**

Dr David Panter is passionate about social justice and has long recognised and championed the idea that everyone should be able to access the good things in life. David has worked in health and social care services for over 40 years and has operated at Chief Executive level for 28 years. David's previous experience included roles in both the UK and South Australia. After serving a number of years as ECH's Chief Executive he was recently appointed Chief Executive of Minda. David is currently the Chair of the SA Council of Social Service, a Director of ACOSS, a Director of Leading Age Services Australia and a member of the Every Age Counts coalition steering group.

**REBECCA LAW**

Rebecca is Senior Policy Officer at SACOSS with key responsibility over the water portfolio. She has a background in psychology and is experienced working across the education and community sector. At SACOSS, Rebecca engages in policy development, research and consumer advocacy to ensure that all South Australians, particularly the most vulnerable, have access to affordable and reliable essential services such as energy and water. Rebecca has led SACOSS work on waged poverty and concessions, and co-developed the Utilities Stress Indicators concept.

**KATHY MICKAN**

Kathy has a background in youthwork, having worked in the homeless sector, local government and youth health for over 25 years. This work really brought to focus Kathy's commitment to ensuring that people who are impacted by decisions are included in decision making processes, including planning and development of headspace services in the western suburbs, standing up mental health services in response to the Sampson Flat fires and consumer engagement in the health system. Kathy has been working in the area of disaster resilience and risk reduction at SACOSS for the last 3 years and hopes to see climate change and disaster preparation, response and recovery embedded into the day to day work of community service organisations.

**DR CATHERINE EARL**

Catherine is the Director of Policy and Advocacy at the South Australian Council of Social Service (SACOSS). Catherine started her professional working life as a social worker in youth services, before winning an industry scholarship to study a PhD in the area of youth transitions and casual work. With a career interest in social justice, Catherine has led policy and advocacy work in a number of areas, including child and family wellbeing, health and Aboriginal affairs, energy and water, and housing.

IF THERE IS A CLIMATE CHANGE PROBLEM, IT IS IN LARGE PART A JUSTICE PROBLEM

MARY ROBINSON

Mary Robinson is a former president of Ireland and was United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in 1997. The quote above comes from the inaugural Barbara Ward Lecture, which she delivered on climate change and justice (Chatham House, London, 2006).

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With thanks to our event sponsors for their valued support

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This project was funded under the Disaster Risk Reduction Grant Program and joint initiative of the Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs and the South Australian Government.

Views and findings associated with this initiative are expressed independently and do not necessarily represent the views of State and Commonwealth funding bodies.



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SACOSS acknowledges traditional owners of country throughout South Australia, and recognises the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and to elders both past and present.