

MEET THE SPEAKERS



Brendan Thomas
AUSTRAC
CEO

Brendan Thomas commenced his 5-year appointment as AUSTRAC CEO on 29 January 2024, leading Australia's financial intelligence unit and anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing (AML/CTF) regulator. In this role, Brendan represents AUSTRAC on the ACIC Board and the Serious Financial Crime Taskforce CEO Board, and leads agency head-level engagement with the Office of National Intelligence and other National Intelligence Community members.

A Wiradjuri man, Brendan brings significant experience in leading major public services, particularly across the criminal and civil justice systems. Prior to AUSTRAC, he served as Deputy Secretary at the NSW Department of Communities and Justice, CEO of Legal Aid NSW, and Deputy Secretary at the NSW Department of Justice. Brendan holds a Bachelor of Arts from Macquarie University and is a Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand School of Government.



Katie Miller
AUSTRAC
Deputy CEO, Regulation

Katie Miller is the Deputy CEO for Regulation at AUSTRAC and has strategic responsibility for AUSTRAC's regulatory, legal and policy functions. AUSTRAC's regulatory approach is to focus on outcomes and harm reduction using a range of tools to influence and intervene.

Katie has extensive experience exercising regulatory functions and advising regulators in state and federal governments.

Katie is a lawyer by background and training and a published author on issues involving regulation, law and technology.



Luke Irwin
ISSMP, CISSP, CISM
Aegis Cybersecurity

Luke Irwin is the Founder and Principal Consultant of Aegis Cybersecurity, a Brisbane-based cybersecurity consultancy specialising in governance, risk, compliance, and strategic advisory services. He works with organisations across small business, mid-market, regulated, and critical infrastructure environments to help them strengthen security posture, improve resilience, and make better risk-based decisions.

Known for his practical and commercially grounded approach, Luke advises boards, executives, and leadership teams on cybersecurity strategy, vendor risk, third-party assurance, and the application of frameworks such as ISO 27001, Essential Eight, NIST, SOC 2, and sector-specific obligations. His work focuses on turning cybersecurity from a vague technical concern into a structured business risk conversation that leaders can act on.

Luke is a frequent speaker, commentator, and industry contributor, recognised for making complex cybersecurity issues understandable, relevant, and actionable for business audiences. Through his work, he helps organisations cut through noise, challenge poor practice, and build security programs that are defensible, proportionate, and aligned to business objectives.



Adam Ford
IAPP
Managing Director, ANZ

Adam Ford leads the IAPP in the ANZ region. With the support of the global IAPP team, this role embeds Adam amongst a rapidly growing community of over 95,000 organizational and individual members with privacy, AI governance and digital responsibility at the core of their responsibilities.

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Jack Morgan
FinTech Australia
Head of Policy

Jack Morgan is Head of Policy at FinTech Australia, the peak industry body for the Australian fintech sector, representing more than 400 fintech companies and startups across the country. He leads FinTech Australia's policy and regulatory engagement across areas including payments, digital assets, open banking, AML/CTF reform, digital identity and emerging financial regulation.

Prior to joining FinTech Australia, Jack worked as a commercial litigator and as a policy adviser for another leading financial services industry association, where he advised domestic and international fund managers on regulatory and public policy issues. He also spent six years advising Australian Federal ministers across the Treasury, Finance and Home Affairs portfolios.

Jack regularly engages with Treasury, ASIC, AUSTRAC, the Reserve Bank of Australia and other regulators on major reforms impacting the financial services sector. His work focuses on balancing innovation, competition and consumer protection, while ensuring regulatory settings remain practical, proportionate and supportive of economic growth.



Charlotte Davidson
IDCARE Group
Interim Chief
Executive Officer

Charlotte has over 20 years experience across the Australian and NSW governments, including 12 years in cyber security and cybercrime intelligence.

Charlotte was a founding member and executive with the central NSW government cyber function, Cyber Security NSW, leading the state's cyber security strategy and policy. She was Manager of Cybercrime Intelligence at the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission.

Charlotte was awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 2020 to undertake international research on cyber security awareness. She completed an Executive Master of Public Administration in 2022.

Charlotte is a Certified Information Security Manager (CISM), is certified in Governance, Risk and Compliance (CGRC), and has qualifications in accounting, leadership and community development.



Anneliese Cooper
Human Rights Law Centre
Lawyer

Anneliese Cooper is a Lawyer in the Centre's Whistleblower Project where she advises and represents whistleblowers and works to strengthen public interest accountability mechanisms across jurisdictions.

Anneliese is committed to advocating for transparency and accountability and supporting her clients through the complexities of complaints, investigations, and litigation.



Izabel Greco
TAL
General Manager -
Prudential, Governance &
Accountability

Izabel Greco is General Manager – Prudential, Governance & Accountability at TAL, Australia's leading life insurers. With over a decade of experience in risk management and compliance across financial services, she leads TAL's prudential risk, regulatory governance, and accountability frameworks — including the Financial Accountability Regime and enterprise-wide risk management under APRA's prudential standards. Izabel led TAL's implementation of CPS 230, driving the uplift of operational risk and resilience practices across the organisation.

MEET THE SPEAKERS



Prof. Vivienne Brand

Professor of Corporate Law, **Flinders University**,
Non-Executive Director

Vivienne Brand is a Professor at Flinders University Law School, researching & teaching in corporate law and governance. She has broad cross-sectoral governance experience as a non-executive director including on for-purpose, for-profit (listed & unlisted) and regulatory boards, including as a Chair of an Audit & Risk Committee.

Vivienne is a Deputy Chair of the Law Council of Australia's Corporations Committee and a General Editor of the Australian Journal of Corporate Law.



Rachel Poo

QBE Insurance
Head of Group Statutory Reporting and Accounting Policy

Rachel Poo is Head of Group Statutory Reporting & Accounting Policy at QBE Insurance Group, where she leads the Group's external reporting function, including financial and sustainability reporting. A chartered accountant with over 10 years of experience across London and Sydney, Rachel has extensive experience in financial reporting, technical accounting and sustainability reporting. Prior to joining QBE, Rachel worked in assurance and advisory services at Deloitte. Rachel led the implementation and preparation of QBE's first climate-related disclosures under Australia's mandatory climate reporting regime and works closely with senior executives, boards and auditors on financial and sustainability reporting matters.



Andrew Hottes

CEO - ISO4 FBCS CITP
ISO 27001 & 42001
Lead Auditor

Andrew Hottes is a technology, cybersecurity and AI governance Leader with more than 25 years of national and international experience spanning financial services, technology and education. He has led large-scale digital transformation programs across Australia, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong and the United States, delivering enterprise technology strategies, cloud migrations, cybersecurity uplift initiatives and complex organisational change programs.

Andrew is widely recognised for his work in governance, information security and emerging technologies. He led the Australian-first independent school certification to ISO 27001 and subsequently guided the achievement of what is believed to be the world's first school certification to ISO 42001 (Artificial Intelligence Management Systems) in December 2025.

A Fellow of the British Computer Society (FBCS) and Chartered IT Professional (CITP), Andrew is also an ISO 27001 Lead Auditor, ISO 42001 Lead Auditor and ISC2 Information Security Management Professional (ISSMP). He is a multiple-time CIO50 and CSO30 honouree and was named Education Technology Leader of the Year in 2025.

Andrew advises boards, executive teams and organisations on cybersecurity, AI governance, digital strategy, risk management and technology-enabled transformation. His work focuses on helping organisations harness innovation safely while building resilient, secure and well-governed digital environments.



Prof. James Curran

University of Sydney,
Australian Financial Review

James Curran is Professor of Modern History at the University of Sydney. He was formerly International Editor at the Australian Financial Review and is the author of a number of books and articles on Australian foreign policy, including for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Policy. His next book Grand Ambition: Paul Keating's Global Vision for Australia is published by Simon & Schuster next month.

MEET THE SPEAKERS



Jamal Waqar

Standards Australia
Head of Research, Experience,
Data and Analytics

Jamal Waqar is Head of Research, Experience, Data and Analytics at Standards Australia, where he leads multidisciplinary teams delivering insights that inform policy, industry, and regulatory decision-making. He specialises in data governance, AI strategy, and the development of standards that enable safe, trusted, and interoperable systems across emerging technologies.

Jamal has led national and international initiatives spanning data-centric AI, environmental data standards, quantum technologies, and critical infrastructure. His work focuses on translating complex technical and regulatory challenges into practical frameworks that support regulators and industry alike.

He is an active contributor to global standards development and frequently engages with government, industry, and international bodies to shape the future of responsible technology adoption.



Gavin D.Coles

OFX
Global Sanctions Officer

Gavin has concentrated on the specialist field of financial crime for over 25 years, living and working in locations as diverse as the UK, Hong Kong, Australia, and the United States. Major roles included the Global AML & Sanctions function for National Australia Bank; providing consultant services on AML and Sanctions for EY in Australia and the UK; AML officer for the Bank of New York in London; and working as part of a UK Cabinet Office team designing anti-laundering policy recommendations that resulted in the Proceeds of Crime Act.

After a long stint in post as Global Head of AML for Citi Private Bank based out of New York, he moved back to Australia to run his own consultancy, helping a range of national and international clients with AML, Sanctions, and financial crime risk challenges; he's worked with many government agencies across the world on both individual investigations and strategic issues.

Since 2024 he has been the Global Sanctions Officer at OFX, an ASX listed international payment services, FX solutions, and automation company - if you want to talk sanctions controls, buy him a coffee!



Emma Rosenzweig

Australian Taxation Office
Deputy Commissioner,
Payday Super Program

Emma Rosenzweig is the Deputy Commissioner and Senior Accountable Officer for the Payday Super Program, within the Australian Taxation Office.

Emma is responsible for delivering this transformational program, which will result in greater certainty that the superannuation entitlements of millions of people are paid correctly and on time.

Emma has worked for the ATO for over 25 years in a range of roles across nearly all areas of the organisation, including client engagement roles focused on small business and employers, law roles including the design and drafting of legislation, and leadership of the ATO's service strategy design and implementation.

Emma holds a Bachelor of Laws, a Bachelor of Commerce and a Masters of Tax.



Hugh Watson

Australian Sanctions Office
Assistant Secretary

Hugh Watson is Assistant Secretary of the Australian Sanctions Office (ASO) within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The ASO is the Australian Government's sanctions regulator, responsible for administering Australia's sanctions laws and promoting and enforcing compliance. Hugh brings extensive senior leadership experience across DFAT, with roles spanning cyber and critical technology, international law and multilateral engagement. His career includes leading Australia's climate negotiations at COP26, directing multilateral human rights policy during Australia's term on the UN Human Rights Council, and serving as a disarmament and international law negotiator in Geneva.

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Kara Nicholls

Impact Governance
Founder & Managing Director

Kara Nicholls is the Founder and Managing Director of Impact Governance, where she advises organisations on governance, ESG, and emerging risk across complex regulatory environments. With over 25 years of boardroom experience, she brings deep expertise across financial services, government, and social enterprise.

Kara currently serves as Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee at the NSW Rural Fire Service, Chair of the ESG Advisory Council at Blackwattle Investment Partners, and Non-Executive Director at Ripple Learning, alongside multiple advisory and committee roles.

A trusted boardroom advisor and governance specialist, Kara is known for aligning risk, culture, and accountability with strategic objectives to deliver practical, sustainable outcomes.



Jason Masters
FAICD PFIIA

Non Executive Director, Audit, Risk, and Governance leader

Jason Masters is Managing Director of a boutique management consulting firm focusing on integrity of commercial transactions, an independent board member covering a wide number of industries from financial services, medical regulations, pharmaceutical startups, cemeteries and corporate giving programs. He also chairs numerous audit and risk committees for government agencies. He is a Fellow and a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He is also a Professional Fellow of the Institute of Internal Auditors (Australia). He previously co-authored the international landmark research book "Computer Security in Australia" and is the Managing Editor of a new journal, the Journal of Community Applied Research.



Megan Styles

Victoria Bar
Barrister

Megan accepts briefs in a broad range of matters. She has a particular interest in matters involving asset tracing, proceeds of crime/asset confiscation, financial crime investigations, AML/CTF legislation, disclosure issues, law enforcement, bankruptcy and insolvency law and mortgage disputes. Megan regularly advises and appears in matters involving state and federal agencies, corporations, law enforcement bodies and financial institutions, in a variety of courts and tribunals.



Ramanathan Karuppiah

Financial Crime Compliance Specialist & Certified Auditor

Ramanathan Karuppiah is a financial crime prevention and compliance leader with extensive experience spanning financial services, payments, risk management, auditing, and regulatory compliance. He serves as Executive Director, AMLCO, and Responsible Manager of Fly Wallet Pty Ltd, Principal Program Manager at Mastercard, and Principal Auditor at Financial Crime Audits Pty Ltd.

Ramanathan is a Fellow of Public Accountants Australia, a Fellow of the International Compliance Association (ICA), Member of Australian Institute of Company Directors (MAICD) and a Certified Advanced CAMS-Auditor. He is widely recognized for his expertise in anti-money laundering (AML), counter-terrorism financing (CTF), financial crime risk management, governance, and regulatory compliance.

A passionate academic researcher, Ramanathan has contributed to advancing industry knowledge in financial crime prevention and has worked closely with Griffith University in establishing its Centre of Excellence for Financial Crime Prevention. His unique blend of industry leadership, audit expertise, and academic engagement positions him at the forefront of efforts to combat financial crime and strengthen compliance frameworks globally.

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Olga Ganopolsky
Macquarie Group
General Counsel
(Data Privacy)

Olga Ganopolsky is General Counsel – Privacy and Data at Macquarie Group, overseeing data and privacy across the 32 jurisdictions in which Macquarie operates. A seasoned privacy and regulatory lawyer, Olga's experience spans compliance framework development, data breach advisory, class action defence, credit reporting, and complex cross-border commercial transactions involving data.

She has been actively involved in Australian and international law reform, including Privacy Act Tranche 1, the SOCI Act, and the EU AI Act. Olga chairs the Law Council's Business Law Privacy Committee and the NSW Law Society Privacy and Data Committee, and is a member of the OECD Working Party on Cross-Border Data Transfers.



Reiko Mori
Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation
Executive Officer and Deputy
Head of Asia Pacific

Reiko Mori is an Executive Officer at Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) and Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group (SMFG), one of the three largest financial institutions in Japan. Since May 2025, she has served as the Deputy Head of the Asia Pacific Division, based in Singapore. She is overseeing sustainability in the region.

Prior to her current role, she was the Head of the Global Financial Institutions Group in Tokyo, leading a global team responsible for managing relationships with major non-Japanese financial institutions.

With over 30 years of experience in the banking industry, Reiko has held diverse roles including Investor Relations at SMFG, where she engaged with global institutional investors on various initiatives to enhance corporate value, as well as Credit and Industry Research at the Corporate Research Department of SMBC. She began her career in Osaka and has also worked in New York, Tokyo and London.

Reiko holds a Bachelor of Economics degree from Kyoto University.



Simon Mitchell
AICD
Acting Head of Policy

Simon is the Acting Head of Policy in the Education & Policy Leadership team at the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD). He focuses on cyber security, critical infrastructure, data governance, financial services, and how policy and governance developments in these areas impact AICD members. Simon has led the development of key AICD AI, cyber and data governance publications, notably A Director's Guide to AI Governance, and Data Governance Foundations for Boards.



Marcus Zeltzer
Yellow Canary
Founder

Marcus Zeltzer is a leading expert on workforce compliance in Australia. As Founder and Managing Director of Yellow Canary, he helps some of the nation's largest employers manage payroll, superannuation, and industrial obligations through AI-powered and automated compliance audit technology. Under his leadership, Yellow Canary has reviewed more than \$100 billion in payroll data and completed over 110 historical wage reviews.

Marcus also serves on the Investment Review Council for Blackwattle Investment Partners, is a member of the Board of Directors for the RegTech Association, and advises the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations on its RegTech roadmap for modern awards. A frequent speaker on compliance, automation, and ESG, Marcus is known for translating complex regulatory challenges into practical, tech-enabled solutions.