

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE JOBS SUMMIT 2025



EVENT PROGRAM



11-12 JUNE 2025

PRESENTED BY:



white box
ENTERPRISES



08:00AM – 09:00AM Registration	
09:00AM – 9:30AM Welcome + Welcome to Country FORUM	
<p>Jess Moore, Social Enterprise Australia</p> <p>Mark Daniels, White Box Enterprises</p>	<p>Mark Daniels and Jess Moore will kick off the conference, setting the tone for the next two days as we explore how to build common ground to shift systems and create a future where everyone has access to decent work. Jess will also introduce key themes we'll unpack across the summit: what makes or breaks a jobs-focused social enterprise, the challenges and gaps in the ecosystem, the real cost of impact, the urgency of this moment, and the opportunity of a national strategy.</p>
9.30AM – 9.45AM The power of social enterprise employment FORUM	
<p>Mel Sass, Beacon Laundry</p>	<p>Jobs-focused social enterprise is a powerful way to create opportunities for people shut out of mainstream employment. To remind us why we're all here, Mel Sass will share their story. A former family services practitioner and the self-appointed poster child for adversity, Mel now thrives as part of the team at Beacon Laundry. Drawing on lived experience of addiction and recovery, they'll remind us why decent work is about so much more than a job.</p>
9.45AM - 10:45AM Starting real: The rollercoaster of running a jobs-focused social enterprise FORUM	
<p>Bec Scott, STREAT</p> <p>Geoff Smith, Australian Spatial Analytics</p> <p>Glenda Abraham, Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation</p>	<p>We're putting practitioners front and centre in a series of short, sharp talks that share the highs and lows of running a jobs-focused social enterprise. What's working and what's not? What hard-earned lessons are worth sharing? What keeps them going? And if they had their time again, what would they do differently?</p>
10.45AM – 11.15AM Morning Tea	

11:15AM – 12.15PM
How can we scale the impact of work integration social enterprise? What the research shows so far
FORUM

Professor Jo Barraket AM,
Melbourne Social Equity Institute

How can we get more people into decent, meaningful work? What makes a jobs-focused social enterprise model scalable, replicable, and effective—and under what conditions?

In 2024, a research team from the Universities of Melbourne and Queensland led by Professor Jo Barraket, began exploring these questions through research funded by an Australian Research Council Linkage grant*. The study is investigating the role WISEs can play in improving the employment futures of people experiencing disadvantage.

Find out what insights the team have uncovered so far and what you can take back to your own organisation.

**In partnership with White Box Enterprises, Westpac Foundation, Outlook Australia and STREAT*

12:15PM – 1.05PM
Lessons from France: Insights from a \$2B organisation
FORUM

Frédéric Bailly,
Groupe SOS
Luke Terry,
White Box Enterprises

What are the conditions that enable a social purpose organisation to grow to over 750 entities, employing 22,000 people and reaching more than 2 million beneficiaries — while addressing exclusion, delivering essential services, and driving innovation across social and environmental challenges?

Frédéric Bailly will share insights from this extraordinary organisation including its many jobs-focused models. He'll then be joined by Luke Terry from White Box Enterprises to tease out how this non-profit group has achieved such phenomenal scale, and what support the French Government provides.

1.05PM – 1.40PM
Lunch

1.40PM – 2.20PM Parallel sessions

Are Payments by Outcome the systemic change we need?
FORUM 1

Judi Drown
Amber O'Connell, Department of Social Services
Ben Gales, Office of Social Impact, QLD Treasury
Mark Daniels, White Box Enterprises

Unlike other organisations in the employment ecosystem most jobs-focused social enterprises aren't funded for supporting people into work. Payment By Outcomes (PBO) is a new model being trialed where social enterprises are paid directly for the outcomes they steward.

It sounds exciting, and it can be, but what's the reality of these models? How do they land differently in different contexts? Is your organisation the right fit? And is this the mechanism to take us to a model of ongoing systemic change?

Short and sharp. Stories from the front line
FORUM 2

Steph Say, HoMie
Bianca Stern, All Things Equal
Rebecca Crawley, Thamarrurr Youth Indigenous Corporation

Stay sharp after lunch with a round of lightning talks sharing bold ideas, honest lessons, and fresh inspiration.

Get moving
FORUM 3

Need a moment to not be sitting? To move after lunch? This is your space.

Stay tuned for more details soon.

2.25PM – 3.15PM Parallel sessions

The good, the bad, the ugly: the double edged sword of social procurement
FORUM 1

Tara Anderson, Social Traders
Nicole Donnison, Icon
Jono Coker, Bama Services

Social procurement can be a catalyst for many jobs-focused social enterprises. But along with the opportunities, what should you look out for? What stage of growth does it suit? How do you spot and negotiate an unforgiving contract or consider unintended consequences? And what do corporates and governments need to consider?

A panel discussion with pep that is sure to get you thinking.

Details coming soon
FORUM 2
What Paul Ramsay Foundation learnt from investing \$42M in WISEs
FORUM 3

Matt Knopp, Paul Ramsay Foundation

As part of a \$111 million employment portfolio, PRF invested \$42 million in 30 partnerships across 24 WISEs. These enterprises consistently deliver strong outcomes for people furthest from the labour market. But behind the impact lies a tougher story — of fragile business models, systemic underinvestment, and a funding environment that doesn't yet pay for what works.

In this session, Matt Knopp will share key insights from this body of work — and discuss what makes WISEs effective, what threatens their viability, and what's needed to unlock their full potential.

3.15PM – 3.30PM Afternoon Tea

3.30PM – 4.30PM

Birds of a feather: connecting with others facing similar challenges

FORUMS 1, 2 & 3

When we asked people what they love most about conferences, connecting with others in the sector was consistently one of the top things. This is one of several moments throughout the Social Enterprise Jobs Summit designed to help you deepen those connections and strengthen your network.

We invite you to sit down with others in the same space as you. Share challenges, spark connections and learn from each other.

4.30PM – 6.00PM

Networking drinks

Continue the connections with informal social connection time.

Inspired by a speaker? Find them here. Want to bask in the energy the social enterprise sector brings? This is that time.

9.00AM – 9.50AM Parallel sessions
Why is collaboration so hard and how can we do it better?
FORUM 1

Sally McGeoch, Westpac Foundation
Dr Ingrid Burkett, The Good Shift
Dr Kate Barrelle, STREAT

Is collaboration the most overused word in our sector? Maybe, but it's also necessary to achieve our big, hairy audacious goals. And it's hard. It takes trust, intention, patience and funding.

In this interactive session explore the challenges and opportunities of collaboration through the experiences of Moving Feast and Advance to Zero Homelessness. Walk away with practical insights to strengthen your own collaborations and start to shift the dial.

WISE start-up masterclass
FORUM 2

Luke Terry, White Box Enterprises

Shifting your mindset from social to business is hard when you're close to a cause. But it's critical to building a large-scale, profitable jobs-focused social enterprise.

In this session, Luke Terry lifts the lid on strategies that have worked and not worked when building social enterprises. Everything from capital raising, cash-flow and getting comfortable with debt, to wrap-around supports and the power of community partnerships.

What makes a good transition model?
FORUM 3

Valerie Richards, Jigsaw
Carmen Garcia, Community Corporate
Ryan Salzke, Vanguard Laundry
Roksolana Suchowerska, Centre for Social Impact, Swinburne

What makes a good transition from a jobs-focused social enterprise into mainstream employment? We know it's not a one-size-fits all approach. These experienced speakers will share the different ways that are working for their contexts and their cohorts.

09.55AM – 10.45AM Parallel sessions
Right capital, right time
FORUM 1

Mark Daniels, White Box Enterprises
Hanna Ebeling, Sefa
Belinda Morrissey, English Family Foundation
Matt Pfahlert, ACRE

Access to capital is consistently one of the highest rated needs of social enterprises. But not all capital is created equal.

What types of capital make sense at different stages of a social enterprise's journey? And how can you wean your organisation off grants and onto borrowing over time?

Join this session and learn how to find the right capital at the right time.

Details coming soon
FORUM 2
Your space
FORUM 3

A chance to meet with someone 1:1 and add your inputs to our interactive elements.

10:45AM - 11:05AM Morning Tea

11.05AM – 11.55AM Parallel sessions

What are the industries where WISEs thrive and which ones are toughest?

FORUM 1

Grant Coker-Williams, Blueline Laundry
Neil Gonsalvez, White Box Enterprises
Frédéric Bailly, Groupe SOS

Are there industries where running a sustainable jobs-focused social enterprise is easier? If yes, what are they?

In this session we'll explore the characteristics of the industries where jobs-focused social enterprises are most likely to thrive — and those that tend to be trickier. Find out what you should look for and how you can find the right market for your idea.

Ask an expert anything

FORUM 2

Think speed dating for business advice. If there are people you've heard about, read about, admired from afar, now's your chance to pick their brains.

Further details about how this session will work will be shared closer to the summit.

How does the place-based agenda intersect with jobs-focused social enterprise?

FORUM 3

Bill Mithen, Neighbourhood Economics
Julie McKay, Enable Social Enterprises
Coralie Nichols, The Ian & Shirley Norman Foundation

Place-based work has experienced a renewed focus over the past decade in Australia and there is a natural interface between the aims of place-based approaches and social enterprise.

Join this conversation to explore where the opportunities might be for social enterprise, in this current moment of place-based policy and action focus.

12.00PM – 12.50PM Parallel sessions

Mergers + acquisitions: When are we better together?

FORUM 1

Myron Mann, Bedford Group
Pat Ryan, Dismantle
Facilitator: TBC

Acquisition is a genuine model for starting a social enterprise — discuss. Dig into the challenges and opportunities of mergers and acquisitions and think about what great outcomes look like.

Details coming soon

FORUM 2

Details coming soon

FORUM 3

12.50PM – 1.20PM	Lunch	
1.20PM – 2.20PM	Afternoon plenary: What future of work trends should you be paying attention to?	FORUM
Barney Glover AO, Jobs and Skills Australia	As Commissioner of Jobs and Skills Australia, Barney Glover AO spends his days thinking about how the full skills potential of Australia might be realised. Considering what we need to do for improved workforce participation, productivity, wages and equity. Tap into his insights on the future of work and the spaces where opportunity is highest.	
2.20PM – 2.45PM	Afternoon Tea	
2.45PM – 3.45PM	Playback: What could the future look like?	FORUM
Alex Hannant	A round up of key themes from across the conference and how they might feed into a challenge-led approach for the sector working towards decent and inclusive work for all. Does it reflect what you heard? Is there anything missing? Where might you contribute?	
3.45PM – 4.30PM	Closing keynote	FORUM
	Details coming soon.	