

# ALERA 2025 Program

## Thursday 9 October

18:00 – 20:00

### Welcome Reception

Watermall, Queensland Art Gallery  
Stanley Place, South Brisbane

First 45 minutes (only) of the Reception allows access to the gallery for this exhibition [Under a Modern Sun](#)

## Friday 10 October

08.00

**The Star**  
**33 William Street**  
**Event Centre - Level 6**

Registration Desk open

Arrival tea & coffee and barista open

**Barista service thanks to our Platinum sponsor**



09:00 – 9:30

### Welcome Address | **Faiyaz Devjee**

President, Industrial Relations Society of Queensland

### Welcome to Country | **Tribal Experiences**

9:30 – 10:45

### Session introduction:

**Alison Francis, Fletcher Building | ALERA 2025 Organising Committee**

### Is IR productive?

*Chair:* **Professor Rae Cooper**

President, International Labour and Employment Relations Association

Professor of Gender, Work and Employment Relations, The University of Sydney

*Panellists:*

**Emeritus Professor Mark Bray**

Reviewer, Secure Jobs, Better Pay Statutory Review

Emeritus Professor, Human Resource Management, University of Newcastle

**Shaun Schmitke**

Director, Workplace Relations, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

	<b>Anthony Forsyth</b> ACTU Senior Legal Officer
10:45 – 11:15	<b>Morning Refreshments</b> Stop by and say hi to 
11:15 – 12:00	<b>Session Chair:</b> <b>Christa Lenard, Kingston Reid   ALERA Vice President</b>  <b>Fair Work Commission – Major Case Update</b> <b>Justice Adam Hatcher</b> President, Fair Work Commission
12:00 – 13:00	<b>Session introduction:</b> <b>Ezra Pyers, Business Chamber Queensland   ALERA 2025 Organising Committee</b>  <b>Psychosocial risk management: a work health and safety approach</b> Chair: <b>Professor Johanna Macneil</b> Academic Director, Engagement for Social Impact, RMIT University Professor of People, Organisation and Work, RMIT University  <b>Panellists:</b> <b>Stacey Schinnerl</b> Queensland Branch Secretary, Australian Workers Union Vice President, Queensland Council of Unions Director, WorkCover Queensland <b>Dr Megan Brooks</b> Barrister, Callinan Chambers <b>Lillian Donner</b> Senior Legal Counsel, Virgin Australia
13:00 – 14:00	<b>Lunch</b> Stop by and say hi to 
14:00 – 15:15	<b>Session introduction:</b> <b>Jane van den Herik, Curtin University   ALERA Vice President</b>  <b>Will workplace relations become artificially intelligent?</b>

	<p><b>Chair: Professor Lucy Taksa</b></p> <p>Co-Editor of the Journal of Industrial Relations Professor of Management, Deakin University</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <p><b>Jason McQuillen</b> Partner, Minter Ellison Consulting</p> <p><b>Heidi Cooper</b> Chief Executive Officer, Business Chamber Queensland</p> <p><b>Brad Hayes</b> Federal Secretary, Independent Education Union</p>
15:15 – 15:45	<p><b>Afternoon Refreshments</b> Stop by and say hi to </p>
15:45 – 16:45	<p><b>Session Chair:</b> <b>Ben French, Griffith University   ALERA 2025 Organising Committee</b></p> <p><b>Masterclass – general protections</b> <b>Stephen Mackie</b> Barrister, Denning Chambers</p>
18:30 - 23:00	<p><b>ALERA 2025 Dinner</b> <b>Rivershed, Howard Smith Wharves</b></p> <p><b>Getting There</b> Ferry transfers will depart from North Quay Ferry Terminal, just a short walk from The Star.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>First departure: 18:10</b></li> <li>• <b>Final departure: 18:35</b></li> </ul> <p><i>Please note that at the end of the evening, there will be no return ferry service. Please make your own way home.</i></p> <p><b>Evening Schedule</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>18:30 – 19:15: Pre-dinner drinks</b></li> <li>• <b>19:15 – 23:00: Dinner</b></li> </ul>

## Saturday 11 October

08:30	<p>Registration Desk open Arrival tea &amp; coffee and barista open</p>
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	<p>Barista service thanks to our Platinum sponsors</p> 
09:30 – 10:15	<p><b>Chair:</b></p> <p>Professor Julian Teicher, Honorary Professor, Faculty of Business and Law Deakin University &amp; Adjunct Professor School of Business and Law, Central Queensland University   Chair, ALERA Research and Publications Subcommittee</p> <p><b>Race discrimination and the role of the workplace?</b></p> <p><b>Giri Sivaraman</b> Race Discrimination Commissioner</p>
10:15 – 11:00	<p><b>Chair:</b></p> <p>Fiona Corbett, Australian Business Lawyers &amp; Advisors   ALERA 2025 Organising Committee</p> <p><b>Resolving disputes in the workplace</b></p> <p><b>Commissioner Sharon Durham</b> Fair Work Commission</p>
11:00 - 11:30	<p><b>Morning Refreshments</b> Stop by and say hi to </p>
11:30 – 12:45	<p><b>Session introduction:</b></p> <p>Brenton Higgins, ACT Government   ALERA Vice President</p> <p><b>Responding practically to legislative change</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Joanna Minchinton</b> Head of Legal and Consulting, IRiQ Law Life Member, ALERA and Life Member, Industrial Relations Society of Queensland</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <p><b>Rebecca Pezzutti</b> Director, IRBlots</p> <p><b>Jacqueline King</b> General Secretary, Queensland Council of Unions</p> <p><b>Sally McLellan</b> Head of Workplace Relations, BHP</p>
12:45 – 13:45	<p><b>Lunch</b> Stop by and say hi to </p>

13:45 – 14:45	<p><b>Chair:</b></p> <p><b>Simon Bourne, SMB Workplace &amp; Employment Law   ALERA Vice President</b></p> <p><b>LIVE PODCAST RECORDING: Employment law for the time poor</b></p> <p><b>Andrew Stewart</b></p> <p>Professor of Work and Regulation, Queensland University of Technology</p> <p><b>Emily Haar</b></p> <p>Partner, Piper Alderman</p> <p>Editor, University of Adelaide Law Review</p>
14:45 – 15:00	<p><b>Conference Close   Faiyaz Devjee</b></p> <p>President, Industrial Relations Society of Queensland</p>
15:00 – 15:30	<p><b>Afternoon Refreshments</b></p>