



Charity Law Association of Australia and New Zealand

CLAANZ 2026 Conference Agenda – Thursday 23 July & Friday 24 July 2026

Towards Solutions: Pressing Issues in Charity Law

In-person – Gilbert + Tobin, Sydney – and online

Thursday 23 July

Time (AEST)	Topic	Speaker(s)	Chair
1.30-1.45pm	Registration and tea/coffee		
1.45-2.00	Welcome to Country	Noeleen Timbery, Gujaga Foundation	
2.00-3.00	Keynote: Pressing issues in charity law	Darren Fittler, Partner, Gilbert + Tobin and Adjunct Professor, University of Sydney	Ian Murray
3.00-3.15	Policy Issues	Hon Andrew Leigh, Assistant Minister for Productivity, Competition, Charities & Treasury (recording)	
3.15-3.30	Afternoon tea		
3.30-4.30	Use of AI by Charities	-Alex Milner, Milner + Huang -Emeritus Professor Myles McGregor-Lowndes, QUT -Jo Lennan, Paul Ramsay Foundation	Seak-King Huang
4.30-5.30	Tax issues facing charities	-Alice Macdougall, Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer -Nick Bland, Simpson Grierson -Melinda Knight, ATO	Angela Lee
5:30-6.45	Pre-dinner drinks and networking Gilbert+Tobin		
7.00-9.00pm	Conference dinner Meat and Wine Co, Barangaroo		

Friday 24 July			
Time (AEST)	Topic	Speaker(s)	Chair
9.15-9.30am	Registration and tea/coffee		
9.30-10.30	Regulation: compliance issues from a regulator perspective	-Sue Woodward AM, Commissioner, Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission -Charlotte Stanley, Charities Services NZ -Stewart Donaldson, Inland Revenue Department NZ -Tom Wheeler, ATO	Murray Baird
10.30-11.30	Regulation: compliance issues from a practitioner perspective	-Sam Burnett, Prolegis -Vera Visevic, Mills Oakley -Jessica Lipsett, Vocare Law -Anna Young, Cowell Clarke	Jennifer Batrouney
11.30-11.45	Morning tea		
11.45-12.30	Charity mergers, restructures and diversification	-Steven Moe, Parry Field Lawyers -Simon Miller, Brotherhood of St Laurence -Elizabeth Wighton, Gilbert + Tobin	Darren Fittler
12.30-1.15	Lunch		
1.15-2.00	Charity law journeys and reflections on pressing issues	-Marla Cowan, Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer -Elizabeth Shalders, Mills Oakley -Sue Barker, Sue Barker Charities Law	Ian Murray
2.00-2.45	Volunteering	-Matthew Turnour, Neumann & Turnour Lawyers -Michelle Kitney, Volunteering New Zealand -Nancy Campisi, Lifeline	Sari Baird
2.45-3.00	Afternoon tea		
3.00-4.00	Charitable bequests	-Katrina Williams, Office of General Counsel, The University of Sydney -Kaushalya Mataraaratchi, Gilbert + Tobin -Morgan Koegel, Bequest Assist	Natalie Silver
4.00-4.30pm	Close	Ian Murray	