

VIC Branch Social Work Forum: Many Voices One Profession – 10 April 2026

Event program All rooms are located on Monash University Caulfield Campus, H Building

Timings	Activity	Session details	Location
9:10–9:30am	Doors open and sign in		Hall in front of H116
9:30–9:40am	Welcome	Associate Professor Catherine Flynn	H116
9:30–9:50am	Branch President address	Jesse Hooper, AASW Victoria Branch President	H116
9:50–10:20am	Keynote address	To Be or Not To Be: The Future of Our Profession Liz Little, AASW National President	H116
10:20–10:30am	Questions		H116
10:30–10:35am	Move to workshops		
10:35–11:20am	Workshops	Roundtable Liz Little, Kerryn Pennell	H206
		Ethical Use of GenAI in Social Work Practice Dr Rebecca Featherston	H207
		Australian Chinese Social Work Megan Li, Jiayin Xu, Karl Wang	H208
		Beyond Words, Understanding Minds: Psychodynamic Psychotherapy with Children, Adolescents, and Parents Sarah Shaw, Aleix Aytekin	H116
11:20–11:50am	Morning break and networking		
11:50–11:55am	Move to workshops		
11:55am–12:40pm	Workshops	Social Work Research and Advocacy Professor Philip Mendes	H206
		FV in Public Mental Health Lisa Hebel	H207
		Life Stories and Social Work Simon Gardiner	H208
		Filicide: Social Workers' Role in Prevention Thea Brown	H116
12:40–1:40pm	Lunch break and networking		
1:40–1:50pm	Move to workshops		
1:50–2:30pm	Workshops	Many Voices, One Profession: Unpacking School Social Work in Australia Damian Mahony, Donna Teekens	H206
		Don't Judge My Sight Based On The Brand Of My Glasses: Rather, Ask Me How Well I Can See Through My (Social Work) Lenses! Kristian Baumgren	H207
		Social Work History: Myths and Legends about Victorian Social Work Jane Miller AM, PhD	H208
		Research in Practice and Practice in Research Rachel Corea, Hui-Yu Yao, Abbie McNamara Chair: Dr Sebastian Cordoba	H116
2:30–3:00pm	Afternoon activity	Mindfulness and grounding group exercise with Irina Shnaider	H116
3:00–3:30pm	Keynote speaker	Social Work Identity: Connection, Belonging, and Purpose Professor Sarah Wendt	H116
3:30–3:40pm	Questions		H116
3:40–4:00pm	Closing remarks	Jesse Hooper	H116
4:00pm	Forum close		

