



P&C Leadership Conference

by Corporate Dojo



A One Day Immersive Experience Exploring the Contemporary Challenges Shaping People & Culture Leadership.

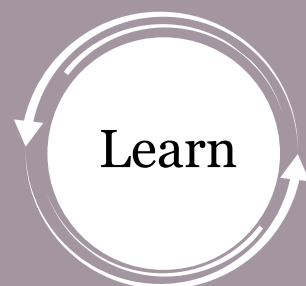
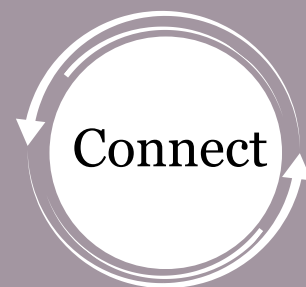
Join a practical and thought provoking one day conference designed exclusively for senior People and Culture (P&C) and Organisational Development (OD) professionals. This event brings together experienced practitioners who are passionate about strengthening organisational capability, sharing contemporary practice and exploring the evolving challenges shaping today's workplaces.

Led by the Corporate Dojo team — including Founder and Sensei Karen Gately and Executive Consultant Samantha Fraser — the day brings together keynote speakers, an expert panel, interactive workshops and collaborative discussion.

Why Attend the Conference?

The Conference offers senior professionals a rare opportunity to step away from day-to-day demands and spend a day immersed in meaningful conversations that challenge thinking, broaden perspectives and strengthen leadership practice. You'll gain fresh insights, practical strategies and valuable perspectives to support both organisational outcomes and your own leadership growth. Across the day you will:

- **Connect** with experienced leaders from a diverse range of industries and sectors, expanding your professional network and gaining fresh perspectives.
- **Share** ideas, challenges and practical solutions in a trusted, confidential environment where real-world experience is valued.
- **Gain** contemporary insights and actionable strategies you can apply immediately to enhance leadership effectiveness and organisational performance.
- **Strengthen** your leadership capability and commercial acumen, enabling you to navigate complexity, influence outcomes and drive sustainable results.
- **Build** meaningful professional relationships and partnerships that extend well beyond the day.
- **Create** dedicated space for reflection, learning and future-focused thinking, helping you stay ahead of emerging trends and challenges.
- **Learn** from leading practitioners and subject-matter experts, sharing your expertise while learning from the experience of others



8th October 2026 - 9am - 4pm
Karstens Melbourne, 123 Queen Street, Melbourne





CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

A dedicated full-day conference bringing together professionals to explore emerging workforce trends, organisational challenges and innovative practices shaping the future of People and Culture leadership.

Time	Speaker	Overview	Type
9:00 am	Karen Gately	Introduction to the Program	Welcome
9:20 am	Dr Kim Hazendonk Positive Psychology	The Optimism Advantage Leading with Possibility in a Challenging World	Speaker
10:00 am	Marg O'Rourke OAM Head, La Trobe Uni	View From the Top: What Executive Leaders Need from HR to Drive Performance	Speaker
10:40 am	Morning Break	Cuppa and networking	Break
10:55 am	Marissa Black CPO, Easy Go Karen Linford CPO, GV Health Dr Maresa Seabrook GM, P&C & Wellbeing	Bridging Two Worlds - Designing hybrid work that works for People and the Business The Workforce Reimagined - Leading People Through AI, Automation and the Future of Work Learning Without Limits - Building Growth Cultures Inside Regulated Environments	Panel Discussion
12:10 pm	Lunch Break	Lunch and networking	Lunch
12:55 pm	Damian Zahra CPO Bunnings	The People Dividend: Using Workforce Analytics to Drive Smarter Commercial Decisions	Speaker
1:35 pm	Karen Gately	Psychological Safety versus Performance Accountability The tension between care and accountability and why high-performing cultures need both	Interactive Workshop
2:35 pm	Afternoon Break	Cuppa and networking	Break
3:00 pm	Samantha Fraser	Diversity Without Inclusion Attracting diverse talent is only half the work – what happens after they arrive?	Interactive Workshop
3:45 pm	Karen Gately	Closing comments	

Early Bird Price

\$595 +GST

(pay on/before 16 Aug 26)

Full Price

\$745 +GST

(pay on/after 17 Aug 26)

Scan the QR
code to register

Registrations
close 30 Sep 26





CONFERENCE FACILITATORS



Karen Gately, Sensei

Karen Gately is the Founder of Corporate Dojo and a recognised expert in human performance, leadership and workplace dynamics. Prior to establishing Corporate Dojo in 2006, she served as HR Director for the Asia Pacific region at Vanguard Group, leading strategic people initiatives across diverse markets.

Karen is the author of *The People Manager's Toolkit* and *The Corporate Dojo* and is a respected media commentator on leadership and culture. A 3rd dan black belt and multiple-time martial arts champion, she brings a practical, disciplined approach to helping individuals and teams achieve excellence.



Samantha Fraser, Executive Consultant

Sam Fraser is an experienced leadership coach with more than 20 years' expertise across Human Resources and Organisational Development. She partners with leaders to build capability and confidence in navigating the complexities of leading people and performance.

Sam helps leaders strengthen self-awareness, enhance decision-making, and better understand the impact they have on others. With expertise in leadership development, organisational performance and team dynamics, she supports meaningful behavioural change that improves both personal effectiveness and team outcomes. Her practical and thoughtful approach enables leaders to build trust, lead with clarity and intention, and create environments where people feel engaged, capable and empowered to deliver results.





CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Dr Kim Hazendonk, Neuropsychologist

Dr Kim is a Clinical Neuropsychologist, author, keynote speaker and leadership expert, and the Founder and Principal of Positive Brain. Combining neuroscience and psychology, she helps leaders and teams enhance performance, resilience, collaboration and psychological safety through practical, evidence-based strategies.

Kim has designed and delivered more than 200 executive leadership programs and coached hundreds of professionals across diverse industries globally. A sought-after speaker and media contributor, she also consults to the Hawthorn Football Club. Kim holds a Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Neuropsychology) and is endorsed by AHPRA in Clinical Neuropsychology.



Damian Zahra, Chief People Officer

Damian Zahra is the Chief People Officer at Bunnings Group, leading the People and Safety function and overseeing the delivery of the organisations people and safety strategy. He brings more than 25 years' experience in senior human resources roles across property, online / media, professional services and retail sectors.

Prior to joining Bunnings, Damian was the General Manager, People and Culture at Vicinity Centres and previously held senior leadership roles at REA Group, where he led the international People and Culture program. He is also a board member of the Corporate Mental health Alliance Australia.

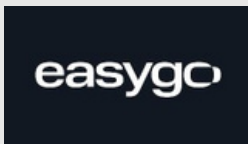


Marg O'Rourke OAM

Margaret O'Rourke OAM is a distinguished leader in education, local government and regional development. A proud Bendigo local, she served as Mayor of the City of Greater Bendigo from 2016 to 2020 and as a councillor until 2024. As Board Chair of Bendigo Kangan Institute, she drove transformative reforms and oversaw major infrastructure projects, helping the institute become the 2022 Victorian and Australian Large Training Provider of the Year. In 2024, she received the Order of Australia Medal for her service the community of Greater Bendigo, and in 2025 was awarded the Outstanding Achievement in the TAFE and Skills Sector Award. Marg currently serves as Head of La Trobe University's Bendigo campus, Chair of Victoria's Regional Development Advisory Committee, and also holds roles as part of Coliban Water, v/line advisory board, and is the RDA Loddon Mallee Deputy Chair.



CONFERENCE PANELISTS



Marissa Black, Chief People Officer

As Chief People Officer at Easygo, Marissa partners with the CEO and executive team to lead global people transformation and support the company's next phase of growth and globalisation.

With more than 20 years of experience across People and Culture, talent and transformation, Marissa has held senior leadership roles at Origin Energy, Saputo, Bankwest, and Vanguard Australia. At Origin, Marissa built enterprise talent capability, led large-scale transformation initiatives, and helped strengthen leadership, succession, and organisational performance.

Known for commercial acumen, empathy, and energy, Marissa brings a modern, data-led approach to building high-performing teams, cultures, and people strategies that unlock business value.



Karen Linford, Chief People Officer

Karen Linford is an accomplished people and culture executive with extensive experience leading workforce strategy and organisational transformation across the healthcare sector. Since joining GV Health in 2018 as Chief People Officer, she has spearheaded initiatives focused on attracting, retaining and developing talented teams, while driving significant improvements to organisational systems and HR performance.

Karen brings a collaborative leadership style and a strong track record of building high-performing teams. She holds an MBA from La Trobe University and is a Prosci Certified Change Practitioner. Earlier in her career, she practised as an Occupational Therapist in Australia and the United Kingdom.



Dr Maresa Seabrook, General Manager People, Capability, Culture and Wellbeing

Dr Maresa Seabrook is a strategic people and culture leader, researcher and executive with a passion for solving complex organisational challenges, building capability and creating high-performing workplace cultures. With experience spanning the technology, higher education and professional services sectors, she specialises in organisational transformation, workforce strategy, leadership capability and culture.

In her current role at the Law Institute of Victoria, Maresa leads initiatives that strengthen organisational performance, employee experience and wellbeing, while helping shape contemporary people practices across the legal profession. Prior to joining the LIV, she held senior leadership roles at Netcraft and RMIT University. Maresa holds a PhD in Human Resources from the University of Sydney Business School.