



2026 Aboriginal Staff Forum - Breakout Sessions

Monday 19 October

1:40pm - 2:30pm - Breakout Session 1

THEME	TITLE	DESCRIPTION
Your Wellbeing	Wellbeing Panel	A panel of Aboriginal staff and wellbeing practitioners sharing lived experience and practical strategies for staying strong, socially, emotionally and culturally, at work and at home.
Strengthen Skills	Pathways to Study Information Session	Exploring entry pathways into vocational education and training (VET) /Higher Education and available study options.
Strengthen Self	Reskilling Pathways	Exploring the concept of reskilling and identifying pathways needed to successfully transition from one type of work to another.
Strengthen Leadership	Representation on Boards and Committees	Learn the realities of participating on boards, committees and advisory groups, with practical tips on nominating, preparing and thriving once you're in the room.

2:30pm - 3:20pm Breakout Session 2

THEME	TITLE	DESCRIPTION
Your Voice	Closing the Gap Information Session	A high-level overview of the National and State Closing the Gap agreements, progress and key findings.
Strengthen Leadership	Succession Planning	Developing Aboriginal staff to step into Aboriginal leadership roles as our Aboriginal public sector leaders transition out of the public sector.
Your Life	Employee Benefits Information Session with Super SA	Learn about Super SA basics, key entitlements for Aboriginal people and retirement planning.
Strengthen Skills	Youth Leadership Panel	Hear directly from young Aboriginal leaders about their journeys so far, the challenges they've navigated, and their advice for staff wanting to build leadership skills early in their career.

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Monday 19 October

4:15pm – 5.00pm Cultural Connection Session

THEME	TITLE	DESCRIPTION
Cultural Connection	Live Music	Hear Katie Aspel, a proud Ngarrindjeri and Gunditjmara singer-songwriter, who captivates audiences with pop-infused vocals, soulful guitar, and heartfelt storytelling rooted in culture and truth.
Cultural Connection	VR Experience	Yerta Fire Services will facilitate an innovative virtual reality experience that transcends time, transporting participants back 20,000 years to explore the ancestral lands of the Kaurna people. Please note participants of this workshop will wear a Virtual Reality (VR) Headset for 10-15 minutes. Please select an alternative breakout room if you are not comfortable with wearing a VR headset.
Cultural Connection	Painting	Kaurna & Creative are leading interactive painting workshops where participants will create and keep their own painted canvas.
Cultural Connection	Aboriginal Languages	Presentation from the Mobile Language Team (MLT) – MLT is dedicated to the revival and maintenance of 47 Aboriginal languages across South Australia and to promoting the use of Indigenous languages to Close the Gap in health, education and employment outcomes for Indigenous people.





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Tuesday 20 October

1:40pm - 2:30pm - Breakout Session 1

THEME	TITLE	DESCRIPTION
Your Life	Pathways to Home Ownership	Hear from the SA Housing Trust about home ownership initiatives including the Rent to Own Scheme.
Strengthen Self	South Australian Leadership Academy Programs	Hear from the South Australian Leadership Academy about their flagship leadership development programs, including their new Aboriginal Emerging Leaders Program.
Strengthen Self	Career Progression Pathways	Identifying and mapping out pathways, goals, and actions to support individual career progression.
Your Voice	Anti-Racism Strategy	An overview of the SA Public Sector Anti-Racism Strategy.

2:30pm - 3:20pm Breakout Session 2

THEME	TITLE	DESCRIPTION
Your Wellbeing	Aboriginal Owned Employee Assistance Program	BilaEmpower is established to support Australian First Nations individuals, families, and communities through culturally integrated services that focus on social emotional wellbeing.
Your Voice	Cultural Frameworks Engagement	A workshop to help inform the development of Cultural Learning, Cultural Load and Cultural Safety Frameworks. Share your voice and lived experience to help shape frameworks that genuinely reflect the needs of Aboriginal staff.
Your Life	Employee Benefits Session	Join SMART, the South Australian Government's salary packaging provider, to learn how salary packaging can help you make the most of your employee benefits. Discover options such as novated leasing and workplace giving, including the opportunity to make pre-tax donations to selected Aboriginal charities. The session will also feature presentations from our participating charities, showcasing the valuable work they do to support and strengthen Aboriginal communities across South Australia.
Strengthen Skills	Co-design with Aboriginal Communities in Practice	Real-world examples and practical tools for co-designing programs and services with Aboriginal communities.

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