

SACOSS Energy, Water and Telco Conference 2020 – Speaker Bios

Saunoamaali'i Karanina Sumeo, Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner at the New Zealand Human Rights Commission



Saunoamaali'i Karanina Sumeo is the Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner at the New Zealand Human Rights Commission following working as a Principal Practice Advisor (Pacific) at Oranga Tamariki, working to improve outcomes for Pacific children and families. She is of Samoan descent, originally from the village of Vailima, Upolu, Samoa and is a mother to three children. Saunoamaali'i has worked as a public advisor, consultant, and social worker, advocating for the rights and interests of children, youth, women, Rainbow, and Pacific communities.

Her previous experience within the public sector includes roles with the Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, Tertiary Education Commission, and the Auckland District Health Board. Her professional and academic background has involved advocating for the promotion of economic development, social, and employment interests of marginalised groups particularly women, Pacific people, learners and young people.

Saunoamaali'i holds qualifications in science, social work, and social policy including a PhD in public policy from the Auckland University of Technology

Ross Womersely, CEO, SACOSS



Ross has had an extensive involvement in community services over many years and is driven by the idea that we live in a community in which everyone is included and has access the good things in life. He is the CEO of the South Australian Council of Social Service (SACOSS) – the peak body for the non-government community and health sector leading the fight against poverty.

Across time he has filled many roles including as a manager, advocate, teacher, leader, evaluator, mentor and consultant.

He has served on a range of Boards and committees, has been deeply involved in both training and the evaluation of human services. Ross has a formal background and qualifications in Psychology.

Ross continues to deepen and extend his understanding of many of the issues he has always been passionate about, including the social determinants of health, as he works to assist SACOSS fulfill its aspirational vision - that there is justice, opportunity and wealth for all South Australians.

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Teresa Corbin, CEO, Australian Communications Consumer Action Network



Teresa Corbin is a co-founder and now CEO of ACCAN, Australia's peak body for communications consumers. She has many years of experience working in telecommunications policy both in Australia and internationally. Teresa is a director on the Board of the International Telecommunications Users Group (INTUG).

In Australia she currently sits on several bodies including the ACMA Consumer Consultative Forum and she chairs Standards Australia's Consumer Policy Committee. In 2015, she was awarded the Charles Todd Medal by the Telecommunications Society for having made an outstanding contribution in recent years. Teresa holds a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Linguistics from La Trobe University and is a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Rebecca Law, Senior Policy Officer, SACOSS



Rebecca is Senior Policy Officer at the South Australian Council of Social Service (SACOSS). She has a background in psychology and is experienced working across the education and community sector.

At SACOSS, Rebecca engages in policy development, research and consumer advocacy to ensure that all South Australians, particularly the most vulnerable, have access to affordable and reliable essential services such as energy and water.

Rebecca is the lead author of the SACOSS' *Working to Make Ends Meet* report on waged poverty and energy affordability.

Dr Greg Ogle, Senior Policy and Research Analyst, SACOSS



Greg Ogle is Senior Policy and Research Analyst for the South Australian Council of Social Service (SACOSS) and leads policy and advocacy work around digital inclusion, cost of living and economic issues. He has published reports on telecommunications affordability for SACOSS and the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN). He also sits on the Australian Communications and Media Authority's Consumer Consultative Forum, and is the lead author of SACOSS' *Connectivity Costs* report on waged poverty and telecommunications affordability.

He has a PhD in political economy, a background as an environmental campaigner, and has been with SACOSS for ten years.

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Alison Pennington, Senior Economist, Centre for Future Work



Alison Pennington is Senior Economist at the Centre for Future Work, with The Australia Institute. She conducts research on economic issues facing working people including the evolution of collective bargaining, future of jobs, skills and training, and the role of government.

Alison has held previous roles in public finance, public sector unions, and music teaching. She considers economics a powerful tool for reinvigorating popular consciousness about how society is organised, and the discipline a natural home for building a vision of a more democratic and meaningful life for everyday people. @ak_pennington

Emma Dawson, Executive Director, Per Capita



Emma Dawson is Executive Director of public policy think tank Per Capita. She has worked as a researcher at Monash University and the University of Melbourne; in policy and public affairs for SBS and Telstra; and as a senior policy adviser in the Rudd and Gillard Governments.

Emma has published reports, articles and opinion pieces on a wide range of public policy issues. She is a regular contributor to Guardian Australia and The Australian Financial Review, is a frequent guest on various ABC radio programs nationally, and an occasional panellist on The Drum on ABC TV. She appears regularly as an expert witness before parliamentary inquiries and often speaks at public events and conferences in Australia and internationally.

Emma is the co-author of Per Capita's landmark report ***Measure for Measure: Gender Equality in Australia***, and co-editor, with Professor Janet McCalman, of the upcoming collection of essays ***What happens next? Reconstructing Australia after COVID-19***, to be published by Melbourne University Press in September 2020.

Angas Story, Secretary, SA Unions



Angas Story is the Secretary of SA Unions, the peak union organisation in South Australia.

He is the public spokesman for SA Unions. He appears before tribunals and Parliamentary bodies and works with unions in responding to public issues and policy and legislative change.

He has an extensive background in industrial relations and policy development with a focus on employment conditions, skills development, education and training, workforce planning, work health and safety, youth issues and wage theft.

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He has worked in the public and private sectors, for unions and for government. Much of his role these days involves campaigning on industrial, political and social issues.

He served on the Manufacturing Council from 2004 to 2012 and was a member of the Training and Skills Commission in 2017-2018. He is currently a member of the governments Industrial Relations Consultative Council.

Dr Cassandra Goldie, CEO, ACOSS



Cassandra Goldie has been CEO of ACOSS since July 2010. With public policy expertise in economic and social issues, civil society, social justice and human rights, Cassandra has represented the interests of people who are disadvantaged, and civil society generally, in major national and international processes as well as in grassroots communities.

Prior to joining ACOSS, Cassandra held senior roles in both the NFP and public sectors, including with the Australian Human Rights Commission, Darwin Community Legal Service and as Senior Executive with Legal Aid in Western Australia.

Cassandra has a PhD from the University of New South Wales and a Masters of Law from University College London, and is an Adjunct Professor with the Law Faculty at the University of New South Wales. She is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She serves on the Advisory Committee for the Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, the UNSW Law Advisory Committee, the Australian Climate Roundtable, the Pinnacle Foundation Board and the Energy Charter Independent Accountability Panel. She is a member of Chief Executive Women.

Ciara Sterling, CEO, Thriving Communities Partnership



Ciara is a leader who believes in the power of cross-sector collaboration to make real change for people experiencing vulnerability and exclusion. She is motivated by her passion for human rights and her belief that everyone deserves an equitable system, adequate living standards, and to live free from discrimination and is also a strong supporter to the commitment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

As Founding CEO for the Thriving Communities Partnership, she convenes over 250 organisations, together with people with lived experience, to forge deeper understanding of vulnerability and drive ecosystem change through social design innovation. Ciara is also a Non-Executive Director on the Board of Consumer Action Law Centre, a consumer advocacy organisation whose purpose is to make life easier for people experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage.

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She has over 20 years' experience collaborating across corporate, government and community sectors to address the root causes of hardship and inequality. Ciara spent over 10 years in leadership roles at Yarra Valley Water, including as Head of Community Inclusion and she was recognised as the Australian Water Professional of the Year in 2018. She pioneered approaches to supporting customers experiencing vulnerability, hardship and family violence, and led the water industry's response to the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence.

Jess Perrin, Head of Social Innovation and Digital Inclusion, Infoxchange



Jess leads Infoxchange's social impact programs to ensure no-one is left behind in today's digital world. With a focus on inclusion by design in digital, Jess oversees Ask Izzy, the award winning mobile website that connects thousands of people in need to housing, meals, support and counselling, as well as Infoxchange's digital inclusion initiatives such as Digital Springboard in partnership with Google. With a formidable bunch of partners, she leads the team to tackle some of Australia's most pressing social challenges through the smart and creative use of technology.

Prior to joining Infoxchange, Jess was Head of Global Programs at the Thomson Reuters Foundation in London where she led the Foundation's global pro bono program, TrustLaw, and the Trust Conference human rights forum.

Her career has focused on building partnerships to support and scale innovative social justice projects with organisations such as CARE Australia, Amnesty International and UNICEF. She has held a number of Board positions with UK-based charities and co-founded Not My Style, an app that shows how much fashion brands share about how they treat the women and men who make their clothes.

She holds a Masters in International Communications and Development from the City University of London, received a scholarship to the McKinsey Executive Leadership Program in 2019 and in 2015 was a finalist for the UK Women of the Future Awards.

Kellie Caught, Senior Advisor on Climate and Energy, ACOSS



Kellie strives for a more sustainable and just future where planet and people thrive together. For the past 15 years, Kellie has specialised in international climate negotiations, domestic climate mitigation and adaption policy, community advocacy and campaigning, with a focus on social and environmental outcomes. Kellie has strong skills in policy development, advocacy, and cross sector collaboration, gained from

working as a senior political adviser, climate change program manager at WWF and now as Senior Adviser with ACOSS. She has also worked at the United Nations, in government and in academia. Kellie has a Master in International Business and a Bachelor of Science.

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Con Hristodoulidis – Senior Manager Policy & Regulatory Strategy, AGL



For the last 5 years, Con has worked at AGL as the Senior Manager Policy & Regulatory Strategy. With almost 20 years' experience in energy policy and regulation, he has a deep knowledge of the policy and rulemaking processes. He is responsible for overseeing AGL's engagement and advocacy for activities that focus on customer outcomes with respect to purchasing energy as well as behind the meter products and services and has long advocated for reform of the concessions framework to improve customer outcomes.

David Coombe, Senior Manager, Customer Experience, SA Water



Graduating with a Degree in Applied Science in Exercise and Sports Science, David quickly saw the error of his ways and moved into what is now a 25 year career serving customers.

Over this time David has worked across public, private and not for profit sectors and has held senior management positions across a wide range of disciplines including contact centres, field based technical services, media, communications, community relations and business relations.

As Senior Manager Customer Experience at SA Water, David and the team have responsibility for bringing the voice of the customer into the business, deriving and using insights to help teams to deliver improved experiences for SA Water's customers.

Mel Homes-Allen, Customer Advocacy Program Lead, Origin



Mel Homes-Allen is the Customer Advocacy Program Lead at Origin and her role is all about ensuring vulnerable customers receive the support they need, so they can continue to turn on their lights and get back on track.

With a background in social work, Mel always wanted to make a positive impact in the community. For over 18 years, she has been part of the Origin team, promoting financial inclusion and resilience and providing support for disadvantaged people.

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Dr Andrew Nance, Director, The Energy Project



Andrew is one of South Australia’s most widely experienced and well respected energy specialists. Starting as a trainee engineer with the Electricity Trust of South Australia at Torrens Island Power Station in 1987, a degree in Electrical Engineering (UniSA Hons) was followed by 10 years of hands-on work with the power systems of the Collins Class Submarine fleet.

Andrew has since served as the Technical Director of the South Australian Government’s Sustainability and Climate Change Division, spent a decade advising the South Australian Council of Social Service (SACOSS), served on the Australian Energy Market Commission’s Reliability Panel and was a member of the Australian Energy Regulator’s Consumer Challenge Panel from 2016-19.

In 2018, Andrew completed a PhD in Energy Policy at University College London and from 2020 will be the Chair of SA Power Networks’ Consumer Consultative Panel and Chair of SA Power Networks’ Connections Working Group.

Robert Morsillo, Digital Inclusion Senior Specialist, Telstra



Robert started talking to Telstra in 1988 as a consumer representative, working in the community sector, and pushing for improvements to the access and affordability of the telephone. In 1995 he was invited to join Telstra to continue some of that work. In 2002 he assisted Telstra in putting together its Access for Everyone programs that seek to assist all Australians to have a basic communications service no matter what their circumstances. In 2011 Telstra formed its Chief Sustainability Office, with a prime focus on digital inclusion, and Robert is now a Senior Specialist in that team. He is a director at Infochange and a member of the governing Council of the University of Divinity. From 2013–20 he was an Adjunct Associate Professor at Swinburne University. Robert has a background and formal qualifications in computer science, theology, community development, public policy and communications. He is particularly interested in the role of technology in encouraging a sense of connectedness, and in encouraging user innovation within the communications industry, on which he has published a number of journal articles.

Fun fact: Robert has a split personality, half-Czech and half-Italian, from which he draws his intellectual and culinary predilections.