

Building Freedom Together

Lived Experience Participant Information

4th Edition of the Anti-slavery Forum

About the Forum

The Anti-slavery Forum is hosted by the NSW Anti-slavery Commissioner to build an anti-slavery community of purpose. This two-day Forum encourages learning and connection with others committed to addressing modern slavery in our state.

The ***Building Freedom Together*** Forum will be held on **Wednesday 5 and Thursday 6 November 2025**.

This two-day Forum will bring together a rich tapestry of voices, from government, business, human rights, lived experience leadership, academia, advocacy, frontline services, sustainable procurement, and industrial relations, to explore how we can collectively advance the mission to end modern slavery in NSW.

Identifying as a Person with Lived Experience

We understand that people may relate differently to the terms used to describe modern slavery and acknowledge that definitions across the world for these experiences also vary. We use the following as a guide:

Modern slavery is an experience in which someone is exploited by the use of force, fraud, or coercion, for personal or commercial gain. It centres around loss of agency and is a situation in which someone acts as though they own another person.

People experience modern slavery in many different forms, in different contexts, from different backgrounds, and in different industries. Some may identify with the term survivor, victim-survivor, peer, or person with lived experience. We acknowledge that each person's choice in identifying within the definition of modern slavery is valid. We ask that people show consideration in the way that lived experience, and trauma is discussed or shared, and that people hold space for each other with empathy.

Disclosing Lived Experience

Disclosing that you identify as a person with lived experience is entirely your choice. We aim to organise the Forum in a way that makes it safe for you to disclose if it is meaningful to you but does not require this at any time. All disclosure of lived experience is yours to share as you see fit. You can raise concerns with the organisers at any time.

Creating a safe space

It is very important for us to centre trauma informed approaches at this event, so that people with lived experience can step into a space that is as safe as possible.

Sharing the space in a respectful, inclusive and dignity affirming way is an important part of creating safety. Everyone attending the event will be required to review and acknowledge the following guide to create an empathetic and empowering space: **Brave Space Guidelines**.

Venue and Transport

The ***Building Freedom Together*** Forum is being held in **Wollongong**. The venue has a relaxed atmosphere and has easy access to open spaces and the beach. There will also be a dedicated Wellbeing Room for people with lived experience. This will serve as a place to retreat to, with snacks and drinks if you need a break from the hustle and bustle of the event. There will be creative and wellbeing-focused activities throughout each day to break up the day.

The venue is easily accessible via public transport and parking will be available at the venue, if required. If accessing public transport or travel costs are a concern, please contact Kerry or Sarah via the contact listed below, to discuss options for travel support. Support for interstate travel is also available.

Forum Snapshot

Tuesday 4 November 2025 – Travel & Check-In. We recommend arriving the day before to settle in and be ready for a prompt start on Wednesday.

Wednesday 5 & Thursday 6 November – Building Freedom Together. The program allows you to choose sessions across four different streams, ranging from business focused panels to wellbeing activities. Information about the content of each session will be available so that you can choose to engage as is right for you.

Thursday 6 November Evening – Commissioners' Commendations and Community Celebration Dinner. An opportunity to connect and celebrate the community that is building freedom together, and to honour leaders of those efforts.

Support

We will be providing an online briefing session prior to the event, to answer any further questions or connect attendees with peers. You will receive the time for the briefing with your ticket, if your expression of interest is successful.

Accommodation and all meals will be provided for people with lived experience. Your contacts for the event will be Emily, Kerry and Sarah if you have any questions or concerns. If you would like to talk to someone about anything that is activating or challenging throughout the day, please ask Kerry, Emily or Sarah for access to counselling or peer support. There will be a counsellor available on request and an optional a peer led debrief session at the end of each day.

Remuneration

If you are taking unpaid leave, missing out on work, or are not being paid for contributions to the Forum, you will be able to apply to us for **sponsored attendance**. The sponsorship payment is \$250 per day for each forum day that you attend. You can apply for sponsored attendance in the Expression of Interest form.

We encourage you to let us know if there are any other ways we can support you to make the event as meaningful and accessible for you as possible. We value your participation and insights immensely, as we believe that people with lived experience hold the key to unlocking meaningful change in our collective fight against modern slavery.

Contacts

For further information or support please contact:

Kerry Cabrera

or

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