

# ESF IMPACT

## newsletter

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### Emergency Management Conference



The 2022 ESF Emergency Management Conference was held on 5 & 6 July in Melbourne delivering a stellar program of topics and speakers to over 400 participants drawn from all areas of emergency management and local government. The theme 'As the World Changes so Must We' was used by 60 presenters to challenge participants to consider a range of contemporary issues and it kept people engaged right to the very last session.

**Simon Kusestenmacher** used demographics to illustrate that while we can provide meaning that gives us an advantage when it comes to giving people a positive story to tell about themselves, we must understand the language of different cohorts to maximise this advantage. An 'old, crusty, dusty' style of management is not going to sustain the sector as our community continues to diversify. Young people want to be in an environment of flexible, innovative start-ups and we need to respond to that. He noted the room did not reflect the diversity in our community, a refrain repeated throughout the program.

**Andrew Crisp** led a frank panel conversation discussing lessons from the public tower lockdowns where Ahmed Dini provided moving lived experience of someone who's home is in the towers. His story telling and the perspectives of other key stakeholders left us in no doubt that listening well, trust and connection with community is key.

**Dr Mark Croweller** shared his thinking on who we wish to be and how we wish to be seen by those we both lead and serve. He called for greater vulnerability at agency level saying that is the key to sound relationships and without it we risk putting a wedge between the sector and the people we serve. To listen to Dr Croweller's presentation follow this link <https://youtu.be/Y8vRtEOY3os>.



**Chyloe Kurdas**, inclusion and cultural diversity specialist applied her background in women's AFL and golf to illustrate the importance of building your own personal inclusive leadership capacity and how to be the change that will resonate and inspire others.



### REACTIONS

I found it to be a thoroughly inspiring and thought-provoking conference – best yet in my view.

I spoke about it at our staff forum yesterday – emphasising the very apparent change in focus to a strongly humanistic, community-centred, resilience-based narrative, which opens up a host of opportunities for how LSV can contribute in this space in partnership and parallel with our EM sector partners.

**Cath Greaves**  
Chief Executive Officer LSV

Congrats on a great conference. I thought the speakers were fantastic. You could feel the energy in the room.

**Rob Webb**  
Chief Executive Officer AFAC



The 2022 EM conference was an outstanding event showcasing the most progressive initiatives in the sector. For me, it was fantastic to see the application of a person-centred approach in Bushfire Recovery Victoria practices and to hear the commitment to increasing diversity across many agencies, to better reflect the communities we serve.

**Dr Faye Bendrups OAM**  
President VicSESVA

To listen to Dr Mark Croweller's presentation follow this link <https://youtu.be/Y8vRtEOY3os>