



The 2024 ANU Migration Update: Countering Myths and Delivering Facts

Half the world's population votes in 2024 and many elections hinge on migration issues, but disinformation is rife. The 2024 ANU Migration Update will counter myths and deliver facts to help inform the public and raise the standard of migration debates in the 'year of democracy'. The event convenes senior migration scholars, policymakers and practitioners to showcase the latest migration research and policy priorities at the local, national and global levels. The event is held in partnership with the Department of Home Affairs and the United Nations Migration Agency (IOM) on 2 September at the Shine Dome in Canberra. It is timed with the Pacific Migration Workshop (3 Sep), the State of the Pacific Conference (4-5 Sep), and the ANU Demography School's Population Challenges & Our Data Symposium (6 Sep).

0830 Coffee and Networking

0900 Keynote Panel

Mr Paul Girrawah House, Ngambri-Ngunnawal Custodian, The Australian National University
Prof Rebekah Brown, Provost and Senior Vice-president, The Australian National University
Dr Marie McAuliffe, Head of Migration Research Division, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

0945 Panel 1: Global trends

Chair: Ms Sanushka Mudaliar, Director of the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Migration Lab
Dr Ryan Edwards, Deputy Director, Crawford School DevPolicy Centre, ANU
Prof Philip Martin, Global Migration Centre, University of California, Davis
Dr Rasika Jayasuriya, Consultant to UN Network on Migration Secretariat; Visiting Fellow, ANU Migration Hub

1045 Coffee Break

1100 Panel 2: Data innovations

Chair: Mr Justin Douglas, Chief Economist, Australian Department of Home Affairs
Ms Beidar Cho, Director of Demography, Australian Bureau of Statistics
Prof Robert Breunig & Dr Peter Varela, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU
Dr James O'Donnell, Lead Investigator, Scanlon Foundation Social Cohesion Study, ANU

1200 Ministerial Address: Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP, Assistant Minister for Immigration

1215 Lunch

1315 Panel 3: Emerging challenges

Chair: Dr Bulent (Hass) Dellal AO, Chair of the Review of Australia's Multicultural Framework
Ms Violet Roumeliotis, CEO, Settlement Services International
Mr Joseph La Posta, CEO, Multicultural New South Wales
Mr Michael Copland, Chief Child Protection, UNICEF Pacific & Prof Litea Sewabu, University of the South Pacific
Ms Liz Collett, Chair of Expert Sub-committee on Skilled Migration; Visiting Fellow, ANU Migration Hub

1445 Coffee Break

1515 Panel 4: How to counter myths, deliver facts, and improve the migration debate

Chair: Damián Cardona Onses, Director, United Nations Information Centre for Australia, NZ & the South Pacific
Dr Marie McAuliffe, Head, Migration Research Division, United Nations Migration Agency (IOM)
Dr Abul Rizvi, Former Deputy Secretary, Department of Immigration & Citizenship
Mr Tom McIlroy, Political Correspondent at *The Australian Financial Review*

1630 Closing remarks: Prof Alan Gamlen, Director of the ANU Migration Hub

1645 Vote of Thanks: Mr Lance Allan Bonneau, Acting Chief of Mission for International Organization for Migration



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

KEYNOTE PANEL

Paul Girrawah House is a senior Ngambri-Ngunnawal custodian of the Canberra region with Wiradjuri, Walgalu and Ngunnawal ancestry. He is a descendant of Ngambri (Walgalu) man Henry 'Black Harry' Williams and Wallaballoo (Ngunnawal) man 'Murjinille' aka William Lane ('Billy the Bull'), as well as having Wiradjuri ancestries. Paul has worked extensively in Commonwealth and NSW public sector agencies, including the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. He has played a key role in the continuing practice of culture in Ngambri/Kamberri/Canberra and has worked extensively with the National Gallery as a cultural consultant. Paul is currently Senior Community Engagement Officer at The Australian National University.

Prof Rebekah Brown is the Provost and Senior Vice-President of The Australian National University. In this role she is senior Deputy to the Vice-Chancellor and leads the implementation of ANU's academic mission, and the strategic integration of education and research activities. Rebekah is a multi-award-winning educator, researcher and academic leader in environmental studies, specialising in urban water, sustainable development, and transdisciplinary methods. She holds a Bachelor of Civil Engineering (Honours) from Monash, as well as a PhD in Environmental Studies from the University of New South Wales. Rebekah was previously the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and Senior Vice-President at Monash University. She commenced her role in June 2024.

Keynote Address: Dr Marie McAuliffe is the Head of the Migration Research & Publications Division at IOM headquarters in Geneva, and Editor of IOM's flagship World Migration Report. She is an international migration specialist with over 25 years of experience in migration as a practitioner, program manager, senior government official and researcher. Marie has researched, published, and edited widely in academic and policy spheres on migration and is on the editorial boards of three scientific migration journals and is an Associate Editor of the Harvard Data Science Review. She is a regular contributor to the World Economic Forum's Agenda blog series and is affiliated with universities and think tanks in Australia (ANU), India, Switzerland, and the United States. In 2015, Marie was awarded a Sir Roland Wilson Scholarship to conduct doctoral research at ANU's School of Demography (approved late 2017) and is the 2018 recipient of the Charles Price Prize for outstanding doctoral research. She is regularly called upon to advise Presidents, Ministers, senior officials and CEOs on global dynamics in migration and displacement

PANEL 1: GLOBAL TRENDS

Ms Sanushka Mudaliar is Director of the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Migration Lab, a research and policy initiative that works with Red Cross and Red Crescent organisations to gather and analyse data from migration operations. Sanushka has worked in Australia, Cambodia, China, Singapore, and the U.K in policy advocacy and program management at the nexus of migration, human rights, and international development and with organisations including Oxfam, the Association for Women's Rights in Development, and the Lien Centre for Social Innovation at Singapore Management University. She has also worked as a specialist advisor on the rights of migrant workers and modern slavery for UN agencies, ASEAN and the African Union. Sanushka holds degrees arts and law from the University of Sydney, and in international migration and public policy from the London School of Economics.

Dr Ryan Edwards is the Deputy Director of the Development Policy Centre at the Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University. His research lies at the intersection of development economics, labour economics and the economics of migration, international trade, and the environment. He mostly works on Indonesia, Australia, and the Pacific, and is Crawford organisational lead and the thematic lead for migration research of the Australian Government's Pacific Research Program. He is a principal investigator of the Pacific Labour Mobility Survey, the Small Firm Diaries Fiji, and the Remittance Diaries, among other smaller projects. Ryan is also associated with the MIT Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), Innovations for Poverty Action, the ANU Migration Hub, and the Arndt-Corden Department of Economics.

Prof Philip Martin is Emeritus Professor in the Global Migration Centre at the University of California, Davis. He has earned a reputation as an effective analyst who can develop practical solutions to complex and controversial migration and labour issues. In the U.S., he was the only academic appointed to the Commission on Agricultural Workers to assess the effects of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. He assessed the prospects for Turkish migration to European Union between 1987 and 1990 and evaluated the effects of immigration on Malaysia's economy and its labour markets in 1994-95. In 2001-02, he assessed the options for dealing with unauthorized migration into Thailand. He received UC Davis' Distinguished Public Service award in 1994 and was a member of the Binational Study of Migration between 1995 and 1997.

Rasika Jayasuriya has over two decades of experience in migration policy and human rights across government, multilateral, and civil society sectors. She has served as a Policy Specialist with UNICEF's global migration and displacement team and the UN Network on Migration in Geneva and worked with the Australian Attorney-General's Department on human trafficking and the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet on migration policy. Rasika holds a PhD from the University of Melbourne's Law School, focusing on temporary labour migration and child rights, and was a Doctoral Associate at the University of Toronto. Her publications include *Children, Human Rights and Temporary Labour Migration* (2021).

PANEL 2: DATA INNOVATIONS

Mr Justin Douglas is the Assistant Secretary and Chief Economist at the Australian Department of Home Affairs. With a career spanning senior executive roles in the Prime Minister's Department, Commonwealth and state Treasuries, and the NSW Department of Planning & Environment, Justin has a proven track record in government, public policy, strategy, and economics. He has also worked as a private consultant and represented Australia in international negotiations on trade and financial regulation. He has expertise in solving complex policy issues, building analytics teams, fostering evidence-based decision-making, and delivering pragmatic solutions that benefit organizations and the broader community.

Ms Beidar Cho is Director of Demography at the Australian Bureau of Statistics. She has been with the ABS since 2004, and in her current role since 2012. She has a proven track record in senior executive engagement, enhancing ABS partnerships, promoting statistical capability, and leading innovative data integration projects to support evidence-based policy development.

Prof Robert Breunig is Professor and Director of the Tax and Transfer Policy Institute at the Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU. He is a prominent Public Policy Economist. He has shaped policy extensively through research on topics such as childcare's impact on women's labour supply, immigration's effects on the labour market, and food-stamp programs. Collaborating with government organizations and the private sector, Breunig is known for rigorous empirical analysis. He also plays a crucial role in building research capacity within the Australian public service, bridging the gap between economics and non-academic circles. Current research interests include tax and transfer policy; child-care and labour supply; domestic violence; inequality; business assistance programs; innovation and productivity; welfare and income support.

Dr Peter Varela is a Research Fellow at the Tax and Transfer Policy Institute in the Crawford School of Public Policy at ANU. Peter has previously worked at the Australian Treasury and the Australian Productivity Commission. He holds a PhD in Economics from ANU, and has been a visiting researcher at Columbia University, at the University of Michigan, and at the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research. Peter is the Lead Author of the Treasury's landmark study of the Fiscal Impacts of New Australians (FIONA) and is currently working on a major piece of work informing the current review of Australia's points-based migration system.

Dr James O'Donnell is a Lecturer in ANU's School of Demography. His research focuses on social cohesion within neighbourhoods, housing, homelessness, labor markets, and demographic changes. Leading the Scanlon Foundation Research Institute's Mapping Social Cohesion study, James addresses social cohesion challenges in Australia. He also contributes to the ANU Social Cohesion project, developing interventions for communities. In 2023, he received an ARC DECRA Fellowship to study the demographic and life course drivers of social cohesion.

MINISTERIAL ADDRESS

The Honourable Matt Thistlethwaite was appointed Assistant Minister for Immigration on 29 June 2024. Since 2013 he has been the Federal Member of Parliament for the Division of Kingsford Smith. He was formerly a member of the Australian Senate from 2011 to 2013 during which time he served as Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs, Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Parliamentary Secretary for Infrastructure and Transport. He is a former lawyer and trade union official across a range of industries and served as General Secretary of New South Wales Labor from 2008 to 2010.

PANEL 3: EMERGING CHALLENGES

Dr Bulent (Hass) Dellal AO is the Executive Director of the Australian Multicultural Foundation and Chair of the Australian Multicultural Council. With over 30 years in multicultural affairs, he recently chaired the Commonwealth's Multicultural Framework Review in May 2023. He serves on various boards, including the Victoria Police Multi-faith

Council and the Council for Australian-Arab Relations. Dellal has received numerous awards, including the Medal of the Order of Australia and the Centenary of Federation Medal. He also holds an Honorary Doctorate in Social Sciences from RMIT University and was appointed Adjunct Professor at Deakin University in 2020.

Ms Violet Roumeliotis AM is CEO of Settlement Services International. She has nearly 40 years of experience leading for-purpose organizations that promote equal opportunity and support individuals and families facing inequality. As the CEO of Settlement Services International (SSI) for 11 years, she has expanded the organization from 68 staff to over 1,200, assisting more than 56,000 people annually across various human services in Australia. Violet is a former Telstra Business Woman of the Year and featured in AFR's 100 Women of Influence. She also holds several non-executive roles, including Deputy President of the Australian Council of Social Services and memberships on various advisory councils for social issues.

Mr Joseph La Posta has been CEO of Multicultural NSW since January 2019. He is dedicated to enhancing access and services for new Australians while supporting established communities in preserving their cultures and languages. He has led the implementation of the strategic plan for 2021-2025 and introduced a new language services award, expanding the team to 90 full-time staff and over 1,300 interpreters and translators. A strong advocate for gender equality, he increased female representation in the Senior Leadership team from 25% to 60%. Previously, Joseph served on the Advisory Board of Multicultural NSW and was Chair of Sport NSW. He enjoys sports, fishing, camping, and was an accomplished pianist.

Mr Michael Copland is Chief of Child Protection at the UNICEF Pacific Multi-country Office. He has over 20 years international experience in development and child protection programming – for Governments, UN agencies and International NGOs. He has worked with UNICEF as a Child Protection specialist in Timor Leste, Uganda, Sri Lanka and the East and Southern Africa Regional Office. With significant humanitarian experience he held the post of Global Coordinator for the Child Protection Area of Responsibility on behalf of UN agencies and NGOs from 2016 – 2020. Prior to taking up the position with UNICEF in the Pacific he served as an Executive Director and the Australian National Mental Health Commission. Michael holds qualifications in Social Work and International Law from the University of Queensland and University of Melbourne.

Dr. Litea Meo-Sewabu is an Associate Professor in Social Work & Communities at Western Sydney University. Her research interests are in the area of Wellbeing and Protection of Children, Indigenous health and Wellbeing, Gender and Indigeneity, Labour mobility scheme impact on women and children, social policy and social protection. She is also the regional lead for the Pacific and the Acting Associate Dean for Engagement at the School of Social Sciences at WSU. Prior to joining WSU, she was the Social Work lead at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji. During 2024 Dr Meo – Sewabu has been leading a team of research staff from the University of the South Pacific on a recent study into the impacts of labour mobility on children in the Pacific.

Ms Elizabeth Collett is a Global Fellow at the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) and serves on Australia's Ministerial Advisory Council on Skilled Migration (MACSM), where she chairs its Expert Subcommittee. With over 20 years in migration policy, she has consulted for various government and non-government organizations. Previously, she was a Special Adviser at the International Organization for Migration and Founding Director of MPI Europe. Collett has produced numerous publications on European Union migration policy and held roles at respected institutions, including the European Policy Centre and Oxford University. She holds a master's degree from Georgetown University and a law degree from Oxford University.

PANEL 4: HOW TO COUNTER MYTHS, DELIVER FACTS, AND IMPROVE THE MIGRATION DEBATE

Damian Cardona Onses is the Director of the United Nations Information Centre for Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific, headquartered in Canberra. He oversees services for Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. With over 26 years of experience in strategic and crisis communications, outreach, and campaigns within the United Nations system, Damian has held leadership positions as Director of UN Information Centres in Dakar and Bogota and played crucial roles in peacekeeping missions in Bosnia, Mali, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Before joining the UN, he worked with the International Federation of the Red Cross in the Middle East. He holds degrees in political science and international relations and is fluent in English, French, Spanish and Catalan, and has a good working knowledge of Haitian Creole, Italian, and Portuguese.

Dr Marie McAuliffe is the Head of the Migration Research & Publications Division at IOM headquarters in Geneva, and Editor of IOM's flagship World Migration Report. She is an international migration specialist with over 25 years of experience in migration as a practitioner, program manager, senior government official and researcher. Marie has researched, published, and edited widely in academic and policy spheres on migration and is on the editorial boards of three scientific migration journals and is an Associate Editor of the Harvard Data Science Review. She is a regular

contributor to the World Economic Forum's Agenda blog series and is affiliated with universities and think tanks in Australia (ANU), India, Switzerland, and the United States. In 2015, Marie was awarded a Sir Roland Wilson Scholarship to conduct doctoral research at ANU's School of Demography (approved late 2017) and is the 2018 recipient of the Charles Price Prize for outstanding doctoral research. She is regularly called upon to advise Presidents, Ministers, senior officials and CEOs on global dynamics in migration and displacement.

Dr Abul Rizvi is an Independent Australia columnist who frequently provides media comment on developments in immigration policy. He was a senior official in the Department of Immigration from the early 1990s to rose to the rank of Deputy Secretary in 2005 to 2007. Prior to this, Rizvi was Chief Finance Officer in the Department from 1991 to 1995, and managed policy and delivery of Australia's migration program from 1995 to 2007. He was awarded the Public Service Medal and the Centenary Medal for services to development and implementation of immigration policy, including the reshaping of Australia's intake to focus on skilled migration, the growth of temporary skilled migration and development of pathways for highly successful overseas students to permanent residence. He holds a Bachelor of Economics from ANU, and a PhD from the University of Melbourne.

Mr Tom McIlroy is the Financial Review's political correspondent, reporting from the federal press gallery at Parliament House. He is a regular commentator on national affairs, and has written for newspapers including *The Age*, *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Canberra Times*.

CLOSING REMARKS

Prof Alan Gamlen is Professor in the School of Regulation and Global Governance at ANU, and Director of the ANU Migration Hub. He has worked on human migration for over two decades and held related appointments at Oxford University (where he received his doctorate), Stanford University, the Max Planck Society, the Japan Centre for Area Studies, Monash University, and Wellington University in his homeland, New Zealand. In 2010-20 he was Founding Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Migration Studies* for Oxford University Press. In 2016-17, he succeeded Graeme Hugo as Director of the Australian Population and Migration Research Centre. He is currently an Australian Research Council Future Fellow, Member of the ARC College of Experts, Chair of the Academic Advisory Board of the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Migration Lab, and International Steering Group Member for International Metropolis.

VOTE OF THANKS

Lance Bonneau is the Head of the IOM Turkiye Sub-office for the East, Southeast and Mediterranean (ESEM) and interim Chief of Mission for Australia. A graduate of Columbia University, Mr. Bonneau has worked in the International Organization for Migration for 31 years. Prior to his assignment to Turkiye, Mr. Bonneau was the Chief of Mission for IOM Papua New Guinea. Other postings include Australia, Thailand, Austria, Switzerland, Hungary and Croatia. Mr. Bonneau has experience working in Counter Human Trafficking Programming, Disaster Risk Reduction/Disaster Risk Management, Emergency Response, Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration, Regional Coordination on Migration and working with governments on migration management policy and programming.