

Pre-Election Leadership Summit

2 April 2025
9:00AM - 3:00PM
Rydges, Sydney International Airport

[REGISTER ATTENDANCE](#)



9.00 am – 9.15 am

Welcome Address: Election, economic and social outlook
Kathryn Mandla, NESA CEO

Commentary and Q&A on incoming Government priorities
Simon Banks, Hawker Britton and Brian Loughnane, AO

9.15am – 10.00am

Commentary and discussion on the latest polling and priorities of the post-election Government whether a Coalition majority, Labor majority, or minority on either side.

10.00 am – 10.30 am

Morning Tea

10.30 am – 11.30 am

Professor Brenton Prosser
Professor of Public Policy and Leadership at UNSW Canberra

Presentation on trends and future directions in government stewardship and accountability.

Dr Jodie Trembath, Director of Skills, Employment and Small Business, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

11.30 am – 12.30pm

Ben Bardon, CEO, National Australian Apprenticeships Association
James Kittos, Vice-Chair, National Self Employment Association

Panel session on key issues in related sectors with industry peak bodies.

12.30 – 1.30 pm

Lunch and Networking

Ministers' and Shadow Minister's Presentations - Presentations by the Government on their priorities for the employment services sector if elected to govern.

Senator the Hon Murray Watt
Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

Hon Amanda Rishworth MP
Minister for Social Services, and Minister for the NDIS

1.30pm – 2.15pm

Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy
Minister for Indigenous Australians

Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price
Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians

2.15pm – 2.30 pm

Member Update
Rebecca Nicholls, Chair of the Board and Kathryn Mandla, NESA CEO
Review of NESA Constitution

2.30pm – 3.00pm

Inclusive Employment Australia
Dr Marion Byrne, Head of Advocacy, Communications and Media, NESA
Member discussion on the impact of extending current DES contracts until 31 October 2025.

3.00pm – 3.00pm

Summit Close and Afternoon Tea