

COURAGE TO DELIVER

DAY ONE: WEDNESDAY 29 JULY 2026

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NEW ZEALAND TE PUNA MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

Special thanks to our
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TEAM Cloud



8:00 am - 8:45 am	Registration opens with coffee and pre-conference networking		Foyer	
Plenary				
8:45 am - 9:00 am	Mihi whakatau Kurt Komene and Ali Houppapa, Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika		Auditorium	
9:00 am - 9:10 am	Welcome and housekeeping Mick Crouch, GOVIS President			
9:10 am - 9:30 am	Conference opening address Sir Brian Roche, Public Service Commissioner			
9:30 am - 10:15 am	Leading the digital transformation of government - Chris Fechner, CEO Digital Transformation Agency of Australia - Sir Brian Roche, Government Chief Digital Officer Panel chair: Steve Griffin, Assurity Consulting			
10:15 am - 10:45 am	Paramanawa / Morning tea		Sponsored by CDC	Foyer
10:45 am - 11:15 am	Courage to Transform - Stream 1 Auditorium		Delivering with AI - Stream 2 Workshop Room	
	Investing in Australia's digital public servants (virtual) Chris Fechner (Digital Transformation, Agency of Australia)		Dispatches from the front lines of AI deployment in NZ Madeline Newman (AI Forum)	
11:15 am - 11:45 am	Introducing the Digital Government Target State Jeremy Weir (Government Digital Delivery Agency)		Mindset Matters - How do we ensure people and businesses remain relevant in the AI era? Justin Flitter (NewZealand.AI)	
11:45 am - 12:15 pm	Applied digital transformation Karen Dawson (MSD) Patrick Hindmarsh (Health NZ) Shanil Silva (IRD) Panel chair: Steve Griffin (Assurity Consulting)		The courage to be safe: insights from New Zealand's first AI safety conference Emma Humphrey (AI Safety Australia and New Zealand) WARNING This presentation addresses topics that some may find disturbing, including sex trafficking and sexual abuse	
12:15 pm - 1:00 pm	Tina / Lunch		Sponsored by CDC	Foyer
Plenary				
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm	National Digital Transformation with Digital Public Infrastructure (virtual) Pia Andrews, Serial Public Sector Reformer		Sponsored by Catalyst	
1:30 pm - 2:00 pm	What does it mean to redesign your work around AI's 'jagged frontier'? Dr Amanda Williamson, Director, Deloitte New Zealand AI Institute		Auditorium	
2:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Running on empty: the neuroscience and metabolic cost of courageous delivery Rachael Hurren, Director Learning and Development, Inde Technology			
2:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Paramanawa / Afternoon tea		Sponsored by CDC	Foyer
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Courage to Transform - Stream 1 Auditorium		Creative Connections - Stream 2 Workshop Room	
	Making the invisible visible to breakdown silos and create shared understanding Joanna Guelland and Firuza Harper (ACC)		Boldly go! Even when your inertia dampeners are off-line and all your crew have beamed up Brenda Ratcliff and Kristan Johnston (MindMeld Coaching)	
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Networking drinks		Sponsored by Databricks	Foyer

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DAY TWO: THURSDAY 30 JULY 2026

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8:00 am - 8:40 am	Registration opens with coffee and pre-conference networking		Foyer
Plenary			
8:40 am - 8:45 am	Welcome back and kick off for day two Tristana Bessler, GOVIS Committee		Auditorium
8:45 am - 9:15 am	Why does Aotearoa New Zealand need a sovereign National Data Infrastructure, and what would it take to get there Doug Dixon, Executive Leader and Advocate for NZ Inc.		
9:15 am - 9:45 am	Māori Data and AI Sovereignty: Good for Māori, Good for Everyone Chris Cormack, He Māwhitiwhiti Matihiko ki te Kāhahu o Hine-Raraunga, Te Kāhui Raraunga		
9:45 am - 10:15 am	Delivering a trusted government data system Colin Lynch, Government Statistician and Chief Executive, Stats NZ		
10:15 am - 10:45 am	Paramanawa / Morning tea		Foyer
10:45 am - 11:15 am	Courage to Transform - Stream 1 Auditorium	Delivering with AI - Stream 2 Workshop Room	
	Building confidence and governance to transform Stats NZ Grayson Mitchell (Stats NZ); Matthew Treadwell (Databricks)	From queue lines to genie first: how New Zealand's Civil Aviation Authority turned operational pressure into trusted AI Roedolf Smit (Civil Aviation Authority)	
11:15 am - 11:45 am	Sharing data across agencies to prevent fraud and misuse Matthew Hancock and Demi Gandy (ACC)	To AI, or not to AI: that is the question – but not the only one Julianne Hickey (Department of Internal Affairs)	
11:45 am - 12:15 pm	The courage to take the step: Information asset management and a pattern for the wider public sector Elias Wyber (TalentJam)	Breaking the mould: the courage to deliver a government digital tool at startup speed Kate McAlpine (Department of Conservation)	
12:15 pm - 1:00 pm	Tina / Lunch		Foyer
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Courage to Transform - Stream 1 Auditorium	Creative Connections - Stream 2 Workshop Room	
	Moving to a cloud in 16 weeks: the Kāinga Ora story Jan Serfontein (Kāinga Ora); Ian Rogers (TEAM Cloud); Jason McHenry (Cognizant)	Digital identity – it will transform our lives as citizens Joerg Micheel (Kaimai Security Ltd)	
1:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Transforming access to legislation Thomasin Sleigh and Zinal Bhadra (Parliamentary Counsel Office)	Mai i te Aituā ki te Mārama: From Affliction to Understanding Arama Mataira (Walk Together Aotearoa)	
2:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Delivering Digital Public Infrastructure for South Africa – the MyMzansi story Sigurd Magnusson (Silverstripe)	Whiti – shedding light on data to support social work Yvonne Hore and Bryan O’Leary (Oranga Tamariki)	
2:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Paramanawa / Afternoon tea		Foyer
Plenary			
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Digital governance: Let’s stop pretending Murray Wills, Director of Liverton Security and NZ Chapter Director of Digital Directors ANZ		Auditorium
3:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Leading through challenges: lessons from the road to the Ironman 70.3 World Championships Ellen Twiss, Team Leader Data/Development, Tertiary Education Commission		
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Conference wrap up Chris McDowall, GOVIS Conference Convenor		

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