

# COURAGE TO DELIVER

DAY ONE: WEDNESDAY 29 JULY 2026

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NEW ZEALAND  
TE PUNA MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA



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8:00 am - 8:45 am	Registration opens with coffee and pre-conference networking		Foyer	
<b>Plenary</b>				
8:45 am - 9:00 am	<b>Mihi whakatau</b> Kurt Komene and Ali Houppapa, <i>Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika</i>		Auditorium & Online	
9:00 am - 9:10 am	<b>Welcome and housekeeping</b> Mick Crouch, <i>GOVIS President</i>			
9:10 am - 9:40 am	<b>Conference opening address</b> Sir Brian Roche, <i>Public Service Commissioner</i>			
9:40 am - 10:15 am	<b>Leading the digital transformation of government</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chris Fechner, <i>CEO Digital Transformation Agency of Australia</i></li> <li>Sir Brian Roche, <i>Government Chief Digital Officer</i></li> </ul>			
10:15 am - 10:45 am	Paramanawa / Morning tea		Foyer	
10:45 am - 11:15 am	<b>Creative Connections - Stream 1</b> Workshop Room 1		<b>Delivering with AI - Stream 2</b> Workshop Room 2	
	<b>Digital transformation special subject</b> Chris Fechner <i>(Digital Transformation, Agency of Australia)</i>		<b>Dispatches from the front lines of AI deployment in NZ</b> Madeline Newman <i>(AI Forum)</i>	
	<b>Introducing the Digital Target State</b> Jeremy Weir <i>(Government Digital Delivery Agency)</i>		<b>Mindset Matters - How do we ensure people and businesses remain relevant in the AI era?</b> Justin Flitter <i>(NewZealand.AI)</i>	
	<b>Digital transformation presentation</b> <i>(Speaker TBC)</i>		<b>The courage to be safe: insights from New Zealand's first AI safety conference</b> Emma Humphrey <i>(AI Safety Australia and New Zealand)</i>	
12:15 pm - 1:00 pm	Tina / Lunch		Foyer	
<b>Plenary</b>				
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm	<b>National Digital Transformation with Digital Public Infrastructure</b> Pia Andrews, <i>Serial Public Sector Reformer</i>		Auditorium & Online	
1:30 pm - 2:00 pm	<b>What does it mean to redesign your work around AI's 'jagged frontier'?</b> Dr Amanda Williamson, <i>Director, Deloitte New Zealand AI Institute</i>			
2:00 pm - 2:30 pm	<b>Running on empty: the neuroscience and metabolic cost of courageous delivery</b> Rachael Hurren, <i>Director Learning and Development, Inde Technology</i>			
2:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Paramanawa / Afternoon tea		Foyer	
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	<b>Creative Connections - Stream 1</b> Workshop Room 1		<b>Delivering with AI - Stream 2</b> Workshop Room 2	
	<b>Boldly go! Even when your inertia dampeners are off-line and all your crew have beamed up</b> Brenda Ratcliff <i>(MindMeld Coaching)</i>		<b>Making the invisible visible to breakdown silos and create shared understanding</b> Joanna Guelland and Firuza Harper, <i>(ACC)</i>	
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Networking drinks		Foyer	

# COURAGE TO DELIVER

DAY TWO: THURSDAY 30 JULY 2026

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8:00 am - 8:30 am	<b>Registration opens with coffee and pre-conference networking</b>		Foyer
<b>Plenary</b>			
8:30 am - 9:15 am	<b>Join the personal data revolution with SOLID (keynote)</b> <i>Speaker TBC</i>		Auditorium & Online
9:15 am - 9:45 am	<b>Māori Data and AI Sovereignty: Good for Māori, Good for Everyone</b> <b>Chris Cormack</b> , <i>He Māwhitiwhiti Matihiko ki te Kākahu o Hine-Raraunga, Te Kāhui Raraunga</i>	<i>Sponsored by Catalyst Cloud</i>	
9:45 am - 10:15 am	<b>Delivering a trusted government data system</b> <b>Colin Lynch</b> , <i>Government Statistician and Chief Executive, Stats NZ</i>		
10:15 am - 10:45 am	<b>Paramanawa / Morning tea</b>		Foyer
10:45 am - 11:15 am	<b>Creative Connections - Stream 1</b> Workshop Room 1	<b>Delivering with AI - Stream 2</b> Workshop Room 2	
	<b>Building confidence and governance to transform Stats NZ</b>  Grayson Mitchell ( <i>Stats NZ</i> ); Matthew Treadwell ( <i>Databricks</i> )	<b>In depth session &amp; case studies on sovereign data and AI</b>  ( <i>Speakers TBC</i> )	
11:15 am - 11:45 am	<b>Sharing data across agencies to prevent fraud and misuse</b>  Matthew Hancock and Demi Gandy ( <i>ACC</i> )		
11:45 am - 12:15 pm	<b>Digital identity – it will transform our lives as citizens</b>  Joerg Micheel ( <i>Kaimai Security Ltd</i> ) Second Speaker TBC	<b>Breaking the mould: the courage to deliver a government digital tool at startup speed</b>  Kate McAlpine ( <i>Department of Conservation</i> )	
12:15 pm - 1:00 pm	<b>Tina / Lunch</b>		Foyer
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm	<b>Creative Connections - Stream 1</b> Workshop Room 1	<b>Delivering with AI - Stream 2</b> Workshop Room 2	
	<b>Moving to a cloud in 16 weeks: the Kāinga Ora story</b>  Jan Serfontein ( <i>Kāinga Ora</i> ); Ian Rogers ( <i>TEAM Cloud</i> ); Jason McHendry ( <i>Cognizant</i> )	<b>In depth session &amp; case studies on public service AI implementation</b>  ( <i>Speakers TBC</i> )	
1:30 pm - 2:00 pm	<b>Transforming access to legislation</b> Thomasin Sleigh and Zinal Bhadra ( <i>Parliamentary Council Office</i> )		
2:00 pm - 2:30 pm	<b>Whiti – shedding light on data to support social work</b>  Yvonne Hore and Bryan O’Leary ( <i>Oranga Tamariki</i> )		
2:30 pm - 3:00 pm	<b>Paramanawa / Afternoon tea</b>		Foyer
<b>Plenary</b>			
3:00 pm - 3:45 pm	<b>The view from the c-suite – panel</b> <i>Speakers TBC</i>		Auditorium & Online
3:45 pm - 4:15 pm	<b>Leading through challenges: lessons from the road to the Ironman 70.3 World Championships</b> <b>Ellen Twiss</b> , <i>Team Leader Data/Development, Tertiary Education Commission</i>		
4:15 pm - 4:30 pm	<b>Conference wrap up</b> <b>Chris McDowall</b> , <i>Conference Convenor</i>		