

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
Plenary			
8:45 am - 9:00 am	Mihi whakatau		Auditorium & Online
9:00 am - 9:10 am	Welcome and housekeeping Mick Crouch, GOVIS President		
9:10 am - 9:40 am	Conference opening address Sir Brian Roche, Public Service Commissioner		
9:40 am - 10:15 am	Leading the digital transformation of government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Fechner, CEO Digital Transformation Agency of Australia Second panellist TBC 		
10:15 am - 10:45 am	Paramanawa / Morning tea		Foyer
10:45 am - 11:15 am	Creative Connections - Stream 1 Workshop Room 1	Delivering with AI - Stream 2 Workshop Room 2	
	Digital transformation special subject 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 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	Digital transformation presentation (Speaker TBC)	The courage to be safe: insights from New Zealand's first AI safety conference Emma Humphrey (AI Safety Australia and New Zealand)	
12:15 pm - 1:00 pm	Tina / Lunch		Foyer
Plenary			
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm	National Digital Transformation with Digital Public Infrastructure Pia Andrews, Serial Public Sector Reformer		Auditorium & Online
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		
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		Foyer
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Creative Connections - Stream 1 Workshop Room 1	Delivering with AI - Stream 2 Workshop Room 2	
	Boldly go! Even when your inertia dampeners are off-line and all your crew have beamed up Brenda Ratcliff (MindMeld Coaching)	Making the invisible visible to breakdown silos and create shared understanding Joanna Guelland and Firuza Harper, (ACC)	
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Networking drinks		Foyer

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DAY TWO: THURSDAY 30 JULY 2026

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