

Workforce & Employment Special Interest Group Meeting

Wednesday 11 February 2026 | 5.00 – 6.00 PM

Reframing & Advancing Hospitality and Tourism Workforce Research:
Toward a More Human-Centered, Inclusive, and Positive Future

CAUTHE W&E SIG Leadership Group: Ashokkumar Manoharan, Kate Yoo, Olivier Oren, Maria Golubovskaya, Anna Kralj, David Solnet, Richard Robinson, Shelagh Mooney, Sam Vivas Imparato, Anastasia Kulichyova

The hospitality and tourism workforce has long been characterised by high turnover, precarious employment, and limited inclusivity. This discussion aims to shift the focus from deficit-based narratives toward more human-centered, inclusive, and positive futures for work. The goal is to generate research for academics that meaningfully connects theory, industry practice, and policy. The key themes for discussion include the future of jobs, job quality & meaningful work, wage & income equity, social protection systems, and social dialogue & industrial relations. The session aims to generate priority research agendas and foster deeper collaboration between academia and industry. **The session also aligns with a special issue of JHTM (the CAUTHE journal), with the panel theme matching the special issue theme.**



Mr Owen Webb

Mr Owen Webb is the Deputy Chief Executive Officer for the Australian Hotels Association (AHA|SA), a position he was appointed to in March 2024, focusing on member advocacy, workplace relations, licensing, and gaming, bringing extensive experience in industrial relations and HR from his prior roles with AHA|SA and within the hospitality sector.



Ms Devi Ash

Ms Devi Ash is an Executive Housekeeper at the Adelaide Marriott with Luxxe Outsourced Hotel Services. With over 25 years of experience in the hospitality industry in Australia and Asia, she specialises in housekeeping operations and brings strong interpersonal and organisational skills to her role. Devi is passionate about driving positive change within housekeeping departments and supporting the inclusion and development of marginalised people in her team.



Mr Gregg Hobby

Mr Greg Hobby is CEO (Chief Eating Officer) and Chair of T&H Hospitality Group, a South Australian hospitality business that has expanded from fine-food catering into café, restaurants, and events venues. He also serves as Chair of the South Australian Council of the Restaurant & Catering Association, a National Board Member of the Association, and as a member of the SA Skills Commission Industry Skills Council.

The **Workforce & Employment SIG** creates a supportive Australasian community of experienced researchers, early-career researchers (ECRs), PhD scholars, and industry affiliates, to enhance the visibility of, and channel research, advocacy, and impact on, the tourism industry's workforce. The W&E SIG seeks to inspire more colleagues to pursue TH&E workforce-related research and/or recognise how their research should be more cognisant of employment considerations.