Queensland Law Society

SPECIALIST PRACTICE CONFERENCE 26

7-9 OCTOBER 2026 • BRISBANE

Program – Migration Law

1hr

Deepfakes, cheapfakes and evidence integrity: professional responsibility in a digital world

Whether you use AI in your practice or not, it is inevitable that colleagues, clients, and witnesses will. AI-generated content, deepfakes and AI-assisted witness preparation are creating new challenges for courts and practitioners.

This session examines emerging cases involving manipulated evidence and AI-coached witnesses, the risks of relying on apparently authentic digital material, and the ethical duties that arise.

Through practical examples, participants will explore how to identify risk indicators, respond to authenticity concerns and meet their obligations to the court in an environment where seeing is no longer believing.

Presenter: **David Bowles**, Special Counsel, QLS Ethics and Practice Centre, Queensland Law Society

Chair: **Callan Lloyd**, Managing Director, Gilshenan & Luton

PLE

30min

Employer compliance: Advising employers engaging with Australia's migration program

This session provides practical guidance on advising employers navigating their migration law obligations when engaging visa holding workers, including right to work compliance checks and the standard business sponsor obligations framework

Presenter: Taya Hunt, Partner, Minter Ellison

PS SL

1hr

Protection visa decision-making in a "paper-based" era

Recent changes to protection visa processing mean that interviews are now increasingly rare, placing greater emphasis on written claims, supporting submissions, and documentary evidence. This session will examine how practitioners can effectively present protection claims in a paper-based decision-making environment, including the importance of detailed written evidence, addressing trauma and mental health considerations and ensuring consistency in dates, events, and supporting documentation. Participants will gain practical strategies for preparing stronger applications where the written record may be the primary basis for decision-making.

Presenters:

Dr Ben Carrick, Principal Solicitor, Refugee & Immigration Legal Service

Amelia Sturton, Legal Practice Director, Refugee & Immigration Legal Service

PS SL

1hr

Navigating character cancellations under Section 501

This session provides a practical overview of visa cancellations under section 501 of the Migration Act 1958 (Cth), with a focus on the character test, discretionary and mandatory cancellation powers and current decision-making trends. The session will examine key legal principles, common grounds for cancellation and the factors considered by decision-makers and review bodies. The session will also explore strategic considerations for practitioners, including responding to notices, gathering evidence, preparing submissions and navigating review pathways.

Presenter: **Victoria Lenton**, Director and Principal Lawyer, Lenton Migration Law; Accredited Specialist (Immigration Law) – Qld

PS SL

1hr

General Skilled Migration: The strategy beyond eligibility

Eligibility is only one part of a successful General Skilled Migration application. This session will explore the strategic considerations that can enhance an applicant's prospects, including occupation selection, points maximisation, state and territory nomination opportunities, invitation trends, and timing considerations. Attendees will gain practical insights into developing effective migration pathways and navigating the increasingly competitive GSM landscape.

Presenter: **Rhea Fawole**, Principal Lawyer, Solvi



Presenters



David Bowles

David was admitted as a solicitor in 1996 and was in private practice from that time until joining Queensland Law Society's QLS Ethics and Practice Centre in November 2012.

David's experience, initially as an employee and then as a sole practitioner includes crime, property, litigation and estate planning. As an ethics solicitor he is responsible for providing ethical guidance to members, and continuing legal education.

He holds postgraduate certificates in Artificial Intelligence from the Said Business School at Oxford University, in Cybersecurity from Harvard University Extension School, in Project Management from the University of Adelaide EdX program and is a director of the Australasian Computer Law Institute.



Dr Ben Carrick

Ben has practiced in refugee and immigration law for 16 years, primarily in specialist community legal centres. He has extensive experience representing people seeking asylum at primary, merits review and judicial review levels and is currently Principal Solicitor at RAILS. He has a LLM and PhD from Melbourne Law School and has published on refugee and immigration law, and their interactions with discrimination law.



Rhea Fawole

Rhea Fawole is the Principal Lawyer of SOLVi Migration, which she established in 2022. The firm is concentrated on general skilled migration with a healthcare focus, assisting internationally qualified nurses with AHPRA registration and permanent residency, alongside applicants in other occupations.

She brings a 20-year Australian Government career, including 12 years in the Department of Home Affairs and time as Departmental Liaison Officer to a former Minister for Immigration.

Recognising registration as the critical first step, she developed an online nurse registration course.

Admitted in the Supreme Court of the ACT (2016) and the High Court of Australia (2022), she holds a Bachelor of Business (Marketing) (University of Queensland), Graduate Certificate in Australian Migration Law and Practice (Griffith University), Juris Doctor (University of Canberra) and Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice (College of Law).

She is also a member of the Queensland Law Society Migration Law Committee.



Taya Hunt

Taya Hunt is a Partner at MinterEllison and leads the firm's national Migration Law practice, the only dedicated partner-led migration team in an Australian top-tier law firm. Recognised by Doyle's Guide as a leading migration lawyer, Taya advises corporate clients on complex immigration, compliance and workforce mobility matters. She works with Australian and multinational organisations to attract, retain and relocate international talent, and regularly assists businesses establishing or expanding operations in Australia. Taya has particular expertise in migration compliance, audits, investigations and government monitoring activities, helping organisations manage risk while achieving commercial outcomes. She is an active member of the International Bar Association and participates in both the Immigration and Nationality Law and the Employment and Diversity Law divisions.



Victoria Lenton

Victoria Lenton is the Director and Principal Lawyer of Lenton Migration Law and an Accredited Specialist in Immigration Law (NSW and Qld).

Victoria has a unique background: she has the benefit of a 13 year career with the Department of Home Affairs (previously Department of Immigration), including seven years on overseas diplomatic postings in South America and Africa.

She is the Chair of the Queensland Law Society's Migration Law Committee and a Member of the Australian Law Council's Migration Law Committee.



Callan Lloyd

Amelia Sturton

Amelia has worked in the community legal sector in Queensland and Victoria for the past decade, practising across generalist areas and specialising in refugee and immigration law. She has worked at RAILS since 2024, where she is currently a Legal Practice Director.