

# Co-op Assembly 2025 Program – Day 1 (Note: subject to change)

Date: Thursday 20 March 2025

Venue: Meers Hall, Naala Badu (New Northern Building), Art Gallery of NSW, Art Gallery Road, Sydney

Time	Session	Focus	Speakers/Panellists/Debaters
9:00am	<u>Opening Session</u> Welcome, Keynote Address and Panel	<b>Co-operatives Build a Better Australia</b> The 2025 International Year of Co-operatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What's in it for the world?</li> <li>What's in it for Australia?</li> <li>Youth</li> </ul>	Welcome to Country <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sam Byrne (Secretary) The Co-op Federation</li> <li>Ariel Guarco (President) International Co-operative Alliance (video)</li> <li>Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP (Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury) Federal Government</li> <li>Our Youth Ambassadors</li> </ul>
9:45am	<u>Session 2</u> Panel Discussion	<b>The State of Australian Co-operatives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cathy Main (CEO) Barossa Co-op</li> <li>Marissa Costello (General Manager) Killarney Co-op</li> <li>Drew Freeman (CEO) Tasmanian Independent Retailers Co-op</li> <li>Peter Wells (Secretary) Co-operatives WA</li> </ul> Facilitator: Sam Byrne
11:00am	Morning Tea	Showcase & Networking	
11:30am	<u>Session 3</u> Debate	<b>Co-operatives Can Build a Better Australia Today</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greg Patmore (Emeritus Professor) University of Sydney</li> <li>Hon Mick Veitch (Consultant &amp; former NSW MP)</li> <li>Rebel Black (Chair) The Rural Woman Co-op</li> <li>Dr Garry Cronan (Co-op Researcher) University of Sydney</li> <li>Nasteha Mohamud (Chair) United Housing Co-op</li> <li>TBC</li> </ul> Facilitator: Peter Tregilgas (Director) The Co-op Federation
12:30pm	Lunch	Showcase & Networking	Co-op Musical Performance
1:15pm	<u>Session 4</u> Panel Discussion	<b>Co-operative Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liz Thomas (Chair) Australian Co-operative Housing Alliance</li> <li>Shane Sylvanspring (Managing Director) Planning Regenerative Communities</li> <li>Dr Sidsel Grimstad (Co-op Researcher) Griffith University</li> </ul> Facilitator: Andrew Beer (Professor) University of South Australia
2:30pm	Short Break	Showcase & Networking	
2:45pm	<u>Session 5</u> Panel Discussion	<b>Marketing the Co-operative Advantage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christian Johansson (Chief Marketing Officer) Beyond Bank</li> <li>Jess Scully (Author and former Deputy Lord Mayor of Sydney)</li> <li>Ghil'ad Zuckermann (Professor) Flinders University</li> </ul> Facilitator: Molly Kendall (Communications & Business Development) The Co-op Federation
4:00pm	Day 1 Close	Showcase & Networking	
<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Networking Drinks &amp; Co-op Musical Performance</b>	<b>NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre</b>	<b>37 Reservoir Street, Surry Hills</b>