

VESPIIA

VESPIIA PRESENTS

FUTURE FRONTLINES

Policy into *Practice*

NATIONAL CONFERENCE & AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE 2026

AUGUST 26 – 27 2026

National Wine Centre, Adelaide

SPONSORSHIP
PROSPECTUS

ABOUT VESPIIA

VESPIIA — the Veterans, Emergency Services and Police Industry Institute of Australia — is the national professional body supporting the organisations, staff and volunteers who deliver programs, services and advocacy to veterans, emergency services and police communities.

We exist because the people who support those who serve deserve the same level of professional recognition, connection and representation as any other sector. Since our founding we've grown into a national body with members spanning government, academia, industry and community organisations — connected by a shared commitment to better outcomes for our communities.

Future Frontlines is VESPIIA's flagship platform — the conference, the published papers, the podcast and the Awards for Excellence. It's where the sector's most important conversations happen, and where those conversations turn into something useful.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The Future Frontlines Conference started with a simple idea — that the people doing the work should be in the same room as the people making the decisions. In 2025 we proved it worked. One day, one city, and a room full of leaders from across the veterans, emergency services and police sectors who left with new connections, new thinking, and a clear sense of what needs to happen next.

In 2026 we're going further. Off the back of that success, we're expanding to two full days — plus a welcome event the evening before — bringing together an estimated 200 delegates from government, defence, emergency services, police, academia and community organisations. And we're taking it national, with the National Wine Centre of Australia as our home for the year.

The theme is Policy into Practice. Every session is built around closing the gap between what the evidence tells us and what actually happens in the system — ending with a structured policy lab that produces a real output: the Future Frontlines Paper, used in VESPIIA's national advocacy work for the following 12 months.

The conference also brings together the third year of the VESPIIA Awards for Excellence — an evening dedicated to recognising the people who make this sector what it is. Volunteers, staffers, researchers, organisations and programs across 17 categories, judged by peers who understand the work. Not a gala. A genuine acknowledgement of what good looks like.

For the right partner, this is a room worth being in.

ABOUT THE AWARDS

Now in its third year, the VESPIIA Awards for Excellence has become the sector's most anticipated night. Not a black-tie gala — a genuine recognition of the people and organisations who show up, do the work, and make a difference for veterans, emergency services, police and their families.

Across 17 categories spanning individuals, teams, organisations and programs, the awards celebrate what good actually looks like in this sector — from the volunteer who gives their weekends to a DVA claims support line, to the research team whose work is changing how we understand mental health in the first responder community, to the small organisation doing remarkable things on a shoestring budget.

Entries are judged by sector peers who understand the work. Winners are announced at the Awards Evening — held on the final night of the Future Frontlines Conference — in front of 200 delegates who have spent two days talking about what the sector needs to become.

It's a fitting close to a serious two days. And for sponsors, it's a room full of exactly the right people, at exactly the right moment.

AWARD CATEGORIES

INDIVIDUAL

- Volunteer of the Year
- Staffer of the Year
- Academic of the Year
- Student of the Year
- Service Chaplain of the Year
-

ORGANISATION & TEAM

- Organisation of the Year
- Best Strategic Partnership
- Supplier Team of the Year
- New Kid on the Block
- Allied Team of the Year
-

PROGRAM

- Transition Program
- Social Program
- Volunteer Program
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Program
-
- Research Piece of the Year
- Impact Through Events
- Impact on a Shoestring
-

WHY PARTNER WITH FUTURE FRONTLINES

There are plenty of events in this sector. Most of them are great. This one is different — and if you're considering a partnership at any level, here's why it's worth your organisation's investment.

You're in the room that matters. Two hundred delegates. Federal and state ministers. Agency commissioners. Researchers whose work shapes national policy. ESO leaders. Advocates. The people who influence what happens next for veterans, emergency services and police communities — all in one place, for two days.

Your brand sits alongside serious work. This isn't a trade show or a networking lunch. The Future Frontlines Conference produces a published policy output. It's designed to move the sector from insight to action. Sponsoring it tells the sector — and government — that your organisation is serious about this community.

Ministerial access, built into the program. The program includes addresses from federal and state ministers across veterans' affairs, defence, police, corrections and emergency management. For organisations working in the policy and government space, that access is significant.

Your investment goes further than two days. Future Frontlines is a platform, not just an event. As a partner you get visibility across the conference, the Future Frontlines Papers, the podcast and the Awards for Excellence — and through VESPIIA's national communications network year-round.

Flexible entry points. You can sponsor the full event, a single day, a specific session, the welcome event, the policy lab, or individual awards categories. Packages start at \$3,000 and can be tailored. There's a meaningful entry point at every level.

12 months of VESPIIA membership included. Every sponsorship package includes 12 months of VESPIIA membership — connecting your organisation to the national network, the research library, working groups and the full suite of VESPIIA programs and events throughout the year.

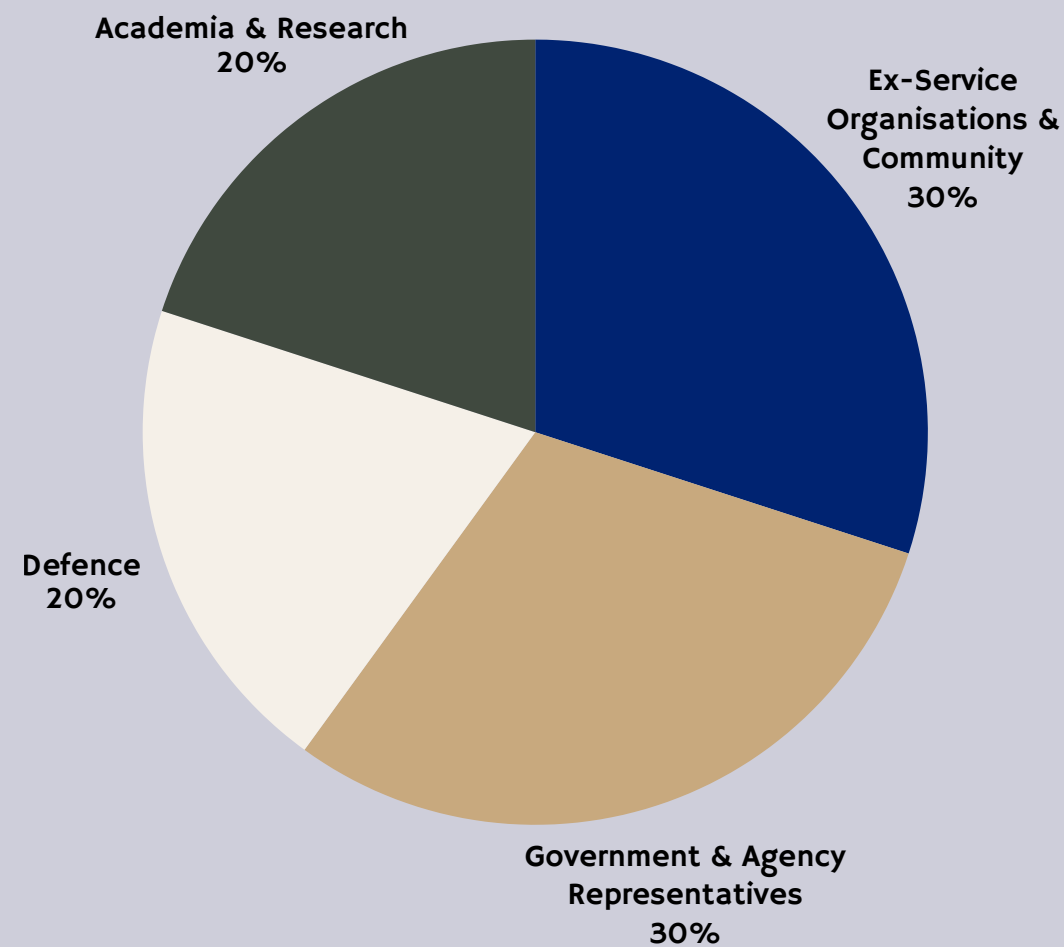
WHO'S IN THE ROOM

Here's who came to Future Frontlines in 2025 — and who we're bringing together in 2026. In 2025 the conference drew approximately 120 delegates including speakers, from across the country. In 2026 we're moving to Adelaide — chosen deliberately for its accessibility from every state and territory — and targeting 200 delegates with broader geographic and sector representation across the full two days.

Ex-Service Organisations & Community
Government & Agency Representatives
Defence
Academia & Research

In 2026 the mix will broaden further, with stronger representation from emergency services and police communities as the conference expands its national reach.

This is a focused, cross-sector gathering of the people who set the agenda, fund the programs, deliver the services and generate the evidence for one of Australia's most important — and most underfunded — policy areas. There is no other national event quite like it.



THE PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

WELCOME EVENT

Evening, Day 0 The conference begins the evening before with a hosted welcome event — an informal gathering designed to build the connections that make the next two days more productive. Delegates, speakers and partners in one room before the work begins.



DAY 1

Session 1 — State of Play: Veterans The national context. Ministerial addresses from the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and the Minister for Defence, alongside a geopolitical briefing. Where are we, what's working, what isn't, and what's coming.

Session 2 — What is Strategic Policy? A foundational session designed for the many delegates who are doing important work but haven't had formal exposure to how policy is made, influenced and changed. Covers the mechanics of strategic policy, how it applies in practice, and a real-world case study in advocacy that worked.

Session 3 — Workshop: Communication in Collaboration An interactive Lego Serious Play workshop — one of the most popular sessions from 2025. Breaks the plenary rhythm, builds cross-sector relationships, and produces insights that feed into the Policy Lab on Day 2.

Session 4 — The Changing Landscape What's shifting externally — workforce pressures, technology, demographic change, geopolitics — and what the research tells us is coming. Three short research briefings open to abstract submissions from the sector.

Awards for Excellence Evening Day 1 closes with the VESPIIA Awards for Excellence — the sector's peer recognition night, now in its third year. Seventeen categories. A room full of the people who've spent the day talking about what needs to change, stopping to acknowledge what's already working.

THE PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

DAY 2

Session 5 — State of Play: Public Safety. The mirror of Day 1's opening — this time focused on emergency services, corrections and police. Ministerial addresses and senior agency briefings setting the context for the day ahead.

Session 6 — Interactive Policy Lab: The working session. Delegates use the insights from across both days to co-produce a structured output: the Future Frontlines Paper. This becomes VESPIIA's published policy document, informing national advocacy priorities for the following 12 months. The 2026 paper will be presented at the 2027 conference as the opening State of Play.

Session 7 — What Good Looks Like: A deliberate shift in gear. This session spotlights real examples of policy change leading to new programs that have had genuine community impact — across veterans, emergency services and police. Told by the people who made it happen. A session designed to send delegates home energised, not just informed.

Session 8 — Closing: Member Spotlights & Final Keynote — open to abstract submissions — followed by a closing keynote from someone who has navigated the system and shifted something. Chair's reflections and close.



THE FUTURE FRONTLINES PLATFORM

The Future Frontlines Conference is one part of a larger body of work. When you partner with Future Frontlines, your organisation gets visibility across a growing national platform — not just two days in Adelaide.

The Conference Our annual national gathering. Two days of substantive conversation, cross-sector connection and structured policy work. Growing year on year.

The Future Frontlines Papers Published research and policy papers examining the real challenges facing service communities and the systems that support them. Five issues published to date, covering disaster recovery, transition to civilian life, cross-sector capability, chaplaincy and spiritual care, and — releasing soon — women in the sector. Each paper draws on lived experience, practitioner insight and research, and is distributed across VESPIIA's national network and used directly in advocacy and government engagement. The conference Policy Lab feeds directly into the next paper.

The Podcast The Future Frontlines Podcast brings the conference conversations to a wider audience — sector leaders, researchers and advocates in conversation between events. Available on Spotify and YouTube, and growing through 2026.

The Awards for Excellence Now in its third year. Seventeen categories recognising the individuals, teams, organisations and programs doing outstanding work across the sector. Peer-judged, genuinely contested, and held in front of the sector's most engaged audience.

Together these four outputs mean that a Future Frontlines partnership puts your brand in front of the sector's most engaged people — not once, but consistently throughout the year.

FUTURE FRONTLINES 2025 — IN THE ROOM

The first Future Frontlines Conference was held in Perth in October 2025. Here's what it looked like.

120 delegates from across the country. Government representatives, ADF personnel, ESO leaders, emergency services, researchers and advocates — all in the same room for the first time under the Future Frontlines banner. 38 speakers across panels, keynotes and briefings — including ministerial addresses from Minister Matt Keogh, Minister Paul Papalia across emergency services, corrections, defence industry and veterans issues, senior agency representatives, and advocates with lived experience of the system.

The room looked like the sector. Uniformed ADF and emergency services personnel alongside researchers, policy staff, ESO program managers and community advocates. Formal and informal, in conversation with each other.

"I must say, it was probably the most enjoyable and informative conference I have been to in the Military / First Responder / ESO space since discharging 15 years ago." — 2025 Delegate

That's the bar we set in year one. In 2026 we're going further — two days, an iconic venue, and a program built to produce something lasting.



CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP

All conference sponsorship packages include

- 12 months of VESPIIA membership
- Named as Sponsor level across all event collateral
- Professional photography of your guests
- Feature in the event program
- Future Frontlines Conference White Paper acknowledgements
- Logo displayed throughout your sponsored day(s)
- Acknowledged in social content

PLATINUM — \$40,000

1 available | Both days

The headline partnership. Your organisation's name and brand sits alongside every element of the Future Frontlines Conference — from the welcome event through to the closing session.

- Speaking opportunity at the conference
- Session naming rights across both days
- 10 complimentary full registrations
- 10 tickets to the Awards Evening
- Acknowledged in all media releases and social content

GOLD — \$20,000 (1 day) | \$35,000 (2 days)

3 available

A major partnership with session naming rights for your sponsored day or days. Ideal for organisations that want significant visibility and a clear association with a specific part of the program.

- Session naming rights for your sponsored day(s)
- 6 complimentary full registrations (1 day) / 8 (both days)
- 6 tickets to the Awards Evening (both days package)

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

SILVER — **\$10,000 (1 day)_** **\$18,000 (2 days)**

5 available

Strong brand presence across your sponsored day or days, with program recognition and delegate inclusions.

- 4 complimentary full registrations (1 day) / 6 (both days)
- 4 tickets to the Awards Evening (both days package)

BRONZE — **\$5,000 (1 day)_** **\$9,000 (2 days)**

8 available

A meaningful entry point into the Future Frontlines partnership network, with solid brand visibility and delegate inclusions.

- 2 complimentary full registrations (1 day) / 4 (both days)
- 2 tickets to the Awards Evening (both days package)

TEA BREAKS — **\$2,000 per break**

4 breaks across 2 days

Naming rights to a specific break. The most social, high-energy moments of each day — and a natural conversation starter with every delegate in the room.

- Naming rights to your break
- Logo on signage at catering area
- 2 complimentary full registrations per break

LANYARD — **\$3,500**

1 available

Your brand worn by every delegate across both days. Maximum visibility from the moment people walk in — and through every photo taken at the event.

- 2 complimentary full registrations (1 day) / 4 (both days)
- 2 tickets to the Awards Evening (both days package)

Sponsorship offerings may be tailored to the needs of each partner. The above represents the minimum inclusions at each tier.

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOME EVENT — \$8,000

1 available

Your organisation sets the tone for the entire conference. Naming rights and hosting recognition for the welcome event on the evening before the conference begins.

- Naming rights to the Welcome Event
- Speaking opportunity at the welcome
- Logo on all welcome event collateral
- 4 complimentary full registrations
- 4 tickets to the Awards Evening

POLICY LAB — \$6,000

1 available

The Policy Lab is the conference's signature working session — the moment where two days of conversation turns into a published national policy output. Name your brand to the most substantive session on the program.

- Logo featured in the Future Frontlines Paper
- 2 complimentary full registrations
- 2 tickets to the Awards Evening
- Recognition in policy output and advocacy materials

WORKSHOP — \$5,000

1 available

Naming rights to the interactive workshop session — one of the most talked-about elements of the 2025 conference. High visibility, high engagement, and a session delegates genuinely remember.

- AV display during the session
- 2 complimentary full registrations

Sponsorship offerings may be tailored to the needs of each partner. The above represents the minimum inclusions at each tier.

AWARDS FOR **EXCELLENCE**

The Awards Evening is a separate event from the conference — a dedicated night of peer recognition for the sector's best. Sponsoring the awards puts your organisation at the centre of a moment that genuinely matters to the people in the room.

All awards sponsorship packages include 12 months VESPIIA membership.

AWARDS SPONSORSHIP

All conference sponsorship packages include

- 12 months of VESPIIA membership
- Opportunity to present an award of your choosing
- Named as Sponsor across all event collateral
- Logo prominently displayed throughout the evening
- Acknowledgement in the awards program
- AV/logo display throughout the ceremony
- Professional photography of your guests
- Acknowledged in media releases and social posts

PLATINUM — \$12,000

1 available

The headline partner of the Awards Evening. Your brand anchors the night from beginning to end.

- Speaking opportunity at the awards ceremony
- 10 tickets to the Awards Evening

GOLD — \$8,000

2 available

A major awards partnership with the opportunity to present an award category of your choosing.

- 8 tickets to the Awards Evening (both days package)

SILVER — \$5,000

4 available

Strong presence at the awards evening with category presentation rights and delegate inclusions.

- 6 tickets to the Awards Evening (both days package)

AWARD — \$3,000

10 available

Strong presence at the awards evening with category presentation rights and delegate inclusions.

- 4 tickets to the Awards Evening (both days package)

Sponsorship offerings may be tailored to the needs of each partner. The above represents the minimum inclusions at each tier.

NOT A VESPIIA MEMBER YET?

Join now and unlock member pricing — at the conference and beyond.

Sponsoring the Future Frontlines Conference as a VESPIIA member means your investment works harder. Members get access to member-only briefings, early communications and priority access to sponsorship opportunities before they open to the market.

And your team gets conference registration at member rates — \$175 versus \$295 for non-members.

As a VESPIIA member your organisation gets:

- Discounted conference registration — \$175 vs \$295 for non-members
- Access to bulk pricing for all your staff to join as professionals
- Priority access to Future Frontlines Papers and research publications
- Voting rights and input into VESPIIA's national advocacy priorities
- Access to sub-committees, working groups and policy forums
- Member rates on all VESPIIA events, training and programs throughout the year
- Recognition in VESPIIA's national member directory
- First access to sponsorship opportunities before they open publicly

vespiia.org/membership

READY TO BE ON THE FRONTLINE?

If you'd like to explore a partnership — whether that's a major sponsorship, a specific session, the awards night, or something we can shape together — we'd love to hear from you.

Packages can be tailored. We're not interested in transactional sponsorship — we're looking for partners who see value in what this sector is building and want to be part of it for the long term.

contact
us

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