



friends
for good.



2023
Symposium Programme

Innovation: Connect; Collaborate; Act



Friends for Good is hosting the third in our series of symposiums: *Innovation; Connect; Collaborate; Act.*

The event will focus on loneliness and social isolation highlighting innovative programs and offering unique networking opportunities to inspire and connect.

The symposium will be held on 6 June 2023 at the Veriu Queen Victoria Market Hotel, Melbourne.

What you will learn and gain in three hours:

1. **Be inspired** by three focused presentations highlighting innovative approaches to addressing loneliness.
2. **Get connected** with meaningful opportunities to network with like-minded specialists in the field of loneliness and social isolation.
3. **Participate** in interactive Q & A sessions with presenters to share and gain knowledge, to increase social connection and address loneliness for people from marginalised groups.

Silver Sponsors:



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The GenU GAMER Program

Presentation

How teams of Dragon Wranglers (therapeutic gaming facilitators) at genU GAMER help young people to break through isolation and realise their valued place in society.

Their tools? Structured and self-development focussed gaming coupled with the power of peer connection, and a resolute focus on the individual - not a diagnosis, not disability.

Presented by



Paris Conte

genU GAMER

Paris is a former street kid whose passion for gaming steered him to become an Area Manager for EB Games, Territory Manager and member of the team that launched the first Microsoft XBOX gaming console in Australia.

He is also the creator of genU GAMER and its Applied Gaming programs.

The Multicultural Minds Project

Presentation

A presentation about leading Multicultural Minds, a project dedicated to raising awareness of multicultural mental health.

This project is focused on decolonising mental health services, increasing mental health literacy, providing platforms for and amplifying diverse lived and living experiences, including for multicultural mental health.

The project began with a podcast which has been received well by many communities and they are now creating a book of the stories from over 283 Experts by Experience who have self-identified as coming from 144 different cultures.

Multicultural Minds increases social connection through the sharing of lived and living experiences that are often stigmatised. By facilitating the sharing of stories, this project aims to decrease stigma and raise awareness of multicultural mental health.

Presented by



Emily Unity

Royal Children's Hospital

Emily Unity is a lived and living experience professional who is passionate about advocating for the human rights of all people, regardless of background, identity, or intersectionality.

Emily is currently the Lived Experience Lead for the Royal Children's Hospital, on the Committees of Management for VMIAC (State Consumer Peak) and Centre for Multicultural Youth, on the Boards of Midsumma and Intertwine, and advisory committees for UNICEF, Headspace, Beyond Blue, CYDA, Orygen, and many more.

Emily grounds their work in their intersectional experiences of mental health, disability, LGBTQIA+, homelessness, neurodiversity, and being a young carer from a refugee and migrant background.

New Research into the Stigma of Loneliness

Presentation

A presentation sharing key findings from brand new Australian research into loneliness.

The project, a collaboration between Friends for Good, Nature and PureProfile, explores the stigma of loneliness in a nationally representative sample of Australians and provides new insights for those working on this important issue.

Presented by



Mikayla Samuels

Nature

Mikayla is an Associate Director at Nature, a strategic insights consultancy. She has spent the last 10 years understanding the behaviours and attitudes of Australians, and is thrilled to be applying these skills to an issue as important as loneliness.



Tony Truong

Nature

Tony is a Senior Consultant at Nature. He has been volunteering with Friends for Good for over 6 years and is passionate about addressing the problem of loneliness in Australia.



High Street Bells Choir

Entertainment

The High Street Bells Choir will be performing live at the event.

The choir has been meeting together and 'singing for joy' since 2010. They provide an opportunity to sing with others to people who might otherwise not be able to access a community choir: they welcome singers of all abilities and provide a supportive and caring environment.

High Street Bells Choir is a not-for-profit organisation run by volunteers and mainly funded by grants and donations.



Schedule

6 June 2023

1.00pm – 1.10pm	Opening Address	<i>Lachlan McNab</i>
1.10pm – 1.25pm	Welcome to Country	<i>Wurundjeri Elder</i>
1.25pm – 1.45pm	New Research into the Stigma of Loneliness Mikayla Samuels & Tony Truong	
1.45pm – 2.05pm	The GenU GAMER Program Paris Conte	
2.05pm – 2.25pm	The Multicultural Minds Project Emily Unity	
2.25pm – 3.05pm	Afternoon Tea	
3.05pm – 3.25pm	Choir Performance High Street Bells Choir	
3.25pm – 4.20pm	Speed Networking	
4.20pm – 4.30pm	Close	<i>Lachlan McNab</i>
4.30pm – 5.30pm	Post Event Drinks	

Important Information

Tickets

Tickets are available at:
[friendsforgood.org.au/SM23](https://www.friendsforgood.org.au/SM23)

Purchased tickets need to be presented upon arrival in printed or digital format. If you don't have your ticket, a photo ID will be required to verify your ticket purchase.

Tickets can be reallocated to another delegate providing Friends for Good is notified before 2/6/23.

Cancellations can be issued providing Friends for Good is notified before 29/5/23. A full refund will be provided less the booking fee.

Registration

Please register upon arrival. The registration desk will be located on Level 5 and will be open from 12.30pm.

Getting There

The Veriu Queen Victoria Market Hotel is located at 91 Therry Street, Melbourne. Public car parking is available at the Queen Victoria Market, more information and rates are available at: [qvm.com.au/parking/car-park-rates](https://www.qvm.com.au/parking/car-park-rates)

Melbourne Central train station is a six minute walk south east. Tram lines 19, 57 and 59 stop within 100m of the venue.

Venue Facilities

Full disability access is available at the venue.

Wifi will be free to use, and the password will be made available at the event

Local Attractions

The 140+ year old Queen Victoria Market trades on Tuesdays and will be open when the Symposium is held. This historic landmark is spread over two city blocks. It's a vibrant market where you can shop at over 600 small businesses.

Melbourne is home to numerous galleries, museums and events. To find out What's On in Melbourne in June visit [whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au](https://www.whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

Food & Drinks

There will be a 40 minute break where afternoon tea will be served. Following the symposium drinks will be served.

Dietary requirements can be accommodated but must be advised at the time of booking. If you have already booked a ticket, Friends for Good must be advised before 26/5/23.

Help & Assistance

For all security concerns, please contact the concierge in the foyer of the ground floor of the Veriu Hotel.

For all other directions and assistance, please contact one of the volunteers at the registration desk.