

2025 Australia South Sudan Forum Program

Co-Convened by the University of Western Australia and the University of Melbourne.

2025 Australia South Sudan Forum, hosted by University of Melbourne in Partnership with the South Sudan Community Association of Victoria.



Time	Session	Room
9AM – 9.55AM	Welcome and Registration	Atrium, Ground Floor
10AM – 10:40AM	Welcome to Country , Wurundjeri Elder John Terrick	Forum Theatre, Level 1
	Opening Remarks Professor Michael Wesley , Deputy Vice Chancellor Global Culture and Engagement Dr Tania Miletic , Co-Director of the Initiative for Peacebuilding (IfPB) Mr Andrew Ohide , Chairperson South Sudan Community Association of Victoria (SSCAV)	
	Keynote Address 2025 Victorian Young Australian of the Year Mr Abraham Kuol , Associate Research Fellow Deakin University	

11AM – 11.40AM	Youth Justice Issues Dr Santino Deng , Chair of the South Sudanese Australian Youth Justice Expert Working Group and Andrea Davidson , Commissioner Youth Justice at Department of Justice and Community Safety, Victoria.	Forum Theatre, Level 1
11.40AM -12.20PM	Peacebuilding From Here to Home David Nyuol Vincent , Deputy Team Leader of the Peacebuilding Opportunities Fund and IfPB Research Affiliate, will share peacebuilding experiences connecting peacebuilding efforts in South Sudan and Australia.	
12.20PM - 12.30PM	Reflections from Chairperson Vivienne Nguyen AM , Victorian Multicultural Commission	
12.30PM – 1.30PM	LUNCH	
Parallel Sessions - Participants to choose to attend one of the below sessions		
1.30PM – 2.30PM	Focus on Youth Room 1 Led by Abraham Kuol this session will focus on youth engagement, education, employment and leadership development. There will be discussion of youth justice issues and a focus on changes to Victorian law and its impacts led by Ding Makuei , Lawyer at Sunshine Lawyers.	Room 253

1.30PM – 2.30PM	Focus on Women and Families Room 2 Led by Akuc Deng, Education specialist and Doris Lolik, SSCAV Woman Leader, this session will focus on sharing approaches to enhance representation in leadership roles, gender inequality and societal expectations, mentorship and networking opportunities. It will also celebrate women-led initiatives and role models.	Room 256
	Focus on Community Leadership Room 3 Led by Odangi Guwey, Elder of South Sudanese Community in Australia and Cr. Susan Yengi, Maribyrnong City Council, this session will discuss approaches that promote inclusive, formal and informal community leadership, and foster unity.	Room 155
	Focus on Mental Health and Family Health Room 4 This session will focus on health-related concerns including mental health, family, sexual and reproductive health and social healing. Session leads include: Dr Bol Juol-Thor, MBBS, FRACGP, Dr Santino Deng and Sarah Berberi, Counsellor/ Advocate at Foundation House.	Room 156
	Working with the Media Room 5 Led by Ajak Deng, journalist and Kuol Malou, Nilotic Third Space, this session will focus on the critical role of media and how to think about communication and sharing stories that shape public narratives and reflect community needs.	Room 161

2.30PM – 3.10PM	Group Feedback from Break Out Rooms 1 speaker from each session selected to provide 5 minutes of feedback highlighting key discussion points and next steps	Forum Theatre, Level 1
3.10PM – 3.20PM	Community Remarks Andrew Gai , South Sudanese-Australian Academic Society Inc. Kenyatta Deiwel , Manager for Centre for Multicultural Youth and South Sudanese Community Support Group.	
3.20 PM – 3.45PM	Belonging and Bilateral Relationships Strengthening belonging from here to home and what it means for enhancing bilateral relations. (Via Zoom) Hon. Monday Semaya Kumba, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation , Rep. of South Sudan	
3.45PM – 3.55PM	Summation Akuc Deng , Educator and Researcher, Deakin University	
3.55PM – 4.00PM	Closing Remarks Professor Jennifer Balint , Dean of Faculty of Arts, University of Melbourne. Close and Acknowledgements	
4:00PM – 6:00PM	Networking and Refreshments	Atrium