



# AWMA

AUSTRALIAN  
WOMEN IN  
MUSIC  
AWARDS

2024

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**22 August 2024**

## **Diversity, Equality, Inclusion - front and centre at the 2024 Australian Women in Music Conference**

The **2024 Australian Women in Music Conference** continues the push for gender equality to be adopted as a core music industry value, today announcing former Sex Discrimination Commissioner and inaugural Chair of the Creative Workplaces Council **Kate Jenkins AO** as this year's featured speaker.

A frank "In Conversation" discussion with gender equality expert **Alex Shehadie** will explore Kate Jenkins' career highlights and challenges, the people who have inspired her and lessons learnt about making change.

Kate Jenkins in a former Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commissioner recognised for spearheading some of Australia's leading reviews and reforms for equality, including the Respect@Work reforms on workplace sexual harassment.

Alex Shehadie is a thought leader on strategies to increase the representation of women and diverse groups into leadership roles and an expert on the impact of workplace bullying, sexual harassment, racism and other forms of discrimination. In 2022, Alex led the groundbreaking review into Sexual Harassment, Sexual Abuse and Systemic Discrimination in the Australian Contemporary Music Industry ("*Raising Their Voices*").

Now in its fifth year, the **Australian Women in Music Awards & Conference Program 2024** will be held in Meanjin/Brisbane on 1 & 2 October. The Conference will be presented for the first time at the **Queensland Multicultural Centre**, Kangaroo Point, and will explore Diversity, Equality and Inclusion in the Australian music industry.

**Founding Executive Producer & Program Director Vicki Gordon** said the first Australian Women in Music Awards in 2018 marked a watershed moment for the Australian music industry, creating an inclusive, diverse platform to acknowledge women and diverse minorities as vital, essential contributors to the economic growth of the sector by celebrating their achievements across all areas of industry.

Presented by Australian Women in Music with support from Creative Australia, this year's Conference will continue to build a safe and inclusive platform to discuss some of the critical pathways needed to build an equitable and inclusive culture for the future health of the sector.

Vicki Gordon said: “The Australian music industry is a vast and complex eco-system which sadly in 2024 continues to promote festival line-ups dominated, sometimes entirely by male artists, male musicians, male techs and male led bands.

“The flow-on effect is reflected in the glaring absence of women working as operators and designers in front-of-house audio and lighting, as mixing engineers and in other technical areas, backstage as roadies and behind the scenes.”

In addition to the 2024 AWMA “In Conversation”, Kate Jenkins will facilitate a panel exploring the role of men in the music industry, gender education, actions needed to achieve gender equality and their messages to other men.

Kate Jenkins said: “I’m delighted to join the amazing Australian Women in Music at this annual conference, sharing the work of Creative Workplaces to make music safe, fair and respectful, and examining the role of men to bring this goal to life. In 2024, equality in music is long overdue!”

**Queensland Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Service and Minister for Women Shannon Fentiman** said: “This is an important conversation and it is fantastic to have Kate Jenkins involved.

“The Miles Government proudly supports Australian Women in Music Awards & Conference Program as a critical space for talented women working across the music industry to gather and share experiences, and demand equity and recognition of their incredible contributions.”

The full-day Conference Program, starting with a Welcome to Country, includes a First Nations Women’s Forum **Yarning Strong - Always Was, Always Will Be Blak Matriarch Energy** presented by **Support Act** through JB HIFI’s Helping Hands Program.

How artists, festivals and industry are paving the way for a greener music scene will be explored in a panel discussion presented by **Green Music Australia**, titled **Greening Up Our Act**.

Australian College of the Arts (COLLARTS) Chief Executive Officer **Sam Jacob** will facilitate a panel exploring solutions to gender and cultural biases which continue to create barriers for women and gender diverse people from succeeding across the music sector.

The 2024 AWMA Conference Program culminates on the evening of 1 October with the **2024 First Nations Women’s Music Program** made possible with support from Australian Regional & Remote Community Services (ARRCS) and featuring the all-female **Ripple Effect Band** from the remote community of Maningrida from West Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory. The event is hosted by **Dizzy Doolan** and **Emily Wurramara**, at **The Outpost**, Fortitude Valley, with special guests **Layla Havana**, **SOLCHLD**, **Yirgjhilya** and more.

**The Australian Women in Music Awards & Conference Program 2024 is available [here](#). Tickets to the Conference and First Nations Women’s Music Program are on sale via [Oztix](#).**

On Wednesday 2 October, the **2024 AWMA Ceremony and Concert** will be held at **The Fortitude Music Hall**. Music industry leaders and guests will gather for a star-studded evening, featuring ‘black carpet’ arrivals hosted by dynamic Hip Hop artist **Kween G** with MC and singer **Sheba** who will also DJ this year’s After Party.



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Artists performing at the Ceremony and Concert include **Sarah Blasko, Kasey Chambers, Mo'Ju, Nina Korbe, Sarah McLeod, Katie Noonan & Karin Schaupp, Ripple Effect Band, Karen Lee Andrews** and **Emily Wurramara**.

Visit the [AWMA website](https://www.awma.com.au) for the full 2024 AWMA Program and to book tickets.

AWMA is a fully inclusive event which shines a light on the immense talent and contribution made by female, non-binary, GNC people of all cultures and Country working across every genre and all areas of industry.

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