

**Australia Awards – South Asia & Mongolia**  
**Scholars Symposium Melbourne**  
**Leadership and Changemaking**  
 24 November 2023, Rydges Hotel Melbourne  
 Program

Friday 24 November 2023, Rydges Hotel Melbourne		
Time	Program element	Notes
From 0830	<b>Scholars arrive</b> <b>Time for scholar photos and informal networking over tea and coffee</b>	Scholars arrive independently Scholars are welcome to have professional photos taken. <i>Objective: to take advantage of scholars being in one location to produce promotional material and allow scholars to collate professional branding material for changemaker careers.</i>
0930	<b>Acknowledgement of Country and Introduction</b>	<b>Mr Dave Gordge</b> , Deputy Team Leader, Australia Awards – South Asia & Mongolia <i>Objective: To acknowledge Wurundjeri traditional owners, reiterate Symposium objectives, set expectations and motivate scholars to engage, and outline housekeeping.</i>
0935	<b>Welcome to Country</b>	<b>Wurundjeri Elder Perry Wandin</b> , Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation
0945	<b>Opening remarks</b>	<b>Ms Iris Yam</b> , Assistant Director, South and Central Asia Development Section, South and Central Asia Division, DFAT <i>Objective: To outline how Australia Awards fit in with Australia's engagement with South Asia and Mongolia, the scale of DFAT's investment in Australia Awards and encourage the scholars to engage.</i>
0955	<b>Scholar welcome</b>	Brief remarks from <b>Ms Radhika Orari</b> , Australia Awards scholar from Bhutan <i>Objective: to provide a scholar's perspective on what they hope to achieve through the Symposium and to encourage engagement from scholars.</i>
1000	<b>Keynote speaker</b>	<b>Ms Carly Findlay</b> , author and disability advocate <i>Objective: For scholars to hear from a prominent leader in the disability community sharing her experiences of leadership and changemaking, challenging norms, and advocacy for people with disabilities.</i>  This session will be streamed for the broader Australia Awards – South Asia & Mongolia cohort ahead of International Day of Persons with Disabilities  <i>Q&amp;A facilitated by Ms Amna Ijaz, an Australia Awards scholar from Pakistan</i>
1045	Morning tea	

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1100	<b>Panel discussion</b>	<p>Three to four panellists, which could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ms Carly Findlay</b>, author and disability advocate</li> <li>- <b>Ms Cassandra Fernando MP</b>, Member for Holt</li> <li>- <b>Mr Sandith Samarasinghe</b>, Consul-General of Sri Lanka</li> <li>- <b>Dr Simona Carbone</b>, Gut Physiology Lab Director at Monash University and science leadership podcast host.</li> </ul> <p>Objectives: For scholars to hear from a diverse range of leaders in different fields on their experience of changemaking and leadership.</p> <p>Session facilitated by <b>Ms Lam-ya Mostaque</b>, Australia Awards scholar from Bangladesh</p>
1200	Lunch, networking and last of headshot opportunities	
1300	<b>Scholar Champions program launch</b>	<p>Presented by <b>Dave Gordge</b>, Deputy Team Leader, Australia Awards – South Asia &amp; Mongolia</p> <p>Scholar Champions is a recognition program to incentivise scholar participation in enrichment activities. In a pilot, scholars will be recognised with certification for attending Program events and workshops. Involvement in panels, discussions and volunteer work within the Australian community will be included, enabling scholars to see their Australian professional development experience acknowledged and appreciated.</p>
1310	<b>Linkages panel</b>	<p>Panellists include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Mr Jimi Chakma</b>, Bangladeshi Australia Awards alum, is currently in Australia with his scholar partner</li> <li>- <b>Ms Tuya Gombosuren</b>, Mongolian graduate of Deakin and Monash Universities, life coach and Manager at PwC Australia</li> <li>- <b>Ms Alice Tamang</b>, proud Dharug woman and Indigenous Engagement Advisor for Australia Awards – South Asia &amp; Mongolia</li> <li>- <b>Mr Julian Jefferys</b>, StudyMelbourne</li> </ul> <p>Objective: This panel will allow scholars to hear from a range of perspectives on how they can make the most of their time to build linkages. Amongst the perspectives shared will be those of alumni who have been through the same experiences as the scholars, StudyMelbourne, which has a range of programs for international students, and the Program's Indigenous Engagement Advisor, who will provide advice on options for engaging with First Nations people and organisations.</p> <p>Panel discussion facilitated by <b>Ms Shaziya Ali</b>, an Australia Awards scholar from Maldives.</p>
1400	<b>Professional branding exercise</b>	<p>Scholars to work on presentation skills and elevator pitches</p> <p>Facilitated by <b>Dr Bianca Warnock</b>, Coordinator – Scholar Enrichment Program.</p> <p>Objective: This session will enable scholars to work with each to practice introductions and elevator pitches, and present their findings to table groups and the larger group</p>
1440	Afternoon Tea	

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1500	<b>Impact planning session</b>	<p>Practical exercise for scholars to consider what they have heard and how they will use it, based on the Australia Awards Linkages Framework.</p> <p>Objective: This session will enable scholars to work with each other to consider their Development Impact and Linkages Plans and time remaining in Australia to undertake revised linkages planning, and present their findings to table groups and the larger group</p>
1600	<b>Closing remarks</b>	<p><b>Mr Mason Interlandi</b>, DFAT Victoria State Office</p> <p>Objective: Call to action for scholars to apply their learnings from the Symposium and to close symposium.</p>
1610	Symposium close	