

10th annual

WOMEN IN TECH FEST 2026

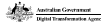
ELEVATE YOUR TECH
SKILLS, BREAK BARRIERS
& FUTURE-PROOF YOUR
CAREER

24-26 FEBRUARY 2026 | SYDNEY MASONIC CENTRE (SMC)

Speakers include:



Sarah Carney
National Chief Technology
Officer ANZ
Microsoft



Lucy Poole
Deputy Chief Executive
Officer - Strategy, Planning &
Performance
Digital Transformation Agency



Katrina Troughton
Vice President & Managing
Director
Adobe ANZ



Miranda Ratajski
Chief Information Officer,
Group Business Units
Westpac



May Lam
Chief Information Officer
Australian Payments Plus



Romina Sharifpour
Leader - Multi-Agent Product
Engineering
Commonwealth Bank



Suzie Cardwell
Chief Data Product &
Technology Officer
Nine



Forough Khandan
Chief Technology Officer
EMVision Medical Devices



Suneetha Bodduluri
Chief Technology Officer
Service NSW



Emma Taylor
Head of Technology
Virgin Australia



Dominique Harrison-Bentzen
Chief Executive Officer &
Co-Founder
Luniate



Aruna Pattam
Head of AI Platforms
Zurich Insurance



Margo Stephen
Chief Technology Officer
Yarra Trams



Tracey Evans
Group Chief Information &
Digital Officer
Virtus Health



Nicole Nixon
Chief Executive Officer
Five Faces

REGISTER TODAY!

Book before **7 November** and save up to **\$900** or
book as a group and save up to **25%**!

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Organised by:

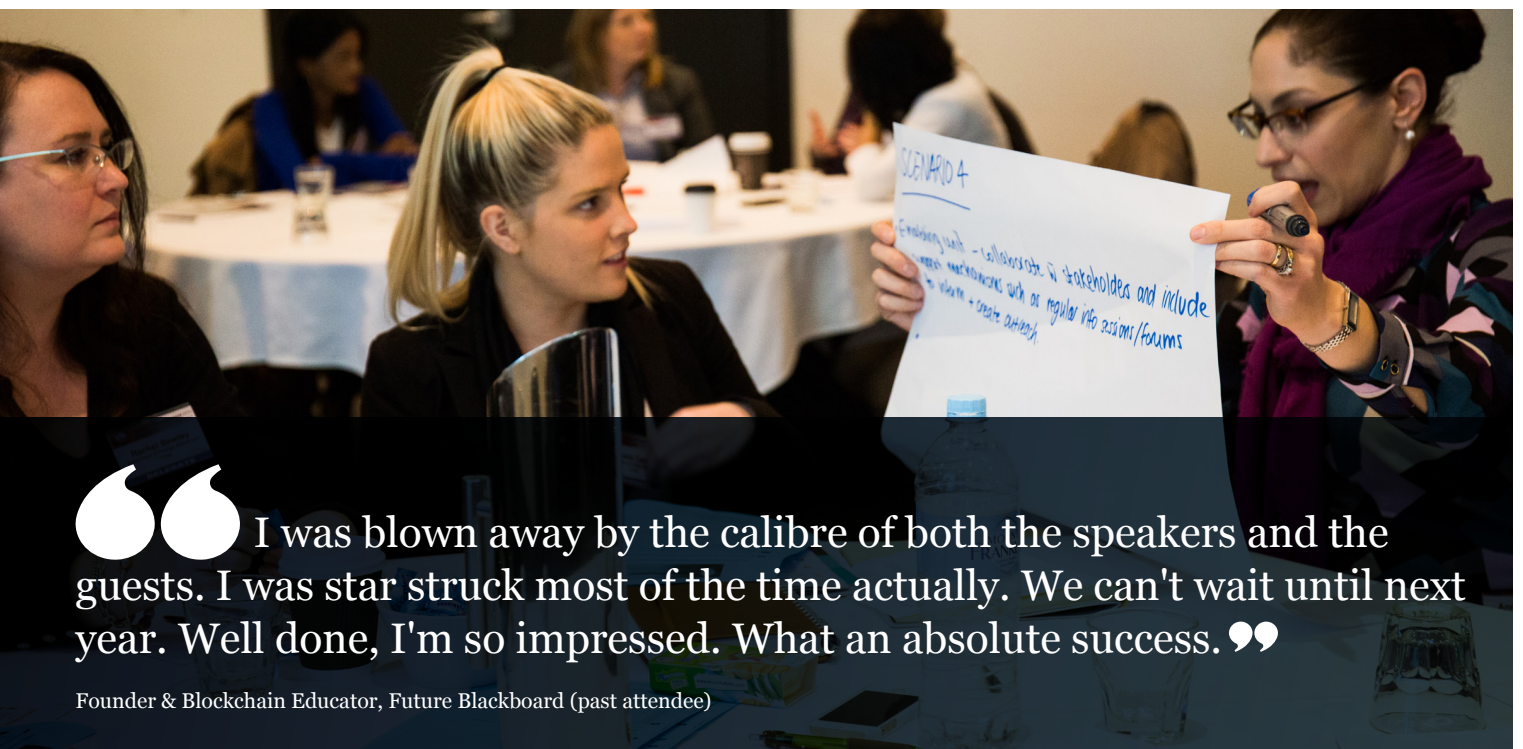
 **Quest Events**
Meet Learn Grow.

Australia's premier event for **WOMEN IN TECH** is back!

Now in its 10th year, **Women in Tech Fest** is Australia's only event that equips you with the technical knowledge, in-demand skills, and leadership strategies you need to move your career and organisation forward.

Connect with a powerful network of peers, learn from dozens of c-suite leaders and heads of tech, gain insights to elevate your projects, and unlock new career opportunities - all in a supportive environment championing diversity and inclusion across the profession.

This is your opportunity. Step up, skill up, and flourish in the future of tech.



“I was blown away by the calibre of both the speakers and the guests. I was star struck most of the time actually. We can't wait until next year. Well done, I'm so impressed. What an absolute success.”

Founder & Blockchain Educator, Future Blackboard (past attendee)

7 REASONS YOU CAN'T MISS WOMEN IN TECH FEST 2026:

- 1 Move your career & organisation forward with the premier event for women in tech
- 2 Learn how to future proof your career by leveraging AI & automation with guidance from **Microsoft & Medibank**
- 3 Develop critical non-technical skills like communication, negotiation, collaboration & change management
- 4 Discover how leaders at **Virgin, Nine & CBA** found success through non-traditional career paths
- 5 Master how to build respect, gain credibility, establish authority & exert influence
- 6 Explore what's next in tech with timely insights from the **DTA & Westpac**
- 7 Access practical strategies from **NAB & Virtus Health** to drive diversity & achieve true equity

ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS



Renece Brewster
Co-Founder & Co-Managing Director
Her Tech Circle



Colleen Pender
Program Director
NAB



Mirella Robinson
Chief Technology Officer
Acenda



Pia Seeto
Technology Transition Lead & Head of Planning & Reporting Technology Governance
TPG Telecom



Sam Love
Executive, Product & Technology
Quantum Telstra



Hayley Sheppard
Head of Digital Solutions
TasNetworks



Gabriella Hepworth
Data Ethics & AI Governance Lead
Medibank



Gaby Carney
Senior Fellow, Strategic AI, UTS Human Technology Institute
University of Technology Sydney



Sarah Vale
Head of Technology Architecture
Domain



Dominique Barker
Chief Information Officer
Australian Institute of Family Studies



Shantell Williams
Chief Technology Officer
Tiimely



Susan Gibson
Head of Data Analytics & AI
University of Technology Sydney



Natalie Saunders
Head of Technology – Service Management
AGL



Stevie-Ann Dovico
Group Executive for Technology & Chief Information Officer
Beyond Bank Australia



Cheng Yeo
General Manager Architecture & Strategy
Crown Resorts



Ellenor Cox
Executive Master Coach
GAIA Coaching



“Great conference with interesting content that really got you thinking about things differently.”

Product Owner (Originations), ANZ





CONFERENCE DAY 1 | Wednesday 25 February

08:15 Registration and welcome coffee

08:50 Opening remarks from the Chair



Renece Brewster

Co-Founder & Co-Managing Director

Her Tech Circle

09:00 **Career playgrounds not paths - lessons in growth, rejection and resilience**

Drawing on a career spanning 14 roles, 3 continents, and 6 industries, explore the realities of building a career in technology. The session challenges the myth of perfect timing and perfect plans, encouraging attendees to embrace discomfort with practical strategies for turning setbacks into stepping stones.

- The "career playground" mindset: why flexibility and exploration matter more than following a linear path
- Five lessons for career resilience: from knowing your superpowers to setting deadlines for discomfort
- Rejection and blockers: how to reframe setbacks as fuel for growth and innovation



Sarah Carney

National Chief Technology Officer ANZ

Microsoft

PRACTICAL STEPS TO DRIVE EQUITY & ADVANCE CAREERS

09:30 **Concrete strategies to elevate women in tech: leveraging processes, programs and action to move from awareness to results**

- Transforming diversity goals into tangible outcomes that shift culture
- Becoming a champion for equity through mentoring, advocacy, and inclusive design
- Using data and evidence to drive accountability and systemic change
- Leveraging programs and processes to accelerate career progression at every level



Colleen Pender

Program Director

NAB

10:00 **PANEL DISCUSSION: Triumphs, failures & lessons learned on the path to diversity & career success**



In this interactive session, the panel will draw on specific experiences to reveal what has and hasn't worked to drive true diversity and career progression for women in tech, and what each person in the room can do to help drive progress.

Panellists:



Tracey Evans

Group Chief Information & Digital Officer

Virtus Health



Pia Seeto

Technology Transition Lead & Head of Planning & Reporting Technology Governance

TPG Telecom



Mirella Robinson

Chief Technology Officer

Acenda

10:50 Morning Tea & Networking

FROM DISRUPTION TO OPPORTUNITY: WHAT'S NEXT IN TECH

11:20 **Adapting to a world of robotics & the impact on tech roles & careers**

- Examining where robotics is already reshaping industries and workplaces
- Understanding how automation is shifting roles and skill requirements
- Exploring practical ways to collaborate effectively with robotic systems
- Gaining insight into the ethical and workforce implications of robotics adoption



Miranda Ratajski

Chief Information Officer, Group Business Units

Westpac

11:50 Partner presentation

12:10 **SKILLS SPOTLIGHT: Empowering your team, organisation & career through digital transformation leadership**



- Navigating organisational challenges, resistance, and cultural shifts during transformation
- Leveraging leadership skills to inspire teams and deliver sustainable change
- Ensuring you keep pace with change so it furthers rather than slows your career



Carrie Hu

Chief Information Officer

New Aim

12:40 **SKILLS SPOTLIGHT: Building resilience and adapting with agility**



- Harnessing resilience and strengthening emotional intelligence to thrive amidst constant technological disruption
- Pivoting quickly, embracing change & leading confidently
- Discovering real world stories and tools that empower women to turn challenges into opportunities
- Staying a step ahead of tech trends reshaping roles & careers



Dominique Barker

Chief Information Officer

Australian Institute of Family Studies

13:10 Networking lunch

BUILDING INFLUENCE, IMPACT & ADAPTABILITY

14:10 **SKILLS SPOTLIGHT: Developing critical non-technical skills to open doors & improve project outcomes**



- Effective communication: presenting ideas persuasively and getting buy-in
- Influence & negotiation: securing resources, promotions, and support for your projects and career
- Personal branding & visibility: building a reputation for impact, reliability, and leadership
- Mentorship & advocacy: leveraging networks and sponsors to accelerate your career
- Resilience & adaptability: thriving through change and uncertainty while maintaining performance and growth



Sam Love

Executive, Product & Technology

Quantum Telstra

14:40 **SKILLS SPOTLIGHT: Balancing tech expertise with commercial acumen: driving innovation from concept to commercialisation**



- Learning how to move ideas from brainstorming to real-world solutions
- Understanding the key stages of product development and market entry
- Building effective partnerships and collaborations
- Overcoming common roadblocks to innovation



Suneetha Bodduluri

Chief Technology Officer

Service NSW

15:10 Afternoon Tea & Networking

INTERACTIVE CHAMPAGNE ROUNDTABLES



This is a unique opportunity to have all your questions answered while you network and build relationships with people you otherwise may not have access to. You will be able to choose three of the below to attend with each roundtable running concurrently over three time slots:

Round 1: 15.50 - 16.20

Round 2: 16.20 to 16.50

Round 3: 16.50 to 17.20

Roundtable 1 ▶ **Navigating new horizons: identifying & moving into new roles & career opportunities**



Emma Taylor

Head of Technology

Virgin Australia

Roundtable 3 ▶ **Thriving in the AI age by leveraging the technology as an opportunity & not a challenge**



Aruna Pattam

Head of AI Platforms

Zurich Insurance

Roundtable 2 ▶ **Strategies to succeed on a high-pressure, high stakes project**



Shantell Williams

Chief Technology Officer

Tiimey

Roundtable 4 ▶ **Shaping high impact culture & high performance through leadership**



Gaby Carney

Senior Fellow, Strategic AI, UTS Human Technology Institute

University of Technology Sydney

Roundtable 5 ▶ **Interview power play: landing your next role in tech**



Hayley Sheppard

Head of Digital Solutions

TasNetworks

Roundtable 6 ▶ **Overcoming imposter syndrome: strategies to build confidence and thrive**



Dominique Barker

Chief Information Officer

Australian Institute of Family Studies

17:20 Closing remarks from the Chair

17:30 End of Day 1 & Networking Drinks

18:45 Official Event Dinner



CONFERENCE DAY 2 | Thursday 26 February

MOVING BEYOND THE TRADITIONAL PATH & THRIVING IN TECH

08:30 Welcome coffee

08:50 Opening remarks from the chair



Renece Brewster
Co-Founder & Co-Managing Director
Her Tech Circle

- 09:00 **Future-proof or fade out - reinventing your skills & career in the AI era**
- Diversifying skills to leverage emerging tech and meet workforce and professional development needs
 - Navigating changing expectations of leaders and the blurring between 'tech' and 'generalist' skills
 - Leveraging AI to provide workforce support and the notion of AI workforces



Lucy Poole
Deputy Chief Executive Officer - Strategy, Planning & Performance
Digital Transformation Agency

- 09:30 **PANEL DISCUSSION: Finding success in non-traditional tech paths: maximising diverse and non-linear career trajectories**
- How can diverse backgrounds bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas?
 - What transferable non-tech skills can translate seamlessly into tech skills, and vice versa?
 - How can you redefine your tech career narrative and challenge the idea that tech success requires a traditional path?

Moderator:



Cheng Yeo
General Manager & Architecture & Strategy
Crown Resorts



Suzie Cardwell
Chief Data Product & Technology Officer
Nine



Nicole Nixon
Chief Executive Officer
Five Faces

Panellists:



Romina Sharifpour
Leader - Multi-Agent Product Engineering
Commonwealth Bank



May Lam
Chief Information Officer
Australian Payments Plus

10:20 Morning Tea & Networking

- 10:50 **Owning your journey: how to advocate for yourself at every career stage**
- Consistently showcasing your strengths, values and achievements
 - Proactively expressing goals and interests that align with your desired career path
 - Confidently negotiating and setting your own boundaries
 - Capitalising on successes and bouncing back from setbacks



Forough Khandan
Chief Technology Officer
EMVision Medical Devices

11:20 Partner presentation

AI INNOVATION, RISK & RESPONSIBILITY

- 11:40 **Coding fairness: women leading the ethical AI revolution**
- Why diverse teams are critical to breaking hidden bias in algorithms
 - Building responsibility into AI systems from the ground up
 - How women in tech can actively steer AI toward equitable outcomes



Gabriella Hepworth
Data Ethics & AI Governance Lead
Medibank

- 12:20 **Rethinking AI: common enterprise missteps and how to get it right**
- Shiny toy syndrome: why most AI projects fail before they even start
 - Humans first, tech second: the mindset shift every enterprise needs
 - Lasting impact: how to build AI that delivers long-term value



Dominique Harrison-Bentzen
Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder
Luniate

12:50 Networking Lunch



- 13:50 **Harnessing the power of agentic AI & navigating the risks**

- Exploring how agentic AI moves beyond traditional models to autonomously set goals, make decisions, and adapt in complex environments
- Diving into multi-agent frameworks, memory systems, and planning algorithms that allow AI agents to operate with minimal human intervention
- Understanding the opportunities and risks for organisations across industries
- Exploring what leaders need to know about governance, trust, adoption & the impact on tech professionals



Gaby Carney
Senior Fellow, Strategic AI, UTS Human Technology Institute
University of Technology Sydney

EMBRACING COLLABORATION & BROADENING SKILL SETS

- 14:20 **SKILLS SPOTLIGHT: Achieving success through cross-team collaboration**



- Breaking down silos by working effectively across your whole organisation - product, engineering, legal, and beyond
- Strengthening communication to align diverse teams around shared goals
- Contributing to ethical, accountable outcomes no matter your role or level
- Applying enterprise architecture practices to build trust and improve results



Sarah Vale
Head of Technology Architecture
Domain

14:50 Afternoon Tea & Networking

- 15:10 **SKILLS SPOTLIGHT: Making transformation work: from personal edge to business impact**



- Making technology your career edge
- Building skills and confidence to stand out as work is reshaped by technology
- Empowering teams to deliver outcomes by creating impact together through transformation
- Creating lasting impact through shared wins for individuals, teams, and the organisation



Shantell Williams
Chief Technology Officer
Timely

THE FUTURE OF WOMEN IN TECH

- 15:40 **PANEL DISCUSSION: Empowering the next generation of women in tech**
- How can we establish strong networks and communities to share experiences, resources, and support women in tech?
 - How can we promote policies that address gender disparities, such as equal pay, parental leave, and flexible working conditions, to help women advance their careers?
 - What can we do to inspire and provide opportunities for girls at a young age to explore STEM fields through outreach programs, hands-on activities, and mentorship?

Moderator:



Susan Gibson
Head of Data Analytics & AI
University of Technology Sydney



Natalie Saunders
Head of Technology - Service Management
AGL



Stevie-Ann Dovico
Group Executive for Technology & Chief Information Officer
Beyond Bank Australia

Panellists:



Katrina Troughton
Vice President & Managing Director
Adobe ANZ



Margo Stephen
Chief Technology Officer
Yarra Trams

16:20 Closing remarks from the chair

16:30 End of Women in Tech Fest 2026

REGISTER TODAY!

Book before **7 November** and save up to **\$900**

PRE-CONFERENCE MASTERCLASSES

Tuesday, 24 February

SEPARATELY
BOOKABLE

AVAILABLE TO BOOK SEPARATELY OR AS A PART OF YOUR 3-DAY CONFERENCE PASS

The pre-conference masterclasses provide attendees with morning and afternoon tea breaks and a 1-hour lunch break allowing for extra networking opportunities and in-depth learning.

The masterclasses start at 9:00 and finish at 17:00.

Masterclass A: Leadership, Communication & Negotiation for Women in Tech

In technology, expertise alone isn't enough. The ability to communicate with impact, navigate complex conversations, and negotiate with confidence is what sets leaders apart. Yet too often, talented women find themselves holding back - whether through self-doubt, unclear self-advocacy, or the weight of competing workplace expectations. The solution? Building a leadership toolkit that blends self-awareness, communication mastery, and negotiation skills that create influence at every level.

This masterclass is designed for women in technology who want to step into leadership - whether formally managing people, leading projects, or shaping ideas. You will gain practical strategies to own your voice, strengthen your brand, and engage in challenging conversations with clarity and confidence.

What you will master:

Redefining Leadership

- Leadership beyond titles and discovering what women uniquely bring to influence and authority
- Building confidence in leading and influencing without formal power
- Identifying your values, professional purpose, and USP or "zone of genius"
- Reigniting your personal brand for greater visibility and impact

Confident Communication

- Learning techniques to communicate with clarity and presence
- Addressing imposter syndrome and practicing self-advocacy

Assertive Negotiation

- Developing strategies for leaning in with assertiveness
- Handling difficult conversations and feedback constructively

Influence Without Authority

- Strengthening your ability to influence across stakeholders
- Navigating intergenerational workforce dynamics with awareness

Applied Learning in Action

- Scenario-based experiments, networking, and peer learning in a safe, supportive environment

Three main takeaways:

- Learning a practical approach to leadership, communication, and negotiation
- Building confidence to lead with influence, clarity, and courage
- Tools you can apply immediately to accelerate your career and impact

Facilitator:



Ellenor Cox
Executive Master Coach
GAIA Coaching

Masterclass B: Advancing with confidence - career growth strategies & overcoming imposter syndrome

While skill and capability are important in the world of tech, true career growth is about strategic direction, self-belief, and the courage to step forward for opportunities, even before you feel "ready." For many women, imposter feelings surface precisely at those pivotal moments - applying for new roles, speaking up in leadership spaces, or taking ownership of ambitious projects.

This masterclass takes a hands-on, practical approach to career confidence. You'll explore structured, research-backed techniques to quiet imposter thoughts, clarify your growth trajectory, and make purposeful career decisions.

By the end of the session, you'll have an actionable framework for recognising your value, positioning yourself for advancement, and sustaining momentum through self-trust and strategic action, not perfectionism.

What you will master:

Rewiring the Impostor Loop

- Understanding how and why imposter thoughts arise
- Practical cognitive tools to manage self-doubt in real time

Strategic Career Mapping

- Building a "career progression canvas" to define your next step and how to get there
- Setting meaningful short- and long-term goals supported by measurable milestones

Visibility Through Action

- Developing momentum by saying yes to projects, roles, and visibility opportunities
- Leveraging mentorship, sponsorship, and peer support networks for accelerated growth

Mindset for Sustainable Success

- Recognising and breaking cycles of overwork or perfectionism
- Building resilience to navigate feedback, change, and setbacks with perspective

Applied Career Design

- Peer discussion: real-world examples of breaking through imposter patterns
- Accountability planning to turn insight into next-week actions

Three Main Takeaways

- A practical toolkit to recognise and reframe imposter thoughts before they hold you back
- A career strategy framework that aligns strengths, ambitions, and next-step goals
- Sustainable confidence and mindset practices for advancing with clarity, not self-doubt

PARTNER WITH WOMEN IN TECH FEST

Are you looking to:

- Make meaningful connections with an audience of influencers and decision makers shaping the future of tech in one room?
- Position your business as a brand, thought and solutions leader?
- Showcase your organisation as a forward thinking, inclusive partner of choice?
- Get real time feedback on new products or services?
- Understand the competitive landscape?

Then contact our Partnerships Director, **Milad Etemadi** today at milade@questevents.com.au



WHAT ATTENDEES SAY ABOUT WOMEN IN TECH FEST



I had the privilege of hearing from many amazing speakers. But beyond the knowledge, it was the connections that made this experience unforgettable.



Network Support Engineer, Solomon Islands Electricity Authority

Women in Tech



WOMEN in TECH FEST!



Excellent event for women in tech. Inspirational and informative.



Marketing and Communications Director, Transmax



Everyone was collaborative, knowledgeable, and willing to engage.



Executive Assistant, Vic ICT for Women



All the speakers were definitely experts in their fields and covered topics that are pertinent and apt for the current environment across different industry sectors.”



Head of IT Services, MinterEllison



It is such a safe space to discuss people's journeys and challenges.



Assistant Director Digital Development, ARPANSA



A chance to come together to discuss important trends and impacts in our industry.



General Manager IT, Bedford Group

REGISTRATION

3 DAY STANDARD PACKAGE

24–26 February

Full access to the 3-day main conference session
One pre-conference masterclass
All networking sessions

**Register on or before 7 November \$3,795
(SAVE \$900)**

Regular price \$4,695

2 DAY STANDARD PACKAGE

25–26 February

Full access to the 2-day main conference sessions
All networking sessions

**Register on or before 7 November \$2,995
(SAVE \$900)**

Regular price \$3,895

PRE-CONFERENCE MASTERCLASS ONLY

24 February

One pre-conference masterclass

**Register on or before 7 November \$1,995
(SAVE \$500)**

Regular price \$2,495

3 DAY EMERGING TECH LEADERS PACKAGE

24–26 February

Full access to the 3-day main conference session
One pre-conference masterclass
All networking sessions

**Register on or before 7 November \$2,795
(SAVE \$900)**

Regular price \$3,695

2 DAY EMERGING TECH LEADERS PACKAGE

25–26 February

Full access to the 2-day main conference sessions
All networking sessions

**Register on or before 7 November \$1,995
(SAVE \$900)**

Regular price \$2,895

OFFICIAL EVENT DINNER

25 February

\$220

All prices are inclusive of GST

*Official event dinner is available to registered attendees of the conference only

** *Emerging tech leaders pricing is only available to those with 6 years or less total industry experience. This will be verified by the Quest team, based on LinkedIn profile. Approval for this pricing is at the sole discretion of Quest Event

GROUP DISCOUNTS

15%

3-6
delegate package

20%

7-10
delegate package

25%

11+
delegate package

Please note, any eligible group discounts will be applied automatically once the final delegate registration has been completed.

Call our Account Executives with any questions or to discuss the best discount options for you.

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Hux Russell

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- Branding as an official Event Partner on the conference website, brochure, and select marketing material
- Brand recognition as a premier organisation and a destination employer of choice that supports diversity, equity & inclusion
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Contact our Account Executives to make your organisation stand out from the rest.

*This offer is not available to tech service providers, product vendors or consultants. Qualification is at the discretion of Quest Events.