



Asia-Pacific Conference

The Biometrics Institute is proud to present its flagship event for the region, the Biometrics Institute's Silver Jubilee **Asia-Pacific Conference**. Our Asia-Pacific Conference brings together biometric users from key government agencies, commercial organisations and technology providers to share ideas and discuss the opportunities biometrics offer and its implementational challenges.

This two-day event provides opportunities to network with a broad cross-section of policymakers, biometrics users, academics and solution providers. This year's compelling conference agenda features high-profile international and local speakers covering the most topical issues, including:

- Policy and the responsible use of biometrics
- Facial recognition technology
- Privacy, inclusivity and biometrics governance
- Digital identification and verifiable credentials
- Biometrics in banking and retail
- Research and innovation

The conference is designed to provide delegates with the tools and information needed to implement and promote responsible, ethical and effective biometrics.

Why you should attend

- Engage** Take advantage of the opportunity to engage directly with key policy- and decision-makers and benefit from their expert opinions
- Learn** Listen to how others have utilised biometrics to improve service deliverables
- Connect** Meet other biometric users and connect with leading technology providers

Sponsors

We wish to thank the below member organisations for their support of the Asia-Pacific Conference.





Day one: Wednesday 27 May 2026

08:30 Registration and Arrival Coffee

Session one: Setting the scene

Session Moderator: *Darren Bark, Deputy Chairman and Director, Biometrics Institute*

09:00 **Welcome by the Chair**
Darren Bark, Deputy Chairman and Director, Biometrics Institute

09:05 **Welcome by the Biometrics Institute**
Isabelle Moeller, Chief Executive, Biometrics Institute

Session two: Law enforcement, retail and facial recognition technology

Session Moderator: *Stephen Gee, Director, Biometrics Institute*

09:15 **International presentation: Explainable face recognition using large language models**
Arun Ross, Martin J. Vanderploeg Endowed Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Michigan State University USA

09:35 **Diamond sponsor: A quarter century of facing the future**
Terry Hartmann, Vice President Asia Pacific, Cognitec Systems



09:55 **Biometrics in Australian law enforcement: Challenges in 2026**
Jeremy Johnson, Executive Director, Policing Information and Checking, Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC)

10:10 Questions and discussion

10:25 Morning tea

10:55 **NSW Police Force strategy on combating retail crime**
Darren Bark, Executive Director, Investigations and Counter Terrorism, New South Wales Police

11:10 **Gold sponsor: Real world innovations in law enforcement: How mobile real-time facial recognition is helping address operational challenges**
Dale Wilson, Head of DGDF Industry Solutions, NEC



11:25 **Retail facial recognition technology landscape in New Zealand**
Carolyn Young, Chief Executive, Retail NZ

- 11:40 **Good practice spotlight: Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) in Public Places: Key Questions Before You Start**
Terry Aulich, Head of Privacy Experts Group, Biometrics Institute
- 11:50 Questions and discussion
- 12:10 **Lunch and Exclusive Vendor Briefings, “A private audience with ...”**
 Lunch agenda
 12:10 Buffet lunch and networking in exhibition arena
 12:40 A private audience with FaceTec (by invitation only)
 12:55 Change over time
 13:05 A private audience with IDEMIA (by invitation only)
 13:20 End of Exclusive Vendor Briefings



- 13:40 **Panel discussion: Facial recognition technology – watchlists, proportionality and transparency**
 Moderator: *Brett Feldon, Head of Digital Identity Group, Biometrics Institute*
 Panellists:
Diamond sponsor: Michael Matheson, Project Director and Biometrics SME, Cognitec Systems
Silver sponsor: Phil Thomson, Co-Founder & CEO, Auror
Carolyn Young, Chief Executive, Retail NZ
Glenn Fahey, Chief Policy Officer and Chief Economist, Australian Retail Council
Rita Matulionyte, Associate Professor, Macquarie Law School, Macquarie University



Session three: People and privacy

Session Moderator: *Terry Aulich, Head of Privacy & Policy Expert Group, Biometrics Institute*

- 14:40 **Biometric fairness testing as part of due diligence**
Nicola Potter, Product Lead, Engagement, Data and Innovation, Department of Internal Affairs New Zealand – Regulatory and Identity Services
- 14:55 **Ta moko, Maori concepts of identity and biometrics**
Nik MacDonald-Washburn, Principal Advisor, Pou Ārahi Māori Advisory Unit, Department of Internal Affairs New Zealand (DIA) - Service Delivery and Operations
- 15:10 Questions and discussion
- 15:20 Afternoon break
- 15:50 **Biometrics and privacy from the New South Wales perspective**
Sonia Minutillo, NSW Privacy Commissioner, Information and Privacy Commission NSW
- 16:05 **Panel discussion: Inclusivity and biometrics governance**
 Moderator: *Terry Aulich, Head of Privacy & Policy Expert Group, Biometrics Institute*
 Panellists:
Kylie De Courteney, Managing Director, NSW Telco Authority
Nik MacDonald-Washburn, Principal Advisor, Pou Ārahi Māori Advisory Unit, Department of Internal Affairs New Zealand (DIA) - Service Delivery and Operations
Sonia Minutillo, NSW Privacy Commissioner, Information and Privacy Commission NSW


- 16:35 **Developing contemporary biometric education**
Tom Smale, Educator EL1, Forensic, Fire, and Biometrics Studies, Canberra Institute of Technology
- 16:50 Questions and discussion
- 16:55 **Closing remarks**
- 17:00 Evening Reception and networking – Celebrating the Institute’s 25-year Silver Jubilee
- 19:00 Close of day one

Day two: Thursday 28 May 2026

- 08:30 Registration and Arrival Coffee
- 09:00 Opening comments from the Chair
Darren Bark, Deputy Chairman and Director, Biometrics Institute
- 09:10 **Ministerial keynote address: NSW Digital ID and government-verifiable photo credentials**
The Hon Jihad Dib MP, Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, NSW Government


Session four: Cyber security and fraud mitigation

Session Moderator: *Darren Bark, Deputy Chairman and Director, Biometrics Institute*

- 09:25 **Good practice spotlight: Biometric Liveness: Protection from Presentation and Injection Attacks**
Ted Dunstone, Head of Technology and Innovation Group and Founder, Biometrics Institute
- 09:35 **Platinum sponsor: Proactive or reactive defences: Why architecture matters**
Jay Meier, Chief Identity Technology Strategist, Facetec 
- 09:55 **Adequately securing trusted biometrics data**
Simon Aitchison, Director, Identity and Biometrics Technology Development, Department of Home Affairs
- 10:10 **Faster, safer, smarter: CommBank’s account opening with NFC, ePassports and biometric verification**
Sascha Thiel, General Manager Customer Identity & Digital Security, Commonwealth Bank of Australia
- 10:25 Questions and discussion
- 10:45 Morning tea

Session five: Digital identification and verifiable credentials

Session Moderator: *Brett Feldon, Head of Digital Identity Group, Biometrics Institute*

- 11:15 **Biometrics and adoption of digital ID in the broader economy**
John Shepherd, First Assistant Secretary, Digital ID and Data Policy Division, Department of Finance
- 11:30 **Harmonisation Roadmap for mDL interoperability**
Geoff Allan, Chief Executive Officer, Austroads
- 11:45 Questions and discussion
- 11:55 **Panel discussion: Digital identity interoperability – are we there yet?**
Moderator: Brett Feldon, Head of Digital Identity Group, Biometrics Institute
Panellists:
Silver sponsor: Robert Avell, Sales Manager Federal Government ANZ, IDEMIA Public Security 
Geoff Allan, Chief Executive Officer, Austroads
John Shepherd, First Assistant Secretary, Digital ID and Data Policy Division, Department of Finance
Lenka Lassak, Executive Director, Identity NSW, NSW Department of Customer Service
- 12:30 Lunch
- 14:00 **National Strategy for Identity Resilience**
Jacqui Vincent, Director, Identity Policy, Attorney-General's Department
- 14:15 **Panel discussion: The guardians of identity: Navigating enforcement and trust in the digital ID era**
Moderator: John Shepherd, First Assistant Secretary, Digital ID and Data Policy Division, Department of Finance
Panellists:
Carly Kind, Privacy Commissioner, Office of the Australian Information Commissioner
Claire Miller, Acting Chief Digital Officer & Deputy Commissioner, Australian Taxation Office
Ian Oppermann, Commissioner, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
Michelle McGuinness, National Cyber Security Coordinator, Department of Home Affairs
- 15:15 Afternoon break

Session six: Research and innovation

Session Moderator: *Paul Cross, Director and Head of the Future Direction Group, Biometrics Institute*

- 15:45 **International academic keynote: Race, face recognition, and wrongful arrests: Beyond the algorithmic bias narrative**
Michael King, Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Harris Institute for Assured Information – Identity Lab, Florida Institute of Technology (USA)
- 16:00 **Age verification today and in the post-quantum era**
Sushmita Ruj, Faculty Lead, Institute for Cybersecurity and Associate Professor, Computer Science and Engineering, University of New South Wales, Sydney
- 16:15 Questions and discussion

16:25 Closing comments from the Chair

16:30 Close of conference

Many thanks to our sponsors:

Diamond sponsor



Platinum sponsor



Gold sponsors



Silver sponsors



Exhibitors



Register for the Asia-Pacific Conference and associated workshops and meetings via the links below:

Events Schedule

Date	Event	Timing	Location	Registration
Tuesday 26 May	Mitigating GenAI Vulnerabilities in Biometrics Workshop	12:30 – 17:00	Rydges, Darling Square	Register here
Wednesday 27 May	Asia-Pacific Conference Drinks reception	9:00 – 17:00 17:10 – 19:00	Dockside Sydney	Register here
Thursday 28 May	Asia-Pacific Conference	9:00 – 17:00	Dockside Sydney	Register here
Friday 29 May	Joint Expert Group Briefing	9:30 – 13:00	Sydney	Register here