

Thursday, 2 August 2018

**Better understanding of media at the heart of inaugural Media Literacy Conference**

Public interest journalism in Australia and the need for better media literacy will be the key themes of a national conference to be held in Hobart next month.

The national journalism and media literacy conference, **Navigating the News**, released its full program today featuring leading national and international journalists and academics.

One of the keynote speakers, Dr Claire Wardle, an international expert on false news, will join a diversity of Australian media leaders to discuss the complex challenges confronting the news and information landscape.

**Navigating the News**, is a two-day event on Hobart’s waterfront on 10 – 11 September bringing together the best in Australian journalism and academia to discuss trust in journalism, how to collaborate to help better inform citizens and ways to boost media literacy responses. Science and health communications are also a focus of the event, which is being led by the ABC and the University of Tasmania.

Conference convenor, journalist and media academic, Dr Joce Nettlefold said the event had taken on even more relevance with the announcement of the Nine/Fairfax merger.

“The media sector around the world is in constant upheaval,” Dr Nettlefold said. “As more Australians consume news online, and increasingly turn to social media for news, mistrust of those sources is intensifying.”

Other speakers at the event will include ABC Managing Director Michelle Guthrie; Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania Professor Rufus Black; Director ABC News, Analysis and Investigations Gaven Morris; UNESCO Chair of Journalism and Communication at the University of Queensland Professor Peter Greste; Chief Executive of *The Australian* Nicholas Gray; Editor, *The Sydney Morning Herald* Lisa Davies; and Editor and General Manager of *Buzzfeed Australia*, Simon Crerar.

Organisations involved in panel sessions will include Google, Facebook, the Walkley Foundation, the Museum of Australian Democracy, Vic Health, the Australian Academy of Science and the Foundation of Young Australians.

Dr Wardle is Executive Director of *First Draft*, which is dedicated to finding solutions to the challenges associated with trust and truth in the digital age.  She is also a Research Fellow at the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

On day two focus will shift to media literacy, the needs of young Australians and challenges for educators. Keynote speaker is Australia's National Children's Commissioner, Ms Megan Mitchell.

The conference is the flagship event of the inaugural ***Media Literacy Week*** -- an ABC initiative aimed at equipping Australians of all ages -- particularly students -- with the skills they need to understand and interpret news and information.

Most of the conference will be livestreamed and available on-demand on ABC platforms, including Iview, after the event.

For the event overview and conference registration go [here.](https://secure.utas.edu.au/events/2018/september/navigating-the-news)

Access the conference’s full program [here.](http://www.events.utas.edu.au/2018/september/navigating-the-news/navigating-the-news)

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