Leaders' Forum

25 November 2026 | Old Parliament House, Canberra

9:30am	**Registration**
10:00am	**Welcome & opening of event, Acknowledgement of Country, housekeeping and setting the scene** MC Wayne Herbert, Director Progress and Property, Lead Employment
10:15am	**DSS and DEA update: reflections on year one and where to next** Alex Buckley, A/g Group Manager, Disability Employment Group, DSS and Peter Bacon, CEO, DEA
11:15am	**Blended Transitions: key recommendations** Dr Ann Nevile
11:25am	**Blended Transitions: panel session**
12:10pm	**Lunch**
1:10pm	**Welcome back and framing for second half of the day** MC Wayne Herbert
1:15pm	**Partnership, place and the leadership challenge for disability employment** Dr Louisa Ellum, Director, Centre for Inclusive Employment, CSI Swinburne
1:40pm	**Launch of Collaboration Network + Activity Workshop** Peter Bacon, CEO, DEA
2:50pm	**Afternoon Tea**
3:10pm	**Welcome back & introduction of panel** MC Wayne Herbert
3:15pm	**Providers lightning round: Lessons from year one and priorities for year two** Hosted by MC Wayne Herbert
4:00pm	**State of the Nation: report & findings** John Burn, DEInvestments
4:20pm	**In conversation with a DEA Hall of Famer**
4:45pm	**Closing reflections** MC Wayne Herbert
4:50-5:00pm	**DEA Annual General Meeting**
5:00pm	**Networking Drinks**