



# 5WCWS OVERVIEW



The world's largest  
conference by and for  
women's shelters and  
those working to end  
gender-based violence

## About the Hosts



### WESNET

WESNET (the Women's Services Network) Inc. provides relief and support to women and children experiencing domestic and family violence, intimate partner violence and other forms of gender-based violence. A national network, our members are the specialist domestic and family violence services across Australia.

WESNET is also the leading non-profit organisation in Australia working on the intersection of technology and violence against women. We work to ensure that women can remain connected through technology, that people who choose to misuse technology for abusive purposes are disrupted and held to account, and to educate and support individuals, organisations and broader society to end technology facilitated abuse.

[wesnet.org.au](http://wesnet.org.au)



### Global Network of Women's Shelters (GNWS)

The GNWS was born at the 1st World Conference of Women's Shelters in Edmonton Canada in 2008 and founded in 2009 by a globally diverse group of national networks and shelters from around the world. It has networks in Africa, America, Asia, Europe, Middle East & North Africa, Oceania, working to: Ensure global awareness of violence against women and their children; support and strengthen the women's shelter movement; promote effective policies and their implementation in order to prevent violence and to protect and empower women and their children; and promote social change that ends violence and oppression against women.

[gnws.org](http://gnws.org)

WESNET and GNWS are committed to UN Sustainable Development Goal no. 5:

**Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**



THE 17 GOALS of Sustainable Development [sdgs.un.org/goals](http://sdgs.un.org/goals)



## Welcome Messages



**Julie Oberin AM**

Immediate Past National Chair, WESNET  
and Founding Member, GNWS

It is my great honour to invite your organisation to be part of the 5th World Conference of Women's Shelters (5WCWS), proposed for 2025 for the first time in the global south. We expect 1,000+ delegates from across the world to attend.

Held 4 times previously, the World Conference is a unique international forum designed to advance the services for women's shelters and end gender-based violence. It provides a platform for networking, knowledge transfers, collaboration, and exploration on topical issues, resulting in ground-breaking best practices, new knowledge and innovation, and practical solutions.

We welcome partners at the Conference. The interlinking of cooperating organisations, DV services, government, and the business community is essential for an effective approach to violence.

We request your support at the 5WCWS to help achieve our common goal: End All Violence Against Women.

The World Conference of Women's Shelters is a premier platform with a legacy of facilitating meaningful international collaboration and making a global impact on women's safety. Showcasing 1,000+ delegates at 5WCWS, the program will look at developments around the world, celebrate the dynamism of our wonderfully diverse profession, and set our sights on the challenges of the future. We look forward to inspiring our delegates and working with all the sponsors and exhibitors to make 5WCWS an outstanding success.

**Aleid van den Brink**

Chairperson, GNWS





## 1,000+ are expected to attend from around the world!

This conference has a strong history of being held around the globe four times previously including front-line workers and NGO leaders from all over the world from government, non-government, corporate sector and academics.



### Past attendance



**1st**

Edmonton  
Canada  
2006

**800 delegates**  
**51 countries**



**2nd**

Washington  
USA  
2012

**1,500 delegates**  
**97 countries**



**3rd**

The Hague  
Netherlands  
2015

**1,000 delegates**  
**115 countries**



**4th**

Kaohsiung  
Taiwan  
2019

**1,212 delegates**  
**81 countries**

### What past delegates have said...



The conference was very empowering.  
Thank you to all the members who support it.

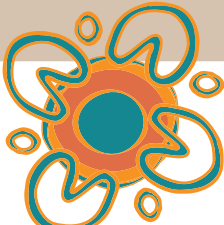
I enjoyed meeting women from all over the world who worked in the same sector and faced some similar challenges. After the conference, I had so many ideas that I am now implementing at my centre.

It was so powerful and the presentations were from people who have incredible stories to tell, challenges highlighted well and way forward discussed.




## Program Snapshot\*

Day One	Day Two	Day Three	Day Four	Day Five
Monday 15 Sep 2025	Tuesday 16 Sep 2025	Wednesday 17 Sep 2025	Thursday 18 Sep 2025	Friday 19 Sep 2025
Study Tours (afternoon)  Exhibition Hub setup	Opening Ceremony  Sessions  Welcome Reception (in Exhibition Hub)	Sessions  Conference Dinner	Sessions  Closing Ceremony	Study Tours (all day)



\*Program subject to change

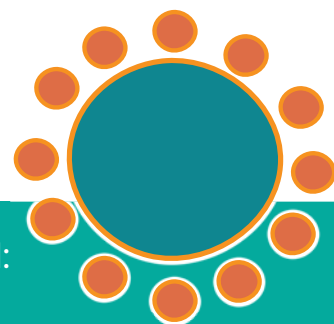
**Conference sessions, study tours and workshops will be planned to focus on innovative shelter management, shelters for diversified groups, comparison of legal systems between different countries, and more...**







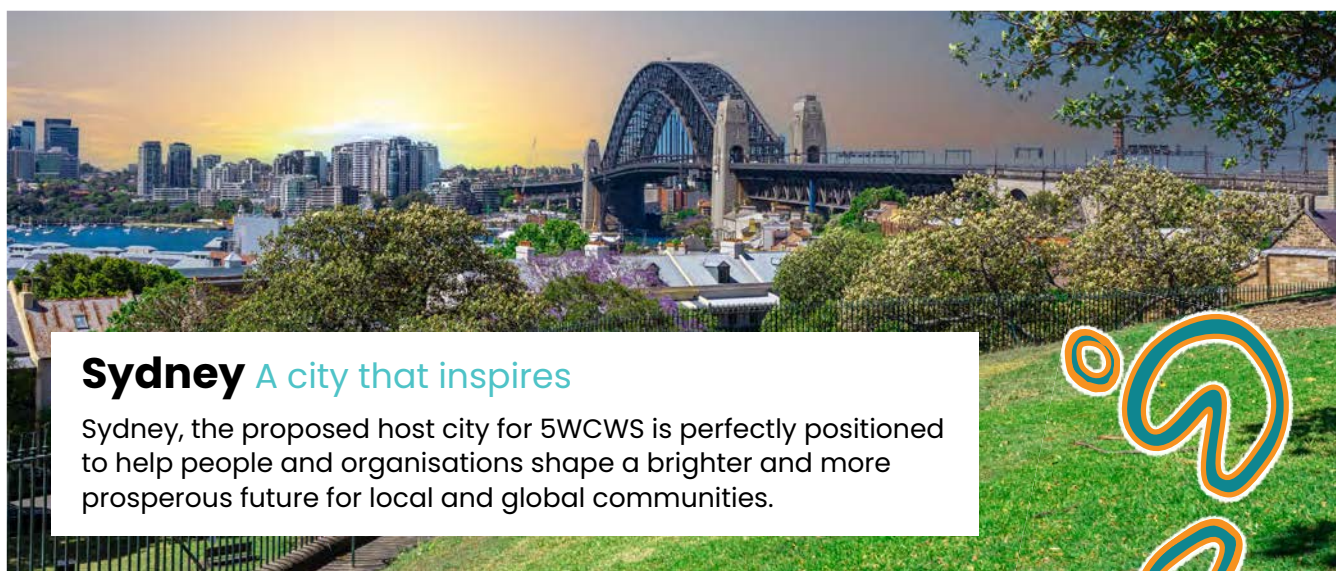
## About the Conference



5WCWS will give a massive boost to the common goal:

### **End All Violence Against Women Globally**

**Objective** The primary objective of the 5WCWS is to provide a platform for learning and sharing experiences. The goal of this exchange is to contribute to a worldwide systematic approach and combating violence against women and their children in order to increase safety, independence and strength of women worldwide.



### **Sydney** A city that inspires

Sydney, the proposed host city for 5WCWS is perfectly positioned to help people and organisations shape a brighter and more prosperous future for local and global communities.



## About the venue

The proposed location for the 5WCWS is the International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC Sydney).

The ICC Sydney is Australia's leading convention, exhibition and entertainment precinct, located at the intersection of the city's academic, cultural and technology hubs. Distinguished by its striking design, ICC Sydney stands apart as a symbol of excellence in Australia's most cosmopolitan city. More than a venue, ICC Sydney functions as an incubator of ideas and advocate for community, giving clients the opportunity to contribute to the city's cultural capital in meaningful ways. ICC Sydney's commitment to community, dedicated team of event experts and best-in-class ICT infrastructure all make it well placed to deliver engaging and extraordinary events every time.

[www.iccsydney.com.au](http://www.iccsydney.com.au)



Image: 100858-ICC Sydney Convention Centre



