

# SENIOR EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

## 2026 PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

### ABOUT THIS PROGRAM

The Senior Executive Leadership Program is designed for SES Band 1 and equivalent leaders.

The program dives deep into emerging trends, strategic foresight, and the anticipated challenges shaping public administration. It helps participants to expand their leadership impact, strengthen networks, and prepare to lead a future-ready, adaptable, and resilient public sector.

Speakers include highly successful senior public servants, private sector global leads and academic leaders.

### DELIVERY

Delivered by IPAA ACT in partnership with KPMG, this program will be delivered in person over 2 blocks of 2 days in Canberra: 10-11 June and 17-18 June.

### PARTICIPANT PROFILE AND REGISTRATION

This program is for SES Band 1 and equivalent leaders in the Commonwealth and ACT public sectors who are staff members of IPAA ACT member organisations.

*The program fosters the mindsets and attributes needed for sustained excellence in leadership, while building networks and deepening relationships across the sector.*

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[capability@act.ipaa.org.au](mailto:capability@act.ipaa.org.au)

### FORMAT

Each session combines expert insight, guided practice, and peer problem-solving, allowing participants to leave with clarity, capability, and momentum. The program contains a mix of formats including:

#### EXPERT DIALOGUE

Intimate, thought-provoking conversations with senior leaders and practitioners from both within and outside the public sector. They include contrasting viewpoints and time for targeted Q&A to help translate insights into participants' contexts.

#### WORKSHOPS

Interactive sessions that transform strategic ideas into practical tools through live cases and deliberate exercises. Led by subject matter experts, participants quickly test approaches, receive targeted feedback, and leave with ready-to-use artefacts (such as decision frameworks, conversation plans, stakeholder maps) and a clear 30-60-90-day action plan.

#### MASTERMIND GROUPS

Participants engage in facilitated small groups designed to foster open and supportive dialogue. The facilitator guides each group in exploring strategic solutions, encouraging participants to share challenges and define what success looks like in navigating complex public sector environments

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## 2026 PROGRAM SYNOPSIS

### SESSION 1

#### STEWARDSHIP, BUILDING A LEGACY OF RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE

10 JUNE

Explore the role of senior executives in stewardship, ethical judgment, accountability, and long-term sustainability. Reflect on how to cultivate a culture of integrity, manage resources responsibly, and make decisions that enhance trust. Walk away with practical strategies for embedding stewardship principles into everyday leadership and governance.

### SESSION 2

#### LEADING A RESILIENT WORKFORCE

10 JUNE

Implement practical strategies to cultivate a resilient workforce and enhance wellbeing. Practice leading through uncertainty and sustained pressure, while reinforcing psychosocial safety and performance. Translate resilience into daily behaviors and develop immediate actions to apply with your workforce.

### SESSION 3

#### DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFTS AND INCLUSIVE SERVICE DELIVERY

11 JUNE

As Australia's population ages and diversifies, the public sector must adapt to meet evolving needs. This session explores inclusive service design strategies that support well-being, preserve cultural identities, and foster social cohesion, ensuring the public sector remains responsive and resilient in the face of demographic changes.

### SESSION 4

#### SOCIAL EQUITY, ETHICS, AND TRUST IN GOVERNMENT

11 JUNE

Interrogate what drives trust in government and what erodes it under heightened public scrutiny. Explore transparency, accountability and equity-based decision-making, and how these show up in policy and service delivery. Identify practical actions to strengthen legitimacy, inclusiveness and ethical leadership in your context.

### SESSION 5

#### HOLDING COMPLEX ETHICAL CONVERSATIONS

17 JUNE

Build confidence for challenging or high-stakes conversations. Practice reframing, deep listening, and psychological safety techniques while applying ethical perspectives to navigate contentious issues. Leave with a repeatable conversation structure and personal commitments for courageous, values-aligned dialogue.

### SESSION 6

#### DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND AI GOVERNANCE

17 JUNE

Unpack how AI and digital innovation are transforming public service delivery. Explore principles for ethical, citizen-centric AI governance, privacy, security, bias and assurance and how to balance innovation with trust. Identify steps to strengthen governance frameworks and readiness for emerging risks and opportunities.

### SESSION 7

#### STORYTELLING TO INFLUENCE (CAPSTONE)

18 JUNE

Synthesise your learning into an authentic leadership narrative. Create stories that connect your purpose, values, and outcomes, and practice delivering them to influence decisions and motivate others. Take the opportunity to tell these stories to IPAA's senior leaders; Board & Council, in this final session.