

## ***ALS 2019 Main conference themed panels***

### **Linguistic diversity as a challenge to legal policy in Australia**

Legal policy needs to respond to Australia's linguistic diversity, as interlingual miscommunication and linguistically-encoded prejudices cause inequitable access to the justice system and to legal bureaucracy, and inequitable treatment within them. Interdisciplinary law and linguistics research has emerged in response. One focus for the emerging field this year and next is the [National Indigenous Languages Report](#), a collaboration between the Federal Government, the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and the ANU, which is about to be released. Join us to hear an overview of the Report and some insider commentary from two of its key researchers. We will also discuss new language policy in legal settings, specifically changes in parliamentary rules to allow Indigenous language usage in the Northern Territory legislature, and recent research examining discourse in Australian migration processes for partner visas and refugee visas.

This will be a Q & A panel discussion engaging with the titular theme from diverse sub-disciplinary perspectives. The discussion will be structured around widely-sourced questions which will be sought from the Law and Linguistics Interdisciplinary Researchers' Network (LLIRN), from Twitter followers of the organisers and @lg\_on\_the\_move, and from the audience!

#### **Panellists:**

Dr Francis Markham – ANU, Ms Denise Angelo – ANU, Ms Cassandra Toscano – UTS, Mr Julian R Murphy – North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency.

**Discussant:** The Hon Professor Peter Gray AM (former Federal Court judge and elected executive member of the International Association of Forensic Linguists).

**Organisers:** Dr Alexandra Grey (@Alex\_Grey\_) – University of Sydney and Dr Laura Smith-Khan – University of Technology Sydney (@LauraSKh), founders of the Law and Linguistics Interdisciplinary Researchers' Network (LLIRN).