



VTMH FORUM 2023

Women Empowering Communities

Deepening the Dialogue in
Mental Health and Wellbeing

Keynote speaker

**Nyadol Nyuon OAM, Lawyer, Award-winning
Human Rights Advocate and Writer**



Nyadol Nyuon OAM was born in a refugee camp in Itang, Ethiopia, and raised in Kakuma Refugee camp, Kenya. In 2005, at the age of eighteen, she moved to Australia as a refugee. In 2022 she was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in recognition of her service to human rights and refugee women.

Since then, Nyadol has completed a Bachelor of Arts from Victoria University and a Juris Doctor from the University of Melbourne and worked as a commercial litigator with Arnold Bloch Leibler.

Nyadol is a vocal advocate for human rights, multiculturalism, the settlement of people with refugee experiences and those seeking asylum. She has worked and volunteered extensively in these areas with a range of organisations.

Nyadol is also a regular media commentator in these areas, having appeared on ABC's The Drum, as a panellist on Q&A and contributing to The Age, Sydney Morning Herald and the Saturday Paper, to name just a few.

In both 2011 and 2014, Nyadol was nominated as one of the hundred most influential African Australians. In 2016, she was the recipient of the Future Justice Prize.

In 2018 her efforts to combat racism were widely recognised, with achievements including the Australian Human Rights Commission's Racism. It Stops With Me Award. The prestigious award was in recognition of her advocacy and activism on behalf of the Australian-African and Melbourne's South Sudanese communities. Nyadol also received the Harmony Alliance Award for significant contribution to empowering migrant and refugee women, and was a co-winner of the Tim McCoy Prize for her advocacy on behalf of the South Sudanese Community. She also received the Afro-Australian Student Organisation's Unsung Hero Award.

Date: 26th October 2023

Registrations now open, closing 12th October:

<https://www.trybooking.com/CLPTI>

For more information about the forum:

<https://vtmh.org.au/events/vtmh-forum-2023-women-empowering-communities-deepening-the-dialogue-in-mental-health-and-wellbeing/>



Victorian Transcultural
MENTAL HEALTH



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**Sue-Anne Hunter, Deputy Chair and
Commissioner of Australia's first truth telling
process – the Yoorrook Justice Commission**

Sue-Anne Hunter is a proud Wurundjeri and Ngu rai Iillum Wurrung woman and the Deputy Chair and Commissioner of Australia's first truth telling process – the Yoorrook Justice Commission. She is an Adjunct Professor of Global Engagement at Federation University and a member of the National Centre for Reconciliation, Truth, and Justice Advisory Board.

A child and family services practitioner by trade, Sue-Anne has over twenty years' clinical experience responding to developmental, transgenerational and community trauma.

She is widely recognised for developing rights-based, transformative practice responses that empower Aboriginal people to heal from the continuing effects and processes of colonisation.

Sue-Anne has extensive experience in the governance and the leadership of Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, and her expertise is regularly sought for government

inquiries, parliamentary and ministerial advisory committees, academic research projects and media interviews.



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**Mary Crooks, Executive Director of the Victorian
Women's Trust**



After an extensive public policy career, Mary became the Executive Director of the Victorian Women's Trust at the end of 1996. She has designed and led ground-breaking community engagement initiatives, such as the Purple Sage Project and Our Watermark Australia. These were two early examples of the Trust's Kitchen Table Conversation model which has since become a nationally lauded approach to democratic engagement as exemplified in the successful application of the model in 2012/2013 which saw the election of Independent Cathy McGowan to the seat of Indi.

Mary has led other major Trust initiatives including the exhibition, Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Lives; the development of Here She Is! as a register of women; the Breakthrough for Gender Equality Conference in Melbourne in November 2016, the largest feminist gathering on record; the research and publication of About Bloody Time: The menstrual revolution we have to have; the creation of the Rosie website for girls; and the development of Club Respect as a harm-prevention initiative for community sports clubs across the country.

In 2012, Mary authored A Switch in Time – Restoring Respect to Australian Politics which was distributed widely across Australia. She also authored the Trust's publication of a one-page advertisement in four national newspapers called Credit Where Credit is Due, which paid tribute to the leadership and capacity of Julia Gillard as the nation's first female prime minister.

In June 2012, Mary was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia, for her distinguished services to public policy and advocacy for the advancement of women. In 2016, Mary won the Public Policy category as part of the AFR/Westpac's 100 Women of Influence for her years of work in shaping public policy in Australia.

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