

Women in Tax

22 October 2025

Ivy Ballroom, Sydney

1 CPD hour



Power of Connection: People, Mentors & Meaningful Growth

In a rapidly evolving tax landscape, genuine human connection remains a vital force behind career growth, resilience, and leadership. This session explores the transformative power of mentorship, the value of building strong networks, and how surrounding yourself with the right people can shape not only your professional journey, but also your confidence and wellbeing.

Through authentic storytelling and candid reflections, our panel will share how they've built their own support teams, navigated mentorship from both sides, and used connection as a catalyst for growth and adaptability.

Key Topics:

- The role of mentorship in a dynamic and unpredictable tax environment
- How to build and maintain meaningful professional relationships
- From mentee to mentor – evolving through career stages
- The “board of directors” concept: curating your personal support tribe
- Real stories of navigating change through connection

Panel: Nadia Alfonsi, Australian Taxation Office, Vivian Chang, CTA, Ashurst, Terri Symonds, EY

Facilitator: Catherine Dean, CTA, BDO

Event Details

22 October 2025

Ivy Ballroom, 320 George St, Sydney

12:00PM – 2:30PM



We welcome all supporters of diversity and empowering women in the workplace no matter what your gender

Speakers

Nadia Alfonsi is an Assistant Commissioner in the ATO. Throughout her 20 year career, Nadia has undertaken a range of leadership roles across different functions including risk and strategy, compliance and technical advice and successfully managed both small and large operational teams. Nadia has experience across a number of industries including superannuation and large market tax and has been involved in a number of regulatory reform projects including a secondment to the Treasury.



Vivian Chang, CTA, is a Partner at Ashurst, based in Sydney. Vivian has over 20 years' experience advising on Australian and international tax aspects of corporate and financial services transactions. Vivian works with Australian and multinational corporates as well as funds and institutional investors across a broad range of industries.



Terri Symonds is an Associate Partner in the EY Corporate Tax Team, with over two decades of experience helping multinationals navigate their Australian direct tax obligations. She leads high-performing teams and drives innovation in tax compliance and technology. Terri is passionate about simplifying complexity, managing risk, and designing smarter tax processes.



Catherine Dean, CTA is a Partner in the Tax division with BDO in Sydney where she provides M&A transactional, advisory and tax compliance services to clients as well as assisting in the strategic management of tax disputes with the Australian Taxation Office. Catherine has 20 years of experience advising on corporate tax matters with global consulting firms.



“Being part of the Women in Tax committee has been incredibly rewarding. The events feature a lineup of truly inspiring speakers, covering topics highly relevant to our industry and provide fantastic networking opportunities to collaborate and support one another.”

Katie Lin, CTA, Nexia Australia Pty Ltd

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