

FORUM: FIRST RESPONSE TO NON-FATAL STRANGULATION

7 OCTOBER 2026

Speaker's Profile - Professor Heather Douglas



Heather Douglas AM, FASSA is a Professor of Law at the Melbourne Law School, The University of Melbourne. She is also Deputy Director of the Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW). Her main area of research is criminal law with a focus on domestic and family violence. Her research on strangulation in the context on domestic and family violence has contributed to law and policy reform.

Keynote speaker and panel member

Topic: Facts and mythology about non-fatal strangulation in Tasmania

In her keynote speech, Professor Douglas will explore the prevalence of strangulation in intimate partner violence and the justice response and legal considerations in strangulation cases. She will discuss the Tasmanian justice setting and the judgements that have been reported, including the issues facing first responders in identifying whether strangulation has occurred, collecting evidence and making referrals. Finally, she will touch on the disparity between the perpetrator's narrative compared with victim-survivors, and the mythology about strangulation during sex.

Email: douglash@unimelb.edu.au

<https://law.unimelb.edu.au/about/staff/heather-douglas>