Call for Abstracts: FCVic Economic Abuse Summit 2027

Financial Counselling Victoria invites submissions of abstracts for presentation at the FCVic Economic Abuse Summit 2027, to be held in Melbourne in **March 2027**.

Since the landmark state Royal Commission into Family Violence, there has been growing recognition of economic abuse as an under-reported and under-identified form of family violence, often exacerbated by systems that are not designed with safety in mind. This was reinforced by a further Federal Inquiry into the Financial Services Regulatory Framework in Relation to Financial Abuse. Together, these developments point to both progress and unfinished work.

The 2027 Summit represents a timely opportunity to consider the work of the past 10 years, and to identify what coordinated, systemic change is still needed.

The Summit will bring together financial counsellors, community services, consumer advocates, researchers, industry and other stakeholders committed to preventing and responding to economic abuse.

We welcome abstracts from anyone with an interest in economic abuse response, including financial counsellors, people with lived or living experience, researchers, industry, regulators, community workers, policy makers, students, and other experts who are interested in sharing best practice, research findings, critical reflections or case studies. Joint presentations and cross-sector collaborations are encouraged.

Submissions should reflect the Summit's focus on both the progress made over the past 10 years and the changes needed over the next decade. We encourage submissions that are aligned to **FCVic's Advocacy Priorities** and which showcase new, innovative and leading best practice responses to economic abuse, coordinated action, and safety by design.

All submissions should address the judging criteria, including how the proposed topic connects with FCVic's advocacy priorities, and your goals for what attendees will learn or gain from the presentation.

A range of presentation formats are available, from shorter presentations of 5 minutes to 40 minute panel discussions. Alternative formats are welcome – for instance, video screenings, poster presentations, interactive sessions, handouts, and more.

We encourage presenters to think creatively about how they engage participants. This may include interactive activities, storytelling, visual or artistic approaches, audience participation, demonstrations, other formats that bring complex issues to life and encourage reflection.

How to Submit

1. Review the Abstract Guidelines carefully prior to submission.
2. Prepare your abstract and professional biography.
3. Submit your abstract: https://form.jotform.com/262926924312964

Key Dates

- **Submissions open** – Thursday 29 October 2026
- **Submissions close** – Thursday 3 December 2026
- **Notification to authors** – Tuesday 22 December 2026

Abstract Guidelines

Abstracts will be reviewed under one of the following categories to ensure a diversity of perspectives is reflected across the Summit program.

What's New: Economic abuse is evolving, with technology, new financial products and changing service systems creating new risks as well as opportunities for prevention and early intervention. This stream will showcase emerging programs, tools, partnerships, resources, legislation, regulatory developments and service models. Presentations should share practical lessons and innovations that can help financial counsellors, government, industry and community services build safer systems and strengthen responses to economic abuse.

Research: These presentations will report on original research relating to economic abuse, financial abuse, coerced debt, financial autonomy, systems safety, prevention, recovery or related issues. Presentations should include the research background or aim, methods, findings, and conclusions or implications for policy, regulation, industry and practice. Headings are not required but may help guide the structure of the abstract.

Practice: Practice presentations will share innovations, case studies, partnerships or critical reflections from financial counselling and other relevant sectors. This may include approaches to identifying and responding to economic abuse, resolving coerced debt and shared liabilities, improving access to specialist support, or redesigning products, services and hardship responses with safety in mind. Presentations should highlight practical lessons, persistent challenges and opportunities to strengthen prevention, safety and recovery.

Dangerous Ideas: This stream creates space for bold, challenging and evidence-informed ideas about what must change over the next 10 years. Presentations may question established legal and regulatory frameworks, industry practices, product design, service models, funding arrangements or assumptions about responsibility for preventing economic abuse. They should identify where existing systems remain uneven or not fit for purpose and offer clear directions for future research, policy, practice or coordinated systemic reform. Proposals should be evidence-informed and constructive, while creating space to challenge established assumptions and approaches.

Judging criteria

The criteria for judging whether an abstract will be suitable for the FCVic Summit is as follows. Applicants are encouraged to consider these criteria in their submission.

Relevance and Impact: 50%

- Does the presentation address a significant current or emerging issue related to economic abuse, financial abuse, coercive control, victim-survivor safety, financial autonomy, or systems reform?
- Does it align with the Summit's focus on reflecting on progress since the Royal Commission into Family Violence and identifying priorities for the next decade?
- Does the presentation have potential to influence policy, regulation, industry practice, service delivery, prevention efforts, or consumer outcomes?
- Will participants gain practical insights, tools, strategies, resources or learnings they can apply in their own work?

Innovation and Originality: 25%

- Does the presentation offer a fresh perspective, challenge existing assumptions, or highlight an innovative response to economic abuse?
- Does it showcase new research, partnerships, practices, technologies, service models or approaches to systems change?
- If the topic has been presented previously, does it contribute new evidence, insights, lessons or developments?
- Does it identify opportunities to improve systems, products, services or policies that may currently enable or fail to prevent economic abuse?

Quality and Engagement: 25%

- Does the proposal demonstrate a strong evidence base, practice expertise, lived experience insight, or a combination of these perspectives?
- Are the presenters well placed to contribute to the discussion through their professional, research, advocacy or lived and living experience expertise?
- Will the presentation engage participants in meaningful discussion, reflection or learning?
- Does the presentation encourage meaningful collaboration and knowledge-sharing across sectors, disciplines or lived and living experience perspectives, including community services, industry, government, regulation and research?

Terms and Conditions

- All abstracts must be received by the advertised closing date. It is a condition of acceptance that all presenters (including co-presenters) must be registered prior to the Summit.
- Please ensure your submission is accurate and clear. FCVic does not accept responsibility for errors or omissions in the published submissions - it is your responsibility to ensure the final abstract is proofread before submitting.
- Abstracts submitted for presentation at the FCVic Summit must not have been presented elsewhere unless agreed by the Summit organiser prior to submission.
- Incomplete or incorrect submissions will not be considered.
- Abstracts will be considered for all presentation formats. Presenters may be offered an alternative presentation format to their indicated preference.

- There is no limit to the number of abstracts that can be submitted by an individual presenter, as all submissions will be judged on their merits.
- Presentations at the Summit may be recorded and photographed. These digital works will become the property of FCVic and may be used in marketing and other materials including the FCVic CPD Library.