

## Olympic Issues Keynote Address, Media Engagement and Victoria University Olympic Initiatives

Presented by:

The Institute for Health and Sport, Victoria University  
Olympic and Paralympic Research Centre (OPRC)  
Victoria University Media and Corporate Communications

**Date:** Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> 2026

**When:** 11am to 1pm

**Location:** FP Campus; K Building Council Room 608, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor

**Content:**

1. **Overview of the OPRC: (11am – 1130am):** Research and activities (Joint presentation by Professor Tracy Taylor, Dr Rob Hess and Dr Richard Baka from the OPRC Leadership Team)  
<https://www.vu.edu.au/research/research-institutes-centres/olympic-paralympic-research-centre-oprc>
2. **Media Engagement (11:30am – 12pm):** How to get involved with **The Conversation** for media activities; session to assist academics who have contributed to this resource or those who would like to know more. (Presentation, Discussion and Q and A involving Niall Seewang, the Sports and Society Editor of **The Conversation**, Professor Ramon Spaaij who will outline media options for expert analysis and Dr Richard Baka who will outline his Olympic media activities and working with VU Media)
3. **Keynote Address: (12pm – 1pm):** “A New Olympics Legacy: Enduring Human Rights, Anti-Corruption and Environmental Reforms”; Presented by renowned American Olympic scholar Professor Andy Spalding from the University of Richmond. (Professor Spalding’s visit to Australia is proudly supported by the University of Queensland—specifically the Law School and the 2032 Office of Games Engagement)



<https://law.richmond.edu/faculty/aspaldin/>

**RSVP:** Please do so by **March 13** if planning to **attend in person as spaces are limited**

Please reply to [Richard.Baka@vu.edu.au](mailto:Richard.Baka@vu.edu.au) and [Robert.Hess@vu.edu.au](mailto:Robert.Hess@vu.edu.au)

NB: For those attending the session please meet at the Level 2 elevator of K Bldg at Footscray Park Campus before the session commences (preferably between 12:45pm and 1pm). You will be met by a VU Staff member who can give you access to the elevator which has security restrictions for anyone trying to go to Level 6. If you are running late and there is no one at the elevator please text Dr Rob Hess on 0493 213 005 and we will send someone to give you access.